

Select Committee Review



Date of meeting:	22 February 2024
Title of Report:	Water Quality – Issues, Challenges and Opportunities
Lead Member:	Councillor Tom Briars-Delve (Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change)
Lead Strategic Director:	Anthony Payne (Strategic Director for Place)
Author:	Kat Deeney (Head of Environmental Planning)
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Your Reference:	240222 PCC WQ Select Committee Report
Key Decision:	No
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

The report has two purposes:

1. To set out the issues, challenges, and opportunities around water quality in Plymouth, with specific reference to Plymouth City Council's roles and responsibilities.
2. To set out a proposed approach to meeting some of the key water quality challenges and securing opportunities through an enhanced collaboration between Plymouth City Council, South West Water, and the Environment Agency. A draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is provided for review that sets out the proposed terms of the collaboration.

Recommendations and Reasons

1. **Recommendation** - Accept the conclusion in the report that the issues and challenges with water quality are complex, will increase with predicted climate change and needs an enhanced approach to delivery.
Reason: *To recognise that enhancing water quality requires a partnership approach to meet existing and new challenges.*
2. **Recommendation** - Support the collaboration set out in the MoU, for a long-term delivery focused relationship with the Environment Agency and South West Water.
Reason: *To deliver on opportunities to improve water quality in the short and long term in a manner which maximises benefits.*

Alternative options considered and rejected

- I. Do not support an enhanced collaboration with the Environment Agency and South West Water. Rejected as would not achieve an improved approach to water quality enhancement.

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

The proposed collaborative approach to delivering water quality improvements will deliver against policies within the Plymouth Plan including policy 'INT1 - Implementing Britain's Ocean City'. High standards of water quality are essential in supporting the City Vision as well as Plymouth City Council priorities: 'unlocking the City's potential' by making more of the waterfront one of our greatest assets and supporting the UK's first National Marine Park.

Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

There are no direct financial implications from the report. As specific delivery items are developed as part of the collaboration any financial or resource implications will be fully reviewed at that time.

Financial Risks

There are no financial risks in developing an enhanced collaborative approach to meeting the water quality challenges.

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

There are no direct carbon implications in the recommendations proposed. Any delivery actions resulting from the recommendations will seek to reduce carbon as well as enhance other environmental benefits.

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.*

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Appendices

**Add rows as required to box below*

Ref.	Title of Appendix	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) <i>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.</i>						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A	Briefing report – Water quality, issues, challenges, and opportunities.							
B	Draft Memorandum of Agreement							

Background papers:

*Add rows as required to box below

Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below. Background papers are unpublished 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.

Title of any background paper(s)	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable)						
	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.						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Sign off:

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Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Philip Robinson, Service Director, Street Services.											
Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Anthony Payne, Strategic Director of Place Yes Date agreed: 12/02/2024											
Cabinet Member approval: Councillor Tom Briars-Delve (Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change) Date approved: 12/02/2024											