

## CITY OF PLYMOUTH

**Subject:** Growth & Prosperity Overview and Scrutiny Panel Quarterly Report  
**Committee:** Growth & Prosperity Overview and Scrutiny Panel  
**Date:** 22 March 2010  
**CMT Member:** Director for Development & Regeneration  
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Tel no: 01752 304226  
**Ref:** GP-OSP2nd report  
**Part:** Part I

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### **Executive Summary:**

This report sets out a review of the Growth & Prosperity Overview and Scrutiny Panel for the period Oct 2009 to February 2010

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### **Corporate Plan 2010-2013:**

The Growth & Prosperity Overview and Scrutiny Panel provides strategic scrutiny of the following Corporate Improvement Priorities and key areas:

- CIP5 - Providing better and more affordable housing
  - CIP11 - Improving access to the city
  - CIP12 - Delivering Sustainable Growth
  - The strategic and operational activities of the Department for Development & Regeneration
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### **Implications for Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications: Including finance, human, IT and land**

None

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### **Other Implications: e.g. Section 17 Community Safety, Health and Safety, Risk Management, Equalities Impact Assessment, etc.**

None

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### **Recommendations & Reasons for recommended action:**

That the report is noted

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### **Alternative options considered and reasons for recommended action:**

N/A

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### **Background papers:**

Growth & Prosperity Overview and Scrutiny minutes and forward plan

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**Sign off:** N/A

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## Growth & Prosperity Overview and Scrutiny Panel Quarterly Report

### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report sets out a review of the Growth & Prosperity Overview and Scrutiny Panel work programme for the period October 2009 to February 2010, incorporating the meetings 26 October 2009, 7 December 2009 and 19 February 2010 respectively.

### 2. Scope of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel

- 2.1 The Growth & Prosperity Overview and Scrutiny Panel is primarily concerned with the strategic scrutiny of the following Corporate Improvement Priorities and key areas:
- CIP5 - Providing better and more affordable housing
  - CIP11 - Improving access to the city
  - CIP12 - Delivering Sustainable Growth
  - The strategic and operational activities of the Department for Development & Regeneration
- 2.2 The detailed terms of reference for the panel are contained in Appendix 1.
- 2.3 The panel consists of the following members and officers

Title	Name	Attendances (3 meetings)
Councillor (Chair)	D.Viney	3
Councillor (Vice Chair)	M.Coker	3
Councillor	R.Ball	2
Councillor	M.King	0
Councillor	Martin Leaves	1
Councillor	D.Reynolds	1
Councillor	B. Roberts	3
Councillor	J.Nelder	1
Councillor	G.Wheeler	2
Lead Officer	G.Peele	3
Democratic Support	H.Rickman	3

- 2.4 The Panel, through effective strategic and operational scrutiny, supports the following cabinet members and CMT officers

Title	Name
Cabinet Member (Planning, Strategic Housing & Economic Development)	Ted Fry
Cabinet Member (Transport)	Kevin Wiggins
Director for Development & Regeneration	Anthony Payne

- 2.5 The panel has a budget of £2,000 to support the scrutiny work

### 3. Key achievements during this period

- 3.1 The panel met on three occasions during the period of this report. Meetings have been well structured, managed efficiently and well attended by both panel members and cabinet members. Due to the primarily strategic nature of the terms of reference

for the Growth & Prosperity Overview and Scrutiny Panel, it has been important to try to achieve a work programme that has added value in the short term as well as balance the work programme with more attainable longer term benefits. A positive contribution has been made to support an effective strategic and operational overview; in particular the following achievements have already been made:

- The panel continued to review the Worklessness agenda by scrutinising the contribution and role of Plymouth City Council as an employer. Presentations were received from Assistant Director, Economic Development, Shekinah Mission, Strategic Housing, Social Inclusion Unit and Human Resources. The panel agreed to recommend that the new Economic Development Service take on the leadership and ownership of the Worklessness agenda on behalf of the council, and to provide a greater leadership role with partners. This will ensure that the council's role is clearly understood and that the skills development agenda within the city is aligned with the economic drivers and key sectors. It was also recommended that corporate leadership within the council be provided by the Economic Development Service to bring many strands of this agenda together across the council, and for the council, as an employer, to play a greater leadership role in creating opportunities for employment/ work experience for disengaged groups.
- The panel completed a review of the skateboarding by law adjacent to the Civic Centre. The Task and Finish Group received substantial feedback from young people, members of the public, ward councillors, police, youth parliament and many interested parties, with many of these attending the panel in person. The Task & Finish Group handled this tricky subject with sensitivity and depth, and reached final agreement for four recommendations, which the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board OSP have subsequently approved. These were, in the short term, to retain the existing by law with more appropriate signage, and that a suitable alternative site be sought for urban skateboarding. In the longer term, the panel recommended that future public realm designs take into account either the encouragement or deterrent of skateboarding and that a further review be undertaken in the future by the Lead member for this neighbourhood under the Councils Localities working arrangements. The Task & Finish group members have been congratulated by the Management Board for an excellent piece of scrutiny. The scrutiny report will now be submitted to Cabinet.
- The panel has scrutinised CIP 11 (Improving access across the city) where some slippage was highlighted in the bi monthly Finance and Performance Report. A further progress report will be received at the panels March meeting.
- The panel considered the right of the Council to exercise a veto on the proposed renewed Business Improvement District, and made a recommendation that, due to the overwhelming results achieved by the ballot, that the veto right should NOT be exercised
- The panel is also managing and resolving it's tracking resolutions promptly. A Task and Finish group assembled during the previous year has continued to meet to complete the health & safety review of the Hoe Foreshore. The majority of the risks originally highlighted by the Audit Committee have been rectified, including the dismantling of the diving board, with an expectation that all of the remaining areas completed by the end of February.
- The panel received a presentation on the Carbon Reduction Commitment Scheme and an understanding on how the Councils baseline carbon footprint has been calculated. The panel expressed some concern over the clarity of leadership

and ownership of this agenda within the Council. It was resolved that a further progress report be presented to scrutiny in March 2010 (*but this was subsequently agreed to be referred to the Support Services OSP*)

- The panel expressed concern about the absence of information regarding the Eastern Corridor Scheme. With the support by the Chair, the panel has been successful in securing regular feedback from the Major Scheme Project Manager and the Portfolio holder, which has not contravened confidentiality issues.
- At the February meeting the panel scrutinised the Local Development Framework 2009 Annual Monitoring Report. The panel noted that the majority of targets were being met, but that officers be instructed to take appropriate action to address the Lifetime Homes and Renewable Energy targets with a further response requested regarding the provision of community infrastructure in areas of the city where additional housing development is planned, and the status of Devonport Primary School
- The panel received a briefing regarding the role of the Strategic Housing Service and how the future scrutiny work programme may wish to engage. The panel agreed that they would be recommending that the Growth & Prosperity Overview and Scrutiny Panel take on responsibility for the whole breadth of Strategic Housing Services, and explore and review key areas eg Devon choice letting, Homelessness and Housing advice, and also scrutinise the peer review of private rentals. It will be recommended to the Management Board that this panel also host the twice yearly review of the Plymouth Community Homes transfer promises.
- The Chair / Vice Chair have met with senior officers within the Department for Development & Regeneration during the year which has helped to achieve an effective work programme

#### **4. On the Horizon**

- 4.1 The work programme continues to focus on helping to develop policy where the Council can tackle impacts of the recession, maintaining an oversight of progress on long term growth targets/projects, The panel have acknowledged the new emerging priorities of the Development, with new senior management appointments, and have rescheduled their programme to receive a presentation from Anthony Payne, Director on the key challenges and delivery plan for the growth and regeneration agenda at its next meeting. This will consider the proposals for the regional, sub regional and citywide governance arrangements and provide a framework for the future Growth & Prosperity Overview and Scrutiny work programming.

#### **5. Recommendation**

- 5.1 That the progress of the Growth & Prosperity Overview and Scrutiny panel is noted by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

Gill Peele

Lead Officer Growth & Prosperity Overview and Scrutiny Panel

## **Growth & Prosperity Overview and Scrutiny Panel**

### **Terms of Reference**

#### Terms of Reference

- To review new and existing policies and consider how they may be improved and developed;
- To monitor the budget and performance of the Cabinet Member, Department and partners to ensure that the priorities for the area are being delivered upon;
- To monitor performance against the relevant Corporate Improvement Priorities;
- To review Policies within the Budget and Policy Framework;
- To consider Equality Impact Assessments against new and existing policies;
- To investigate local issues to find out how the council and its partners can improve to meet the needs of local people;
- To make recommendations about service delivery to the Cabinet (via the Board)
- To review and scrutinise the performance of partner organisations
- To set up Ad-Hoc Working Groups as and when required;
- To produce quarterly progress reports to go to the management board

#### Cabinet Members

- Transport
- Safer and Stronger Communities (until Housing Stock Transfer)
- Planning, Strategic Housing and Economic Development
- Street Scene, Waste and Sustainability

#### Directorate

- Development and Regeneration
- Community Services (until Housing Stock Transfer)
  
- Planning
- Transport
- Strategic Housing
- Economic Development
- Sustainability and Climate Change

#### Corporate Improvement Priorities (CIPs)

- Better Homes (CIP 5)
- Waste and Recycling (CIP 10) (This is first part only, i.e long term waste disposal solution)
- Transport (CIP 11)
- Sustainable Growth (CIP 12)

#### LSP Link

- Wealthy Theme Group