

NATURAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND GROWTH SCRUTINY PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS

Drainage and Wastewater Management in Plymouth now and in the future



I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

I.1 The Natural Infrastructure and Growth Scrutiny Panel heard an item on drainage and wastewater management in Plymouth now and in the future at their meeting on 02 April 2025. South West Water and relevant Plymouth City Council officers were invited to speak to the Panel about Plymouth's ambitious growth plans and how the drainage and wastewater management systems would cope with additional pressure, and what investment was planned.

The Panel made the following recommendations for response by the relevant Cabinet Member.

Number	Scrutiny Panel recommendation	Cabinet Response to recommendation
1.	Recommend that the relevant Cabinet Member enquires about a digital display system for water quality in the three swimming zones in Plymouth following up on a similar recommendation made during Water Quality Select Committee.	Agreed. Research has been carried out into the possibility of digital displays for water quality and found that there are several challenges around planning permission and power that do not make this a viable option when the live information is available online.
2.	Recommended that the relevant Cabinet Member worked with officers at PCC and SWW to ensure that there was clear and consistent dialogue about the growth plans for the city and the possible impacts on SWW infrastructure.	Agreed. Councillor Briars-Delve and The Leader will work with the Service Director for Strategic Planning and Infrastructure to ensure there is clear and consistent dialogue about the growth plans for Plymouth and the possible impacts on South West Water infrastructure. The issue of South West Water infrastructure and its relationship to the growth plans for Plymouth will continue to be discussed at the regular Strategic Liaison Meetings held between the Service Director and South West Water and the Environment Agency. Ultimately these discussions will help inform the Infrastructure Needs Assessment and Infrastructure Delivery Plan for the next Plymouth Local Plan in bringing forward the housing and jobs the city will need for the next few decades.

3.	Recommended to South West Water that the results of air quality impact assessments and strategies to reduce odours for all sewage treatment works (if appropriate) were shared with the local authority (including Panel members).	Agreed. South West Water have agreed to this recommendation and will provide a response when available.
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