

BUDGET SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS

Progress – April 2014



PLYMOUTH
CITY COUNCIL

**Progress report on recommendations made by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board
following Budget Scrutiny 2013 - 2014**

	Recommendation	To	Cabinet Response February 2013	Progress Update August 2013	Progress Update April 2014
I	Ask strategic partners operating in the city to be explicit about their plans to support the city in its priority for economic growth and job creation.	Leader	Support the recommendation, although work is already underway. Growth and Health and Wellbeing Boards currently addressing city priorities with partners. Revised Corporate Plan will summarise progress in July 2013	Businesses and partners are showing their commitment to the job creation and growth agendas in a number of ways. Many companies have signed up to the 1000 Club which has now helped over 1,000 people get in to work or employability training. There have also been hard investment decisions – such as that of Akkeron Group, Hymec, God TV for example – and the Growth Board has explicitly committed to the growth agenda by agreeing that the Local Economic Strategy (LES) review will be about furthering the growth agenda; by December 2013 there will be a reviewed LES which clearly identifies not only growth objectives / projects but who specifically will take responsibility for delivering them. In many instances it will not be the Council, but other organisations within, and outside of, the Growth Board.	Action completed. The Council has produced its Local Economic Strategy and has secured the City Deal package. The 1,000 Club has achieved its membership target.

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2	Bring forward proposals for greater member involvement in capital prioritisation.	Leader	Agreed. Cabinet member for Finance has agreed to a review of capital programme arrangements by April 2013	Action complete.	Action completed.
3	Consult with the Scrutiny Management Board prior to putting in place revised strategic partnership arrangements for the city.	Chief Executive	Agreed – pre-decision scrutiny by April 2013	The revised partnership arrangements are currently being developed and this work is being actively managed by the Chief Executive and CMT.	This action is ongoing. One Plymouth has been established and acts as a discussion forum for the city's strategic leaders.
4	Discuss with the Scrutiny Management Board how scrutiny of future years' financial and service planning can be better undertaken to reflect the major challenges facing local government.	Chief Executive	Agreed – Leader, Cabinet and CMT will work with Scrutiny Management Board to review financial and service planning arrangements.	It is agreed that the scrutiny approach to future budget challenge will be discussed at the 04 th September 2013 Co-operative Scrutiny Board.	Action completed. The Board agreed and delivered its approach to budget scrutiny in January 2014.

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5	Publish targets for sickness and absence management by service for the coming year	Chief Executive	Agreed – revised targets will form part of performance monitoring for the new municipal year from May 2013	HR and OD provide scrutiny and services with regular breakdowns on performance against these targets. These figures are also available online.	Action completed. This information is included in the regular monitoring reports brought to the Board.
6	Ensure that plans to address staff engagement are prepared as part of the service planning process, include targets and timescales, and are available for scrutiny.	Chief Executive	This is a commitment already made to scrutiny, and will form part of service planning arrangements from April 2013	Four engagement strands (political, staff, customer / community and partners) will be running through the service planning and blue print development as part of the on-going work that frames our values around everything we do. Benchmarks are available from existing staff surveys; however we will be looking to undertake more targeted work as part of the overall OD approach.	Action completed. The corporate Business Planning Guidance, agreed in February 2014, contains guidance on how services should engage with all of their stakeholders in developing their services. Engagement in the Transformation Programme is being carried out within each Programme and will be monitored by Scrutiny.
7	Ensure that appropriate performance measures are in place for each service that support city priorities, and that Directors are held accountable for them.	Chief Executive	Agreed – this process is already underway and will form part of performance management arrangements from May 2013	A proposed Corporate Plan Performance Monitoring report for quarter 2 is being submitted to Cabinet 12 th November 2013 and Co-operative Scrutiny Board on the 27 th November for approval.	Action completed. A revised corporate performance management framework has been agreed and is being implemented. Regular monitoring reports are taken to the Board.

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8	Translate the commitment of the Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust to supporting the economic growth agenda in the city to specific partnership plans encompassing issues such as recruitment, supply chain management, apprenticeships and commercialisation of research and development.	Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust	Recommend Management Board ask the Growth Board to consider the best way to take this recommendation forward	Ann James Chief Executive of Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust, is now an active member of the Growth Board, and partnership work continues to progress in this area.	This work is ongoing.
9	Commit to working with partners to ensure appropriate resources are in place to secure the future of the Sexual Assault Referral Centre in Plymouth, and of the city's domestic abuse services.	Devon and Cornwall Police	Cabinet endorse this recommendation to the Police and Crime Commissioner in respect of domestic abuse services, but suggest given previous NHS commitments, that the Sexual Assault Referral Centre Funding issue is raised with the appropriate health agency.	For 2013/14, funding has been secured from the Police & Crime Commissioner for the partnership element of the budget required for Domestic Abuse service commissioning, as agreed by Cabinet. We are awaiting confirmation of the Police & Crime Commissioner's commissioning intentions for 2014/15 onwards. Health and Police are re-commissioning the SARC, and the Council continues to keep a watching brief on this.	This work is ongoing. We have had confirmation of the Police & Crime Commissioner's commissioning intentions for 2014/15 which has provided funding to 'Safer Plymouth' (CSP) meaning the partnership element of the budget required for Domestic Abuse Services commissioning for 2014/15 remains unchanged/secure. Health and Police are re-commissioning the SARC again for 2014/15, and the Council continues to keep a watching brief on this.

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10	Ensure that appropriate partnership protocols are in place to monitor and manage mental health provision in the city through the coming year.	Plymouth Community Healthcare	Recommend Management Board ask the Health and Wellbeing Board to consider the best way to take this recommendation forward	In July 2013 Caring Plymouth received a paper outlining the mental health review which will deliver pledge 90. The review will be overseen by the Cabinet Member for Public Health and Adult Social Care. A working group has been established from across health and social care services to support the day to day implementation. The review began in July 2013 and will be concluded by December 2013 with a draft report being submitted to Caring Plymouth on the 14 th November 2013.	Action completed. Pledge 90 has been delivered with a report going to Cabinet in March 2014.
11	Engage with the City Council over estate management in the city.	Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service	Cabinet believes that there are greater priorities for joint work with DSFRS than estate management	On-going procurement discussions are being held with the Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service to ensure closer links with the Devon Procurement Partnership (DPP) and for other collaborative spend.	Ongoing action. Liaison with the blue-light services is part of the POD Transformation Programme.
12	Publish figures illustrating the impact of local procurement commitments on spend in the city	Cabinet Member for Finance	Agreed, will be reported from April 2013	Action complete.	Action completed.

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13	Plans for improving capacity in the community and voluntary sector are published, explicitly addressing concerns about leadership and sustainability across the sector	Cabinet Member for Co-operatives and Community Development	Already a commitment covered by the community and voluntary sector review	The Council has reviewed and re-commissioned its contract for Voluntary and Community Sector infrastructure in line with co-operative values. This has revamped the way we commission this work to redefine the leadership required and give greater focus on supporting grass roots community organisations. Further work is underway to improve our policies on Civil Society and neighbourhood working. Scrutiny is assisting in the development of the Civil Society policy.	Action completed. A co-production event with over 60 community & voluntary sector groups was held in January to shape future commissioning of volunteering and sector support services. Feedback has been circulated and development is ongoing. Civil Society Policy is under development and consideration is being given to the Fairness commission recommendation: "That an external, independent expert undertakes a critical review of Plymouth's voluntary and community sector and provides recommendations to strengthen it".
14	The service plan for Public Health's first year as part of the Council is brought to the Management Board by the Director for Public Health, demonstrating how the transition will enhance city responses to health objectives	Cabinet Member for Public Health and Adult Social Care	Agreed, this work already scheduled as part of Public Health Transition Plan from April 2013	This was taken to Caring Plymouth on 4 July 2013.	Action completed.

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15	Firm plans are prepared showing how the city will address specific flood risks to the city where households have been flooded, and strategic transport infrastructure into the city has been affected.	Cabinet Member for Environment	Flood plans already in place, further capital investment subject to corporate prioritisation through Capital Programme Board, along with other city priorities	At the local level we are working with South West Water (SWW) and the Environment Agency (EA) to minimise flood risk issues across the city. Projects are being developed to address flooding in areas such as Colebrook and other known areas with a prevalence to flood, such as Arnold's Point Seawall adjacent to Embankment road and the improvement of infrastructure such as the renovation of Millbay tanks. These are being funded with funding support from the Flood Defence Grant. Work is being taken forward to identify and deliver further schemes across the city for funding year 14/15, working in collaboration with EA and SWW.	Action completed. The work undertaken by the Council and its partners prevented serious flooding in Plymouth in the recent storms.

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16	Publish Digital Plymouth plan with milestones and targets for digital inclusion, and demonstrating partner buy-in.	Leader	Work already scheduled for Growth and Prosperity Overview and Scrutiny Panel	<p>The Digital Plymouth Group will use the Plymouth Plan to create a cross cutting digital strategy for the city. Plymouth has excellent connectivity - it is one of the top ten locations in the UK for Superfast Broadband therefore the priority is on maximising web and ICT exploitation. As part of this strategy Plymouth City Council has initiated the creation of the largest digital inclusion project of its kind in the country by bringing together a strong partnership of funding partners including: Plymouth City Council, BT, Plymouth Community Homes, Plymouth NHS, Job Centre Plus, schools FE and HE. The project aims to directly create 2,500 new regular internet users over three years while also enabling 10,000 new users through wider partnerships.</p>	<p>Action completed.</p> <p>The Digital Plymouth Group has produced an action plan with milestones to 2020 as one of the seven priority strands of the Local Economic Strategy Review which in turn will form the Plymouth Plan.</p> <p>Digital Inclusion Project delivery is on target but in addition to training, the project has started to work at a systemic level working through PCC, Jobcentre Plus, and Plymouth Community Homes to provide better diagnosis and signposting to local ICT skills provision. Through this more strategic approach Plymouth is being taken forward as a pathfinder in a Big Lottery bid which could bring more resource to the city.</p> <p>Following an open procurement PCC has awarded a concession contract to BT to deliver free, 24/7 public Wi-Fi to areas of Plymouth. Plymouth is now one of a small number of cities that can offer this service which has the potential to benefit: tourism, digital inclusion, local business, improve the local provision of 4G, and enable future city technologies such as intelligent transport.</p>