

Date of meeting:	11 March 2024
Title of Report:	Water Quality Select Committee Recommendations
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)
Contact Email:	Kathryn.deeney@plymouth.gov.uk
Your Reference:	240311 WQ Select Committee Recommendation Response FINAL
Key Decision:	No
Confidentiality:	Part 1 - Official

Purpose of Report

The report sets out the recommendations received from the Water Quality Select Committee and a proposed response to the recommendations. The Water Quality Select Committee met on the 22 February 2024 to hear evidence on the issues, challenge and opportunities relating to water quality and in particular its impact in Plymouth Sound National Marine Park. As a result of the evidence presented the Select Committee made 16 recommendations to be proposed to Cabinet. The report sets out the 16 recommendations and a proposed response to each.

Recommendations and Reasons

1. **Recommendation** – Thank the Select Committee that reviewed the issues, challenges and opportunities for their work hearing and reviewing information presented and proposing the 16 recommendations.

Reason: *To recognise the important role Scrutiny and the Select Committee has played in reviewing the complex issues with improving water quality and seeking ways to positively address the challenges through the recommendations made.*

2. **Recommendation** – Support the proposed responses to the recommendations made by the Select Committee set out in the Water Quality Select Committee Recommendation Response Report.

Reason: *To support the actions proposed in response to the recommendations presented by the Select Committee.*

3. **Recommendation** – Support the proposal to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enable an enhanced relationship with South West Water and Environment Agency and delegate the final review and signing of the MoU to Cllr Briars-Delve Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change.
4. **Reason:** *To support the proposed enhanced partnership.*

Alternative options considered and rejected

1. 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.
2. Reject the recommendations proposed by the Water Quality Select Committee. Rejected as the recommendation will deliver positive action to support the enhancement of the water quality within the Plymouth Sound National Marine Park.

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 the proposed actions to respond to the Select Committee recommendations or 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 enhancing 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	Water Quality Select Committee Recommendation Response Report FINAL							
B	Draft MoU Agreement							
C	Climate Impact Assessment (if applicable)							

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) <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

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: 29/02/2024											

Cabinet Member approval: Councillor Tom Briars-Delve (Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change)

Date approved: 29/02/2024