

Natural Infrastructure and Growth Scrutiny Panel



Date of meeting:	11 December 2024
Title of Report:	Plymouth Sound National Marine Park – Update Report 2024
Lead Member:	Councillor Tudor Evans OBE (Leader)
Lead Strategic Director:	Karime Hassan (Interim Strategic Director for Growth)
Author:	Kat Deeney
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Your Reference:	241211 NI&G Scrutiny - PSNMP Update Report 2024 Draft
Key Decision:	No
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

The last update to the Growth and Infrastructure Overview and Scrutiny Committee was in July 2023, when the framework for the National Lottery Heritage Fund bid was presented and endorsement for the bid was sought. In September 2023 the bid was submitted and in December 2023 we were awarded the grant. Since the funding award, the project has rapidly gained momentum and has commenced delivery against the multiple project outcomes.

This report provides an update on all aspects of the PSNMP Horizons project including:

- Nature Boost
- Activity Plan
- Digital Park
- Capital Restoration and Repurposing
- Evaluation

Within all the programmes of work there is a focus on building a new relationship between people and the ocean ensuring we provide a strong legacy beyond the life of the project. To support the legacy of the project, there has also been work developing the Park entity to ensure once the project completes the outcomes and ambition continues. Work on this key development area is also explored in the report. The report concludes with some insight into the 2025 work programme.

Recommendations and Reasons

1. **Recommendation** – It is recommended that the committee note the PSNMP update and support the ongoing delivery as set out in the report.
Reason – The Horizons project is progressing well against its ambitions and the Park development work is well underway and support for both is still required.

Alternative options considered and rejected

- I. The ongoing work of the PSNMP Horizons project and the development of the Park could not receive support in its ongoing delivery. This was discounted as the PSNMP is a key strategic priority for the Council.

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

The NLHF Heritage Horizons funding will deliver the City ambition to unlock the transformational 'big idea' of delivering the UK's first National Marine Park in Plymouth Sound and lead a new generation of Parks. This project will deliver a vital change by, through and with people. It is a paradigm shift in thinking that recognises that we cannot save our planet without everyone being part of the solution. PSNMP will enable a grassroots movement, delivered through engaged marine citizens, changing long term behaviours and outcomes.

The programme will deliver against policies within the Plymouth Plan including policy 'INT1 - Implementing Britain's Ocean City'. The NMP has been designed to support the City Vision as well as Plymouth City Council priorities: 'unlocking the City's potential' by making more of one of our greatest assets and due to the focus on engagement and inclusion it will also support the priorities within 'Caring for People and Communities', particularly reducing health inequalities, by providing more opportunities for a wider group of people to access the health and wellbeing benefits the NMP can offer.

The project will be delivered on the ground through an integrated and collaborative programme. The different areas will work holistically together to bring the PSNMP to life. The project includes:

An inclusive Activity Plan, driving the marine citizenship programme, providing diverse opportunities to engage with the Park, discover and learn more about the PSNMP and support activities to help enhance and care for the PSNMP.

Sensitive Capital enhancements to key our key Gateways along the waterfront; gateways to the PSNMP. Centres of intensive engagement and outreach focused on the development of new audiences.

- Tinside Lido
- Mount Batten Peninsula
- Mount Edgcumbe
- Ernesettle Creek – the community have co-designed the sensitive interventions proposed at Ernesettle creek. Enabling better access, enhancement of the nature of the site and interpretation helping the community create a deeper connection to Plymouth Sound.
- Firestone Bay – also co-designed with the community, including interventions to support access to and activities in the water.

Pioneering Nature Boost restoration initiatives; re-building species and habitats and enhancing climate resilience.

An innovative Digital Park to ensure the heritage beneath the waves is visible, accessible and inspirational.

An Interpretation Plan that will tell the stories of the PSNMP, the past, present and future. Features will be located at the capital hubs, gateways and areas away from the waterfront, linking the stories of the Sound throughout the City.

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The way the project will be delivered, with a focus on people and environment, will also support the protection and enhancement of the natural environment and contributing to net zero. The NLHF was the first large scale funding secured to support the NMP development.

Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

The implications for the PSNMP Horizons project were set out in the Business Case submitted and approved in March 2024.

Financial Risks

This report does not identify any new financial risks.

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

The PSNMP work has a core focus on the improvement of the environment directly through the nature boost programme and through all aspects of the project as a result of the key focus on developing a new positive relationship between people and the ocean.

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.*

There are no new implications raised as a result of this work.

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
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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)
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	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: Karime Hassan											
Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes											
Date agreed: 28/11/2024											
<p>Cabinet Member approval: </p> <p>Date approved: 02/12/2024</p>											