

## PLYMOUTH CITY COUNCIL

**Subject:** Plymouth Plan  
**Committee:** Growth and Prosperity Overview and Scrutiny Panel  
**Date:** 8 May 2013  
**Cabinet Member:** Councillor Vincent  
**CMT Member:** Anthony Payne (Director for Place)  
**Author:** Richard Grant (Local Planning Team Leader)  
**Contact details** Tel: 01752 304331  
email: Richard.grant@plymouth.gov.uk  
**Ref:**  
**Key Decision:** No  
**Part:** I

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### **Purpose of the report:**

In September 2011, Plymouth City Council's Cabinet approved a report which set out an exciting approach to the review of the City Council's adopted Core Strategy and supporting Area Action Plans (AAPs), taking the city's statutory Development Plan forward within the context of the government's new Local Plan system. This established the foundations for preparing the new "Plymouth Plan", and explained how it will provide an integrated and holistic long term plan as to how the city will change between 2012 and 2031.

Essential to this innovative approach is the involvement of individuals in creating the plan in a way that will excite and engage a wide range of people. The final plan will reflect the aspirations of all Council services, local businesses and communities across Plymouth, and be a strategic plan for the city that they will use and that partners in the private, public and voluntary sectors from outside the city can 'buy in to'.

It is intended that the Plymouth Plan will be a strategic document that encompasses the whole of the city, as well as considering the city within its sub-regional and wider context. It will set out a vision and path to improvement, providing strategic policies to guide future change. It will include both a 'bottom up' and 'top down' approach, so as to provide a context for improving the city's neighbourhoods as well as the city as a whole. It will be a plan for both people and place. It will set out how Plymouth's potential for long term sustainable growth, as well as its wider role as the economic hub of the far South West, can be delivered.

This Report to the Growth and Prosperity Overview and Scrutiny Panel provides an update on the progress so far of producing the Plymouth Plan.

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### **Corporate Plan 2012-2015:**

The report directly supports the Council's vision for the city as well as its priority for delivering sustainable growth. It directly responds to the new Corporate Plan proposal to prepare the Plymouth Plan.

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

There are no direct financial implications associated with the report.

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**Other Implications: e.g. Child Poverty, Community Safety, Health and Safety and Risk Management:**

The Plymouth Plan will be a plan for both people and place. The creation of sustainable communities, and the theme of providing quality of life for everyone in the city, will run through the heart of the Plan. It will therefore provide an effective and integrated strategic framework for addressing and responding to issues such as community safety, community cohesion, child poverty and equalities and diversity. An Equality Impact Assessment will be undertaken for the Plan itself, and be available at submission stage.

The consultation process will include a variety of methods and a range of information that is accessible to different audiences and engages with people of different ages, backgrounds and interests and will work with the People Directorate and other organisations that specialise in this field to achieve this.

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**Equality and Diversity**

Has an Equality Impact Assessment been undertaken? No

A full Equality Impact Assessment will be prepared as part of the process of preparing the Plymouth Plan.

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**Recommendations and Reasons for recommended action:**

It is recommended that the Growth and Prosperity Overview and Scrutiny Panel note the contents of the Report.

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**Alternative options considered and rejected:**

The alternatives options of not maintaining an up to date Development Plan would be contrary to the Localism Act 2011. It would also leave the National Planning Policy Framework as the main policy basis for determining planning applications.

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**Published work / information:**

[Report to Cabinet on The Plymouth Plan \(11<sup>th</sup> September 2012\)](#)

[Adopted Plymouth Core Strategy, Plymouth City Council, April 2007](#)

[Localism Act 2011](#)

[The Town and Country Planning \(Local Development\) \(England\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2008, HMSO, June 2008](#)

[The Town and Country Planning \(Local Planning\) \(England\) Regulations 2012](#)

[The National Planning Policy Framework \(March 2012\)](#)

[LDF Local Development Scheme, Plymouth City Council \(July 2011\)](#)

[Draft Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule, Plymouth City Council, June 2012](#)

[Plymouth Statement of Community Involvement](#)

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**Sign off – Not Applicable**

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Originating SMT Member
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Has the Cabinet Member(s) agreed the contents of the report? Yes / No
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## **1.0 Background**

- 1.1 On 11<sup>th</sup> September 2012, Cabinet approved a report setting out how the Council can move forward from its Local Development Framework to adopting a new 'Plymouth Plan', that sets out an integrated approach to creating a more sustainable city that better serves its people's needs. This Report to the Growth and Prosperity Overview and Scrutiny Panel gives an update setting out what has been achieved so far.
- 1.2 Plymouth has made considerable progress in responding to the David Mackay 2003 "Vision for Plymouth". The City Council responded to the "invitation to inspire" and adopted an overall spatial strategy for the city in 2005 which set the framework for the city's future development so it could begin a step change in the quality, intensity and pace of development to realise its full potential as one of England's great cities. Much has already been achieved in terms of providing new jobs and homes, as well as improving the city's communication networks, its overall environment and level of service provision. Plymouth has started the process of reshaping itself.
- 1.3 Today, however, despite these many successes we are living in very different circumstances. The recession has meant that times are tough, resources are scarce and progress has been delayed by some three to five years. And yet much still needs to be done to make Plymouth a more prosperous, safer, educated, greener and healthier city - a city that meets all its residents' needs and that they can be truly proud of.
- 1.4 While the aspiration remains to make Plymouth 'one of Europe's finest, most vibrant waterfront cities where an outstanding quality of life is enjoyed by everyone', the path to achieving this needs to be reviewed and re-aligned to current circumstances and the means to delivering key priorities mapped out.
- 1.5 In addition to this, the review process also offers the Council an opportunity to consolidate and rationalise the wide range of strategies that it has adopted. Under the flexibilities available through the Localism Act, there is the potential to develop a single integrated plan for both people and place, setting a long term direction of travel within which individual action plans, programmes and projects can be guided and providing a strategic framework for prioritisation of investment in infrastructure in order to deliver the city vision. The Plymouth Plan can be much more than just a Development Plan - it can be a holistic, integrated plan for the city as a whole.
- 1.6 This report sets out the various areas of work on the Plymouth Plan which have been underway since September 2012, and the progress which has been made.

## **2.0 Plymouth Plan Conversations**

- 2.1 Since September 2012 the Plymouth Plan has been taken through the 'Conversation stage' as described in the Cabinet Report. This stage has essentially been about engaging with stakeholders, groups and the public in as varied and diverse ways as possible. Methods have included:
  - The Plymouth Plan Sofa
  - Plymouth Plan Fringe Events
  - Use of Social Media
  - Attendance and Presentations at Meetings and Conferences.

### **Sofa Events**

Revised Dec 2012

- 2.2 The sofa has been to fifteen venues so far, where it has captured peoples' imaginations and helped them provide very constructive comments to help inform the Plymouth Plan.
- 2.3 Particular highlights include the set of events specifically targeted to contribute to the Child Poverty Strategy consultation, the day we knitted and chatted with people in Cornwall Street, Graham Allan MP lying on the sofa at the Early Years Conference and hosting over 100 people at the Council House in partnership with the Royal Institute of British Architects.
- 2.4 Comments are recorded or written down in Plymouth Plan newspapers. Each Councillor also has a Plymouth plan newspaper to fill in at their surgeries and events.
- 2.5 The following events have taken place so far:
- Saturday 9 March 2013, 3pm to 7pm Last Shop Standing, Bretonside
  - Friday 8 March 2013: Early Years Conference at the Future Inn
  - Tuesday 5 March 2013, 5pm: Council House for the RIBA Plymouth event
  - Saturday 2 March 2013, 6pm: Barbican Theatre for Voice of Protest
  - Friday 1 March 2013, 6pm: Barbican Theatre for New Model Theatre
  - Thursday 14 February 2013, 12 noon to 5pm: Mount Gould Hospital
  - Wednesday 31 January 2013, 1pm to 3.30pm: Central Library Rhyme Time
  - Saturday 26 January 2013, 2pm to 4pm: Youth Parliament elections
  - Thursday 23 January, 2013, 10am to 1pm: Routeways
  - Friday 18 January 2013, 9am to 1pm: Green Arc Children Centre
  - Wednesday 16 January 2013, 10am to 1pm: Civic Centre
  - Tuesday 18 December 2012, 12 noon to 7pm: City Centre knitting and nattering in 109 Cornwall Street
  - Friday 9 November 2012, 9am to 2pm: Youth Council Meeting, Council House
  - Thursday 15 November, 2012, 10am to 3.30pm: Social Enterprise Trade Fair, Roland Levinsky Building
  - Monday 22 October 2012, 12 noon to 5pm: at the Transport Summit

## **Fringe Events**

- 2.5 Fringe Events recognise and celebrate other work going on in Plymouth which looks at the future of the City. By being part of the Fringe, organisations have been able to attract funding and add weight to the work they are doing with a whole range of communities in the city. The Plymouth Plan has so far been represented at the following Fringe Events:
- Plymouth Community Radio development and launch with Eat Music, Take A Part and Plymouth Art Centre
  - Voice of protest – a theatre production looking at how people voice opinions
  - Union Street consultation – Plymouth City Council are looking at the role of the street and how it can be improved in the future
  - Wednesday 13 February 2013: We Love Barne Barton – Local people looked at the future of Barne Barton, made valentine cards about what they love in the area and started to develop their Neighbourhood Plan.

- Friday 9 November 2012: Creating Our Future- An event for young people to discuss what matters to them and explore their vision of future Plymouth through creative arts. They produced a film High Street 2031.
- 24 November 2012 to Sunday 6 January 2013: Efford - the capital of culture for Plymouth A series of events and exhibitions that highlight Take A Part as a process that encourages involvement and critical engagement. A cornerstone of the exhibition was the Manifesto calling for better public art in the city.
- Friday 26 October 2012: Waterfront Symposium Organised by the Plymouth Waterfront Partnership in collaboration with Plymouth University this event aims to identify appropriate opportunities for bottom up investment and interventions on a range of sites in the waterfront BID area.
- Parents Guide to Plymouth School Summer Project 2012

## **Social Media**

- 2.6 The specific Twitter account for the Plymouth Plan @PlymouthPlan. We have 371 followers which is increasing every week. The estimated number of accounts recently reached is 12,168.
- 2.7 Every Friday we ask a question about the city using #LetsTalkPlym and the responses are recorded on-line for everyone to see. Several images have also been added to the Councils facebook page.
- 2.8 The Plymouth Plan event at the Council House was webcast – this was the first time that PCC webcast an event with the twitter feed running alongside and gave people the opportunity to make comments.

## **Meetings and presentations**

- 2.9 Officers have attended and spoken at the following meetings, raising awareness of the Plymouth Plan and its aspirations:
- Devonport Joint Commissioning Board
  - Health Conferences in 2012 and 2013
  - Growth Board
  - Planning meetings with neighbouring authorities
  - Chamber of Commerce Crunchy Breakfast
  - Chamber Plymouth Plan Task Force
  - Culture Board
  - RIBA
  - Planning and Regeneration Forum
  - Headteachers (HAD) meeting
  - Conservative and Labour briefings

### 3.0 Building the Plymouth Plan Evidence Base

3.1 A second strand of work has been the commissioning of key evidence base reports, which are essential to creating a robust information base underpinning the Plan. The evidence base will be crucial to the success of the Plymouth Plan when it is taken to the Public Examination.

3.2 Key pieces of evidence include:

- Plymouth Airport Study. This major piece of work is being undertaken by Arup and is examining options for the future use of the airport, focusing on the potential for airport operations to continue. **Evidence commissioned and work is underway.**
- Plymouth Strategic Housing Market Needs Assessment. This evidence is a requirement of the National Planning Policy Framework. It is being undertaken by GVA and sets out the need for new homes, and particularly for affordable homes, up to 2031. **Evidence commissioned jointly with neighbouring authorities – final report expected by end of April.**
- Plymouth Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment. This evidence is also a requirement of the National Planning Policy Framework. It will set out the supply of land for new housing in Plymouth over the plan period up to 2031. **Evidence commissioned and work underway.**
- Employment Land Study. This Study being undertaken by Arup is looking at the need for new employment land in Plymouth specifically to meet the growth of the Priority Economic Sectors. **Evidence commissioned and work underway. Section dealing with Medical and Healthcare Sector complete.**
- City Centre Study. This Study will examine the future strategy for the City Centre, updating the approach set out in the City Centre & University AAP and taking account of the effects of the economic slowdown on City Centre development. **Brief being prepared for this evidence.**
- Plymouth Plan Viability Assessment. The National Planning Policy Framework requires every Local Plan to be accompanied by an assessment of its effects on the viability of development. **Evidence commissioned and work underway.**
- Green Infrastructure Study. Evidence setting out the protection and enhancement of the City's green spaces, the European Marine Site, and an assessment of the new Local Greenspace designation in the National Planning Policy Framework. **Brief being prepared.**
- Studies focusing on specific parts of the City setting out detailed policy frameworks for change – covering areas such as the Hoe and East End AAP areas. **Briefs being prepared.**

### 4.0 Planning the Plymouth Plan Convention.

4.1 The next key milestone in the Plymouth Plan process is the Plymouth Plan Convention. This will take place between 8 and 22 June. The purpose of the Convention will be to show the range of comments made so far and debate these with stakeholders, communities and the public to help inform the issues the Plymouth Plan must address and the ideas they may have on the ways the plan could address those issues. As part of the preparation for the Convention we will be producing brief papers setting out key information and findings from some of the evidence base reports and an initial assessment of the issues we have identified so far.

4.2 The Plymouth Plan Convention will work in partnership with the Royal Institute of British Architects, Urban Enterprise and a new Plymouth Community Radio station to bring a varied programme of events that debate the city. People will also be able to come along and contribute to the assessment of their local area.

## 5.0 Next Steps

5.1 The Plymouth Plan timetable is set out below:

Plymouth Plan Stage	Programme
<p><b>1. Plymouth Plan Conversations</b> An engagement process to scope and evidence the Plan</p>	<p>Summer 2012 to Spring 2013.</p> <p><b>ON SCHEDULE FOR COMPLETION SPRING 2013</b></p>
<p><b>2. Plymouth Plan: Your Plan, Your City</b> A key milestone and engagement process on the Plymouth Plan through the Plymouth Plan Convention</p>	<p>8<sup>th</sup> June to 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2013</p> <p><b>PLANNING FOR THE CONVENTION WELL UNDERWAY</b></p>
<p><b>3. Plymouth Plan Issues and Preferred Options</b> A formal consultation on the information gathering stages of the Plymouth Plan, and an indication of the approach the plan could take to the key issues which have been identified through the Convention.</p>	<p>Autumn 2013</p>
<p><b>3. Plymouth Plan: The Final Plan</b> Consultation on the draft Plymouth Plan followed by submission of the Plan to Secretary of State, for examination prior to adoption</p>	<p>Summer 2014</p>
<p><b>4. Plymouth Plan: The Legal Stages</b> Independent Examination of Plymouth Plan</p> <p>Council Adoption of the Plymouth Plan</p>	<p>Winter 2014</p> <p>Autumn 2015</p>