

Natural Infrastructure and Growth Scrutiny Panel



Date of meeting:	04 February 2026
Title of Report:	Plymouth Sound National Marine Park – Annual Update
Lead Member:	Councillor Tudor Evans OBE (Leader)
Lead Strategic Director:	Glenn Caplin-Grey (Strategic Director for Growth)
Author:	Kat Deeney (Head of Natural Environment Service)
Contact Email:	Kathryn.deeney@plymouth.gov.uk
Your Reference:	260204 NMP Scrutiny Update 2026 CR FINAL
Key Decision:	No
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

The last update to the Growth and Infrastructure Overview and Scrutiny Committee was in December 2024. The project has now completed the second full year of delivery and has made great progress across all of the elements within the programme. Importantly work has enabled a better drawing together different elements of the project with more focus on enabling impactful engagement. The initial year of the project was a year of firsts. The second has seen development across all areas and as we look forward to year three plans are in place to deepen the breadth and depth of impact of the project as well as starting to develop the legacy for the Horizons investment, supported by the NMP CIO.

This report provides an update on all aspects of the PSNMP Horizons project and a look forward to plan for 2026.

Recommendations and Reasons

1. 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's development and the projects legacy work is well underway. Support for both the project and the legacy work is still required.

Alternative options considered and rejected

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 National Marine Park Horizons project, support by the significant investment received from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, will deliver the City ambition to unlock the transformational ‘big idea’ of delivering the UK’s first National Marine Park in Plymouth Sound. The delivery of the NMP in Plymouth will provide inspiration for a new generation of Parks. This project will deliver a vital change by working with and alongside communities to enable a long-lasting change that benefits people and nature in a manner that is sustained for decades to come.

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. As a result of 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.

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. Additional funding to support the project has also been the reviewed through approved business cases. This report does not result in any new implications for the medium term financial plan.

Financial Risks

This report is an update on the NMP project and therefore does not identify any new financial risks.

Legal Implications

This report is an update on the NMP project and therefore does not identify any new legal implications.

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 the update in this report.

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	260204 NMP Scrutiny Update 2026							

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)						
	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:

Fin	N/A	Leg	N/A	Mon Off	N/A	HR	N/A	Assets	N/A	Strat Proc	N/A
Originating Senior Leadership Team member: David Draffan											
Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes											
Date agreed: 26/01/2026											
Cabinet Member approval: Cllr Tudor Evans OBE approved via email											
Date approved: 27/01/2026											