

CITY OF PLYMOUTH

Subject: State of Plymouth Report and LSP priorities
Committee: Cabinet
Date: 13 July 2010
Cabinet Member: The Leader,
CMT Member: Assistant Chief Executive
Author: Jonathan Fry, Policy, Performance, Partnerships
Contact: Tel: (01752 (30) 4144
e-mail: jonathan.fry@plymouth.gov.uk
Ref: Your ref.
Part:

Executive Summary:

This Cabinet planning report highlights observations from the evolving State of Plymouth Report. It provides in one place and for the first time a summary of a range of detailed needs analysis, strategies, performance and inspection data from across the four key thematic areas of the partnership, as well as key customer and capacity data. The aim to give people a better overall understanding of where we are and the challenges we face; as well as being a basis for refreshing or confirming headline priorities as part of the integrated business planning process with partners. The Executive Summary of what is a nearly completed document is attached with the key observations further highlighted in the box.

Corporate Plan 2010-2013:

The report will inform the development of the Corporate Plan 2011-14

Implications for Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications: Including finance, human, IT and land

Not identified at this stage, as report will inform thinking around headline priorities

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

None at this stage

Recommendations & Reasons for recommended action:

Note the key observations and the next steps in the integrated business planning process including OSMB 22/7; CMT/CAB consider OSMB feedback 27/7; Cab sign off 10/8; LSP Board 11/8; Council 11/10.

Alternative options considered and reasons for recommended action:

N/A at this stage

Background papers:

The most up to date version of the detailed State of Plymouth Report, which includes tables, graphs etc, will be available on the day.

Sign off:

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|------------------------|--|-----|--|----|--|--------------|--|----|--|---------------|--|
| Fin | | Leg | | HR | | Corp Prop | | IT | | Strat Proc | |
| Originating SMT Member | | | | | | | | | | | |

Executive summary



Purpose of the State of Plymouth Report

This is the first State of Plymouth Report that covers the range of activities and services covered by the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP), including customer and capacity issues. It pulls together headline findings from other more detailed theme based assessments, strategies, performance and inspection reports, as well as drawing in critical data around the cities capacity. The aim is to give people a better understanding of where we are and the challenges we face across the partnership and city; as well as being a basis for refreshing or confirming headline priorities and enabling individual partners to see how they best fit their activities to support the headline agenda. This first report is in many respects a prototype for how things should develop in the future. The intention is for it to be continuously refreshed and built up over the year, so that it is always in a 'ready state' at the required stages of the new integrated business planning process across the partnership.

The city and its customer

Although residents feel positive about Plymouth, the city is near the average across a number of service satisfaction areas. Some services, like health care, are provided to a single customer in many different settings by many organisations. The city is comparatively isolated and lacks a dynamic image despite its discovery heritage and needs to be better connected. These are issues that are being worked on. Visitors within its catchment area have a reasonably good view of it, though there is scope to build on the existing visitor base.

Wealth

The city is successfully implementing a spatial framework and developing the infrastructure to meet its very ambitious vision of becoming one of Europe's major waterfront cities. Many major schemes and investments are already delivered or in progress and the changes to the city are visible. There are clear strategies in place around the economy, health and housing and annual monitoring of the Local Development Framework shows that it is progressing strongly and it is seen as a national exemplar. However, the city's current profile does not meet that level of ambition, as the population is in the main insufficiently entrepreneurial or skilled in the right areas. For instance, the city has a low gross value added score amounting to a £1b prosperity gap; self-employment is significantly lower than the regional and national average;

Emerging key observations

- The city is successfully implementing a spatial framework and developing the infrastructure to meet its very ambitious vision, but its current profile does not match that ambition as in the main it is insufficiently entrepreneurial or skilled in the right areas.
- Health is improving but health inequalities have widened slightly and together with a range of other disadvantages tend to converge around the western edge of the city.
- The Third Sector in Plymouth is not as large as in comparable cities at a time when there is likely to be increasing demands made on it.
- Educational attainment is improving well, but entry to higher education is relatively low when compared to other cities; while attention should be given to international comparisons, given the cities ambition.
- The same customers are often dealt with by many agencies in many places; while there is likely to be growing pressure around how resources are used more effectively across the partnership.
- The growth agenda covers all aspects of partnership activity, but it is not always explicit in all areas.

occupationally the city is under represented in manager, senior official, professional and associate occupations, as well as in the finance, IT and other business industrial classification; there is an over representation in public sector employment, while recent employment growth has been in part-time work; relatively low numbers of people are skilled to Level 4 and above and it does comparatively poorly for young people going onto higher education. This needs to be addressed and may in part involve greater inward migration. It is not clear that the city will achieve its desired population increase to time, though estimates that have just come out show a rise, and a lot will depend on the composition of that increase if it is to be the dynamic, vibrant waterfront city.

Health

Health has improved across the population with life expectancy increasing and now standing at 81.9 years for women and 76.8 years for men, which is a slight widening and just above the national average for women (81.8yrs) and a below that for men (77.7yrs). However, health inequalities have widened slightly and feature strongly within Plymouth and together with crime, educational attainment, housing quality, susceptibility to fire and deprivation levels generally converge around the western boundary of the city, with multiple demands on multiple services. At the extreme there is a 13 year gap between wards at the top and bottom end of the spectrum. When comparing the bottom and top 20% of areas the gap is 6 years for

men and 3 years for women, which is slightly better than our statistical family group. Health in the city is significantly worse than average in 17 of the 32 comparative health categories. However, across all 32 categories its profile is less exaggerated towards the lower end of the spectrum than cities like Bristol, Liverpool, Hull and to an extent Portsmouth, but significantly poorer than the south west. The proportion of the population that is elderly is below average, but is growing numerically and there are consequently rising demands for care packages. Whether the city's elderly population remains proportionally below average will depend on the composition of the city's population rise.

Safe/strong

Plymouth is a comparatively safe city when compared to other urban conurbations, with falling overall crime, particularly acquisitive crime. Sexual assault, drunkenness and to an extent violence remain problems. Although wounding has gone down, the city still performs poorly within its iQuanta comparator group. Actions in these areas to improve people's sense of safety should help both the night-time and day economies as the city tries to attract more people to it. There is a strong focus on safeguarding children as well as adults and excellent examples of partnership working around emergency type issues, where the city received a green flag under CAA inspection. Safeguarding will always be a concern, particularly at a time of public sector cutbacks, and there are large numbers of children and young people in care or with care plans. The environment is relatively clean and the city has undergone a major change in the collection of waste. Satisfaction results compare well with other public services in Plymouth, though not so well with national figures on waste. Considerable success has been achieved around social cohesion and the city is officially classed as 'low' risk for tension, though it is recognised that the city's expansion will need to be managed in a cohesive way. The city's voluntary and community sector, though making good progress from the mid-nineties, is not as developed as in comparable cities according to the local Whitfield study and National Study of the Third Sector. This needs to be seen in the context of the national push to commission the Third Sector more, as part of the approach to reducing public expenditure and putting less reliance on government.

Wise

The city is trying to improve its cultural and sporting offer with creative industries one of the six priority growth areas and through the development of initiatives like the Life Centre and World Cup bid. Both Plymouth's university and college are focused outwards on business and skills. There is a strong focus within schools on educational

attainment and improving learning environments, though progress with the schools building programme is likely to be affected by current national cutbacks. The Children and Young People's Trust has a strong focus on attainment and this area, together with safeguarding, is going to be the priority of the new coalition government. Progress with educational attainment has been good and needs to be maintained; but a comparatively low number of young people are going into higher education when contrasted with other cities and keeping or attracting those who already have such qualifications is also recognised as necessary. The city should also think how it compares internationally on attainment, given its ambitions.

Capacity

Although performance is generally good and finances managed well it should be noted that resource management only met minimum requirements across the four key partners inspected in the 2009 Use of Resources assessment. In the current climate there is likely to be a sharper focus on the need for further enhancing joint commissioning activity, shared service provision and support functions as a means of more effective delivery, improved value for money and cost savings. The first draft of an investment plan for the city has been completed, though there is no LSP resource plan as such that would include the use of resources like people, assets and IT across the partnership. There is a wealth of data, numerous needs analysis and multiple strategies across the agencies. They are, however, not always aligned in their scheduling, can contain contradictory data and do not always demonstrate shared objectives. Some staff survey data from different public agencies is not that encouraging. A focus on how staff are motivated, work together effectively, feel supported and have an opportunity to influence improvements will be even more important as partners try to do more for less from the reduced resources available, with innovation increasingly valued.

General observation

The growth agenda touches all aspects of partnership activity, which is not surprising given its ambitious scale in Plymouth. For example, it interweaves with health as both a vehicle for planning more healthy communities, in terms of better quality housing, local services and improved access to specialist facilities, which can help reduce inequalities and prevent poor health; and, is a means of attracting more high value jobs and companies to the city, with the development of medical sciences, hospital and university. Whilst explicit in some core documents, the growth agenda is not as explicit as it might be in all the plans, strategies and analysis that cover the themes and activities overseen by the LSP. ■