

Natural Infrastructure and Growth Scrutiny Panel



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| Date of meeting: | 03 December 2025 |
| Title of Report: | Plymouth Plan Update and Review |
| Lead Member: | Councillor John Stephens (Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Transport) |
| Lead Strategic Director: | Tracey Lee (Chief Executive) |
| Author: | Jonathan Bell (Head of Spatial Planning & Sustainable Development) |
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| Your Reference: | Click here to enter text. |
| Key Decision: | No |
| Confidentiality: | Part I - Official |

Purpose of Report

The primary purpose of the report is to update the Scrutiny Panel on the Plymouth Plan and to provide an opportunity for the Panel to influence current consideration of the need for a review of the plan. Additionally, the report responds to a Motion on Notice from the City Council's meeting of 18 September 2023, where the Council resolved that the opportunity be taken to use the Plymouth Plan Review to ensure that play was embedded into the plan and that it then set a framework for a play delivery plan with targeted interventions.

Recommendations and Reasons

- To note the update on and proposed review of the Plymouth Plan.
Reason: To ensure that the Scrutiny Panel is kept informed of the Plymouth Plan and has opportunity to consider the need for and scope of a review.

Alternative options considered and rejected

- To not review the Plymouth Plan. This option is not recommended as significant elements of the plan are now out of date, and there is a need to simplify / restructure the plan to ensure continued engagement with and ownership of the plan amongst city partners.
- To cancel the Plymouth Plan. This option is not recommended given the continued support of partners for a strategic plan of this nature, and the role that the Plymouth Plan has and continues to play in avoiding the need for multiple city strategies and presenting a clear direction of travel for the city which also helps with funding bids and investment decisions.

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

The Corporate Plan is in part the City Council's strategic response to the Plymouth Plan, setting out the role that the Council will play.

Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

There are significant indirect benefits of having a plan of the nature of the Plymouth Plan, as it reduces the need for work on multiple city strategies and puts the city in a stronger position when seeking

grants and attracting investment. Application of delivery against the plan has significant impacts on the MTFP but these are managed on an individual basis with reference to the plan at this review stage there are no direct impact to consider.

There are no direct resource implications from the review of the Plymouth Plan as this process can be managed within existing revenue budgets and staffing structures.

Financial Risks

There are no significant financial risks from the Plymouth Plan review.

Legal Implications

The Plymouth Plan currently includes several statutory plans, and with the restructuring of the plan it might be that some of these need to be dealt with in a different way, including through strategic delivery plans sitting within the Plymouth Plan family of documents. This will be a matter for more detailed consideration in the review process and will need to be managed under the policy framework.

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

The Plymouth Plan provides the opportunity for the city to make clear its environmental and decarbonisation direction of travel.

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.*

The Plymouth Plan provides the opportunity for the city to make clear its direction of travel in relation to all key policy matters. The detail is included in linked delivery plans within the Plymouth Plan family of documents.

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 | Plymouth Plan background paper | | | | | | | |
| B | | | | | | | | |
| C | | | | | | | | |

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> |
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Sign off:

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| Fin | ITG.2 5.26.0 87 | Leg | LS/00 0038 41/10 /LB/I 2/11/ 25 | Mon Off | n/a | HR | n/a | Assets | n/a | Strat Proc | n/a |
| Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Tracey Lee (Chief Executive) | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Date agreed: 07/11/2025 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cabinet Member approval: Councillor John Stephens - <i>Approved by email</i> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Date approved: 09/11/2025 | | | | | | | | | | | |