

EXECUTIVE DECISION

made by a Cabinet Member



REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY BY AN INDIVIDUAL CABINET MEMBER


Executive Decision Reference Number – DL08 22/23

Decision	
1	Title of decision: Regulators Pioneer Fund
2	Decision maker (Cabinet member name and portfolio title): Councillor Mark Shayer, Deputy Leader of the Council
3	Report author and contact details: Julia Blaschke Julia.blaschke@plymouth.gov.uk Hadelzein Elobeid hadelzein.elobeid@plymouth.gov.uk Colin Bettison Colin.bettison@plymouth.gov.uk
4	Decision to be taken: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To accept the funding offer of up to £916,122 from BEIS's Regulators Pioneer Fund. To accept the funds and distribute to partners. To authorise the Director for Place to enter into or sign agreements on behalf of Plymouth City Council in relation to the Regulators Pioneer Fund, including the funding agreement.
5	Reasons for decision: <p>PCC has been awarded the Regulators Pioneer Fund to lead on a project which aims at developing an evidence base and a framework for testing autonomous and prototype vessels for R&D. This will allow UK innovators and businesses to take a leadership role in testing new and emerging technologies.</p> <p>The new framework will be co-designed by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA), local authorities, academia, business and other stakeholders and will be developed to be shared across the country. It will provide dedicated professional and academic resource to scope, quantify and map the overlapping legislative and operating elements, while working in partnership with key stakeholders as well as national and international regulators and relevant authorities, to identify and address the industry's needs to drive R&D in a safe, timely and cost effective manner.</p> <p>A one of its kind project which is needed for innovation and pioneering ventures. This project seeks to develop an evidence base and a framework for testing autonomous and prototype vessels for R&D through a unique partnership of regulators, innovators and local authorities, which will be initially implemented within Smart Sound Plymouth.</p> <p>This project will put the UK in the leading role as an international centre for zero emissions and</p>

	<p>autonomous vessel innovation and manufacturing. These vessels can be deployed across multiple maritime sectors, including as platforms for academic research, monitoring and mapping and transporting cargo. This project is unique in the sense that it withholds a brand new set- up which is crucial in supporting innovative businesses. It will start in September 2023.</p> <p>Through this project, an evidence base and a framework for testing autonomous and prototype vessels for R&D will be developed, which will allow UK innovators and businesses to take a leadership role in testing new and emerging technologies. The new framework will be co-designed by the MCA, local authorities, academia, business and other stakeholders and will be developed to be shared across the country. It will provide dedicated professional and academic resource to scope, quantify and map the overlapping legislative and operating elements, while working in partnership with key stakeholders as well as national and international regulators and relevant authorities, to identify and address the industry’s needs to drive R&D in a safe, timely and cost effective manner.</p> <p>In a nutshell, this project comprises four specific activities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Establish economic benefits of new regulations,2. Work together with MCA to build new regulations defining new class of prototype vessel,3. Engage with port authorities and regulators internationally to examine how their regulations work,4. Road-test proposed new regulations on real vessels, with vessel builders, operators and supply chain, with port authorities, and in partnership with MCA. All stakeholders come together to draft regulations, take part in their testing, and to refine them.									
6	<p>Alternative options considered and rejected:</p> <p>(1) Do Nothing</p> <p>If PCC would not accept the grant, the programme could not go ahead. As a consequence, vital improvemnets to the testing environment could not be made. This in turn would weaken the positive effects of previous PCC investments in Smart Sound. As such, this option has been rejected.</p>									
7	<p>Financial implications and risks:</p> <p>£ 916,122 of Regulators Pioneer Fund has been awarded to PCC to act as the lead authority for a project seeking to develop an evidence base and a framework for testing autonomous and prototype vessels for R&D through a unique partnership of regulators, innovators and local authorities. No further match funding is required from PCC. A contribution to cover the costs of administering the grant has been included in the budget.</p> <p>Effective project management will ensure that the project is delivered within the grant terms and conditions. There are no expected revenue pressures arising as a result of accepting this grant award.</p>									
8	<p>Is the decision a Key Decision? (please contact Democratic Support for further advice)</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Per the Constitution, a key decision is one which:</p> <table><tr><td></td><td>x</td><td>in the case of capital projects and contract awards, results in a new commitment to spend and/or save in excess of £3million in total</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>x</td><td>in the case of revenue projects when the decision involves entering into new</td></tr></table>		x	in the case of capital projects and contract awards, results in a new commitment to spend and/or save in excess of £3million in total		x	in the case of revenue projects when the decision involves entering into new
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				commitments and/or making new savings in excess of £1 million
			x	is significant in terms of its effect on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards in the area of the local authority.
	If yes, date of publication of the notice in the Forward Plan of Key Decisions			
9	Please specify how this decision is linked to the Council's corporate plan/Plymouth Plan and/or the policy framework and/or the revenue/capital budget:		A boost to Plymouth's role as a pioneering place for autonomous marine vessels and green technology. This decision links well with the Plymouth Plan especially chapters that discuss 'Environment and Greenspace' and reducing carbon emissions and adapting to climate change as well as 'Creating the conditions for Economic Growth'. This decision also has links with the Climate Emergency Action Plan.	
10	Please specify any direct environmental implications of the decision (carbon impact)		This decision has the potential to encourage further awareness towards net zero initiatives and clean growth. The Regulators Pioneer Fund has the potential to positively impact on the ability to be enable and better adopt net zero and clean growth technologies.	
Urgent decisions				
11	Is the decision urgent and to be implemented immediately in the interests of the Council or the public?	Yes		(If yes, please contact Democratic Support (democraticsupport@plymouth.gov.uk) for advice)
		No	x	(If no, go to section 13a)
12a	Reason for urgency:			
12b	Scrutiny Chair Signature:		Date	
	Scrutiny Committee name:			
	Print Name:			
Consultation				
13a	Are any other Cabinet members' portfolios affected by the decision?	Yes		
		No	x	(If no go to section 14)
13b	Which other Cabinet member's portfolio is affected by the decision?			

13c	Date Cabinet member consulted							
14	Has any Cabinet member declared a conflict of interest in relation to the decision?	Yes		If yes, please discuss with the Monitoring Officer				
		No	x					
15	Which Corporate Management Team member has been consulted?	Name		Anthony Payne				
		Job title		Strategic Director for Place				
		Date consulted		24/11/2022				
Sign-off								
16	Sign off codes from the relevant departments consulted:	Democratic Support (mandatory)			DS129 22/23			
		Finance (mandatory)			pl.22.23.430.			
		Legal (mandatory)			MS/00001366/21.03.23			
		Human Resources (if applicable)						
		Corporate property (if applicable)						
		Procurement (if applicable)						
Appendices								
17	Ref.	Title of appendix						
	A	Equalities Impact Assessment (<i>where required</i>)						
Confidential/exempt information								
18a	Do you need to include any confidential/exempt information?	Yes		If yes, prepare a second, confidential ('Part II') briefing report and indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box in 18b below. (Keep as much information as possible in the briefing report that will be in the public domain)				
		No	x					
		Exemption Paragraph Number						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7

18b	Confidential/exempt briefing report title:							
Background Papers								
19	<p>Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below.</p> <p>Background papers are <u>unpublished</u> works, relied on to a material extent in preparing the report, which disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the work is based. If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</p>							
Title of background paper(s)		Exemption Paragraph Number						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Cabinet Member Signature								
20	<p>I agree the decision and confirm that it is not contrary to the Council's policy and budget framework, Corporate Plan or Budget. In taking this decision I have given 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. For further details please see the EIA attached.</p>							
Signature		Date of decision						
					22 March 2023			
Print Name		Councillor Mark Shayer, Deputy Leader of the Council						