

# EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT – FOLDING IN OF THE LEP

## SECTION ONE: INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROPOSAL

<b>Author(s):</b> This is the person completing the EIA template.	Julia Blaschke	<b>Department and service:</b>	Place – ED	<b>Date of assessment:</b>	30.01.2024
<b>Lead Officer:</b> Please note that a Head of Service, Service Director, or Strategic Director must approve the EIA.	Amanda Ratsey	<b>Signature:</b>		<b>Approval date:</b>	
<b>Overview:</b>	<p>The Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership (HotSW LEP), which covers Somerset, Devon, Plymouth, and Torbay, was established in 2011. The HotSW LEP's focus is on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The transition to integration into local authorities and continuing to support the business voice.</li> <li>• Delivery of programmes – Local Growth Fund, Getting Building Fund, EU funding and services such as Growth and Careers Hub.</li> <li>• Delivery of the Build Back Better Plan and specifically its transformational economic opportunities.</li> <li>• Inclusive Growth.</li> <li>• Growing Places Fund.</li> </ul> <p>Government's sponsorship and funding of Local Enterprise Partnerships will cease from April 2024. A national process of planning the integrating of LEPs core functions of business representation, local economic planning, and the delivery of Government programmes into local authorities is underway.</p> <p>Somerset Council is leading the work to plan the integration of HotSW LEP functions, in conjunction with Devon County Council, Plymouth City Council and Torbay Council. A draft HotSW LEP integration plan was submitted to DLUHC for review at the end of November 2023. The implications for HotSW LEP staff, assets and finance are covered in the progress report to the 12 February 2024 Cabinet meeting. In addition, some HotSW LEP functions will transfer to Plymouth City Council, if approved by Cabinet.</p>				

<b>Decision required:</b>	<p>It is recommended that Cabinet:</p> <p>a) Approves the proposed Integration Plan (subject to minor changes) for the of the Heart of the Southwest Local Enterprise Partnership (HOTSWLEP) and the transfer of the LEP functions into the Council by 1st April 2024.</p> <p>b) Authorises the Director of Place to sign off the transfer arrangement and agreements with Somerset, Devon and Torbay councils that cover operational implementation of the LEP functions, and the allocations of LEP residual funding, resources, and assets to the four councils.</p> <p>c) Government have stated that Devon will be the lead area for the 3 upper tier authorities in Devon. Collectively it will be possible to access up to 240K for transition funding in 2024/5 across the 3 area. Somerset will be a separate functional economic area. Approve accepting funding and resources for Plymouth from this government funding.</p> <p>d) The distribution of any funds or assets from the HOTSWLEP will be ringfenced for economic development.</p>
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**SECTION TWO: EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT SCREENING TOOL**

<b>Potential external impacts:</b> Does the proposal have the potential to negatively impact service users, communities or residents with protected characteristics?	<b>Yes</b>		<b>No</b>	x
<b>Potential internal impacts:</b> Does the proposal have the potential to negatively impact Plymouth City Council employees?	<b>Yes</b>		<b>No</b>	x
Is a full Equality Impact Assessment required? (if you have answered yes to either of the questions above then a full impact assessment is required and you must complete section three)	<b>Yes</b>		<b>No</b>	x
If you do not agree that a full equality impact assessment is required, please set out your justification for why not.	<p>The transition and continuation of the work, roles and responsibilities of HotSW LEP is critical in supporting the sustainable growth of the local economy, improvements in education and skills, the social well-being of all local residents and communities and is intended to have a positive impact on everyone regardless of protected characteristics.</p> <p>When LEP responsibilities transfer, any negative impacts on staff and service users with protected</p>			

characteristics that might occur will be mitigated because the local authority must adhere to the Public Sector Equality Duty. For projects already agreed by the council, an EIA would have been undertaken and, if necessary, mitigation action would have been identified when the project was first agreed.

### SECTION THREE: FULL EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Protected characteristics (Equality Act, 2010)	Evidence and information (e.g. data and consultation feedback)	Adverse impact	Mitigation activities	Timescale and responsible department
<b>Age</b>	<p>Plymouth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 16.4 per cent of people in Plymouth are children aged under 15.</li> <li>• 65.1 per cent are adults aged 15 to 64.</li> <li>• 18.5 percent are adults aged 65 and over.</li> <li>• 2.4 percent of the resident population are 85 and over.</li> </ul> <p>South West</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 15.9 per cent of people are aged 0 to 14, 61.8 per cent are aged 15 to 64.</li> <li>• 22.3 per cent are aged 65 and over.</li> </ul> <p>England</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 17.4 per cent of people are aged 0 to 14.</li> </ul>			

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 64.2 per cent of people are aged 15 to 64.</li> <li>• 18.4 per cent of people are aged 65 and over.</li> </ul> <p>(2021 Census)</p>			
<p><b>Care experienced individuals</b></p> <p>(Note that as per the Independent Review of Children’s Social Care recommendations, Plymouth City Council is treating care experience as though it is a protected characteristic).</p>	<p>It is estimated that 26 per cent of the homeless population in the UK have care experience. In Plymouth there are currently 7 per cent of care leavers open to the service (6 per cent aged 18-20 and 12 per cent of those aged 21+) who are in unsuitable accommodation.</p> <p>The Care Review reported that 41 per cent of 19-21 year old care leavers are not in education, employment or training (NEET) compared to 12 per cent of all other young people in the same age group.</p> <p>In Plymouth there are currently 50 per cent of care leavers aged 18-21 Not in Education Training or Employment (54 per cent of all those care leavers aged 18-24 who are open to the service).</p> <p>There are currently 195 care leavers aged 18 to 20 (statutory service) and 58 aged 21 to 24 (extended offer). There are more care leavers aged 21 to 24 who could return for support from services if they wished to.</p>			
<p><b>Disability</b></p>	<p>9.4 per cent of residents in Plymouth have their activities limited ‘a lot’ because of a physical or mental health problem.</p> <p>12.2 per cent of residents in Plymouth have their activities limited ‘a little’ because of a</p>			

	physical or mental health problem (2021 Census)			
<b>Gender reassignment</b>	0.5 per cent of residents in Plymouth have a gender identity that is different from their sex registered at birth. 0.1 per cent of residents identify as a trans man, 0.1 per cent identify as non-binary and, 0.1 per cent identify as a trans women (2021 Census).			
<b>Marriage and civil partnership</b>	40.1 per cent of residents have never married and never registered a civil partnership. 10 per cent are divorced, 6 percent are widowed, with 2.5 per cent are separated but still married.  0.49 per cent of residents are, or were, married or in a civil partnerships of the same sex. 0.06 per cent of residents are in a civil partnerships with the opposite sex (2021 Census).			
<b>Pregnancy and maternity</b>	The total fertility rate (TFR) for England was 1.62 children per woman in 2021. The total fertility rate (TFR) for Plymouth in 2021 was 1.5.			
<b>Race</b>	In 2021, 94.9 per cent of Plymouth's population identified their ethnicity as White, 2.3 per cent as Asian and 1.1 per cent as Black (2021 Census)  People with a mixed ethnic background comprised 1.8 per cent of the population. 1 per cent of the population use a different term to describe their ethnicity (2021 Census)  92.7 per cent of residents speak English as their main language. 2021 Census data shows			

	that after English, Polish, Romanian, Chinese, Portuguese, and Arabic are the most spoken languages in Plymouth (2021 Census).			
<b>Religion or belief</b>	48.9 per cent of the Plymouth population stated they had no religion. 42.5 per cent of the population identified as Christian (2021 Census). Those who identified as Muslim account for 1.3 per cent of Plymouth's population while Hindu, Buddhist, Jewish or Sikh combined totalled less than 1 per cent (2021 Census).			
<b>Sex</b>	51 per cent of our population are women and 49 per cent are men (2021 Census).			
<b>Sexual orientation</b>	88.95 per cent of residents aged 16 years and over in Plymouth describe their sexual orientation as straight or heterosexual. 2.06 per cent describe their sexuality as bisexual, 1.97 per cent of people describe their sexual orientation as gay or lesbian. 0.42 per cent of residents describe their sexual orientation using a different term (2021 Census).			

#### SECTION FOUR: HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

Human Rights	Implications	Mitigation Actions	Timescale and responsible department
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## SECTION FIVE: OUR EQUALITY OBJECTIVES

Equality objectives	Implications	Mitigation Actions	Timescale and responsible department
<b>Celebrate diversity and ensure that Plymouth is a welcoming city.</b>			
<b>Pay equality for women, and staff with disabilities in our workforce.</b>			
<b>Supporting our workforce through the implementation of Our People Strategy 2020 – 2024</b>			
<b>Supporting victims of hate crime so they feel confident to report incidents, and working with, and through our partner organisations to achieve positive outcomes.</b>			
<b>Plymouth is a city where people from different backgrounds get along well.</b>			