

Natural Infrastructure and Growth Scrutiny Panel



Date of meeting:	03 December 2025
Title of Report:	Plymouth Local Plan Update
Lead Member:	Councillor John Stephens (Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Transport)
Lead Strategic Director:	Glenn Caplin-Grey (Strategic Director for Growth)
Author:	Alistair Wagstaff (Strategic Planning Manager)
Contact Email:	Alistair.wagstaff@plymouth.gov.uk
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 new Local Plan process and to provide an opportunity for the Panel to influence the proposed high-level areas of focus of the plan going forward, as plan preparation commences for the new plan.

Recommendations and Reasons

- I. To note the update on the potential scope and timetable for the next Plymouth Local Plan.
Reason: To ensure that the Scrutiny Panel is kept informed of the Local Plan and its timetable going forward and has opportunity to give its early input to the issues for the plan to consider.

Alternative options considered and rejected

- I. To not prepare a new Local Plan at this stage and instead continue with the current Joint Local Plan (JLP) to 2034 in line with that plan's time period. However, the JLP was adopted more than five years ago and the Council is no longer able to demonstrate a five year housing land supply, meaning that significant elements of the JLP are out of date and carry significantly reduced weight for planning decisions. Additionally, the Government is amending the Local Plan making process and it is important that Plymouth commence work on the new type of Local Plan to have an up-to-date Local Plan that can guide and direct growth in the city going forward. Therefore, this option has been rejected

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

The new Local Plan will replace the current Joint Local Plan as the spatial expression of the Plymouth Plan. It will support particularly the growth priority of the Plymouth Plan and the Corporate Plan priority to build more homes and secure green investment and jobs.

Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

The production of the Local Plan can be managed within existing revenue budgets and staffing structures, although there will be costs associated with the Examination in Public that is likely to be

required in 2028/29. There are significant indirect benefits of having a Local Plan, as it supports the delivery of sustainable development which brings income and economic benefits.

Financial Risks

There are no significant financial risks from the commencement of the new Local Plan.

Legal Implications

Local plans are statutory documents that all local planning authorities must prepare and maintain. Not having an up to date Local Plan would leave the city exposed to decisions being determined on the basis of national policies alone, without recourse to locally developed policies, and with increased risk of appeals against planning decisions made by the Council.

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

The Plymouth Local Plan provides the opportunity for the city to make clear its environmental and decarbonisation policies to guide future development in the city.

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 new Local Plan will provide the opportunity for putting in place spatial planning policies that support wider agendas in the city.

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	Local Plan Background Paper							
B	Local Plan Presentation							

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:

Fin	N/A	Leg	LS/2 960(67)/J P/20 1125	Mon Off	LS/2 960(67)/J P/20 1125	HR	N/A	Assets	N/A	Strat Proc	N/A
Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Glenn Caplin-Grey											
Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes Date agreed: 30/10/2025											
Cabinet Member approval: Councillor John Stephens email confirmation Date approved: 13/11/2025											