

PLYMOUTH CITY COUNCIL

Subject: Plymouth Plan
Committee: Co-operative Scrutiny Board
Date: 13 August 2014
Cabinet Member: Councillor Vincent
CMT Member: Anthony Payne (Director of Place)
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Ref:
Key Decision: No
Part: I

Purpose of the report:

In September 2012, 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'.

Work has been progressing on the Plymouth Plan. Key engagement exercises were undertaken in 2013 and the critical work of ensuring the evidence base is robust has been ongoing. We are now at an important phase of the plan production, setting out the results of the work so far and preparing to produce a consultation draft Plymouth Plan Part One by December 2014. This Report to the Co-operative Scrutiny Board provides more detail on the work being done and an update on the production the Plymouth Plan.

The Brilliant Co-operative Council Corporate Plan 2013/14 – 2016/17

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.

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.

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 continue to 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.

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.

Recommendations and Reasons for recommended action:

It is recommended that the Co-operative Scrutiny Board note the contents of the report.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

The alternative 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.

Published work / information:

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

[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](#)

[Report to Cabinet on Plymouth Plan \(25th March 2014\)](#)

Sign off – Not Applicable

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

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The process of creating the Plymouth Plan has entered a critical phase in the run up to the production of a Consultation Draft. This report sets out the process that is being followed and the tasks which are underway.
- 1.2 At the Cabinet Meeting on 25. March 2014, a timeline with key milestones was set out for producing the Plymouth Plan. This set out the following critical path:

Plymouth Plan Convention	by July 2013
Plymouth Plan evidence base	by June 2014
Engagement to help shape the plan	by August 2014
Part One: strategic framework (draft) published	by December 2014
Consultation on Plymouth Plan strategic framework	Winter 2014/15
Plymouth Plan Part One approved	by June 2015
Part Two: Site Allocations & Policies evidence base	by September 2015
Single Plymouth Plan published for representations	by January 2016
Submission of Plymouth Plan	by April 2016
Public Examination	by July 2016
Adoption	by February 2017

- 1.3 The Cabinet Report set out in detail the progress which had been made so far on the Plymouth Plan and the reasons for setting out a new process and timescale. The report can be viewed here:
<http://www.plymouth.gov.uk/mgInternet/documents/s53520/140325%20LDS%20and%20Plymouth%20Plan%20Cabinet%20report%20FINAL.pdf>
- 1.4 We are therefore working towards the milestones set out above.

2.0 Current Stage

- 2.1 As set out in the Cabinet Report, we are undertaking a summer engagement exercise which is called Plymouth Plan Connections. The engagement has three key strands:
1. The publication of the Plymouth Plan Area Assessments. These assessments divide the city into eight parts and set out an objective analysis of their characteristics, facts and figures which together give an indication of the sustainability of each area. They effectively update the Sustainable Neighbourhood Assessments which underpinned the Local Development Framework. These have been published on the Plymouth Plan consultation portal, (<http://www.plymouth.gov.uk/homepage/environmentandplanning/planning/planningpolicy/ldf/plymouthplan.htm>) and we are asking local community groups to undertake engagement on these assessments with their communities.
 2. We are publishing Plymouth Plan Topic Papers each week throughout the summer. A large number of Topic Papers are being prepared which set out in some detail the issues which the plan will cover, and which suggest some of the ways in which those issues may be addressed. The papers will enable people to delve into some of the detail the Plymouth Plan team are grappling with, and have been prepared by officers from across the Council and in

some cases from partner organisations. The first papers to be published are available from the Plymouth Plan consultation portal and more will be published each week, with the full set of papers available by 15 September. The following Topic Papers are being produced:

Topic Papers which have been published (as of 1 August 2014):

Plymouth Plan Conversations Response Report

Strategic Overview

Local community topic paper

Flooding topic paper

Health and wellbeing topic paper

Water resources topic paper

Low carbon topic paper

Local food topic paper

Next Topic Papers to be published:

Natural Infrastructure

Health and Wellbeing

Sports

Education and Learning

Arts and culture

Historic Environment

Supporting Communities

Topic Papers to be published through August and early September:

Housing need and supply

Retail Strategy

Strategic Transport

Local Transport

City Centre

Housing – people

The Waterfront

Sub Regional Strategy

Waste

Infrastructure and Investment

Economy

3. Finally, we will be published the evidence base studies which have been prepared to inform the Plymouth Plan, alongside the relevant Topic Papers.

These studies are detail and technical pieces of work which must be robust in order to support the Plymouth Plan through the formal examination process. They are being published for people to comment on, and to see the detailed work underpinning the Topic Papers, if they so wish. The following Evidence Base Studies will be published alongside Topic Papers:

Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment

Employment Land Review

City Centre Development Study

Airport Study

Waste Strategy Review and Waste Needs Assessment

Plymouth and Surrounding Areas Study

Gypsy and Traveller Needs Assessment

Waterfront Evidence Base

- 2.2 The engagement is being supported by the Plymouth Plan sofa which has been at several events throughout the summer. The programme of sofa events is also available on the Plymouth Plan Consultation Portal.
- 2.3 We are keeping the Plymouth Plan Connections engagement open for comments for several months over the summer and into the autumn. The engagement has already been running throughout July, and will carry on until 25 October, enabling as many people as possible to engage with the plan.

3.0 Next Steps

- 3.1 The Plymouth Plan Part One Consultation Draft will be considered at the Cabinet Meeting on 9 December 2014.
- 3.2 The Plymouth Plan Part One, as set out in the Cabinet Report of 25 March, will be a strategic document setting the direction and principles of the Plymouth Plan. It could therefore contain:

The Vision for the city,

Strategic Objectives based around the nine Plymouth Plan themes,

Strategic Policies,

Four Area Visions covering Plympton, Plymstock, North Plymouth and South Plymouth,

Targets and monitoring.

- 3.3 If approved by Cabinet, the consultation draft will be subject to a further six weeks of engagement early in 2015.
- 3.4 The Plymouth Plan Part Two will be worked up in 2015. This part of the plan will deal with site allocations and designations, which will show how the objectives of the Plymouth Plan will be delivered by setting out sites for development and designating sites to be protected. Once this has been prepared, it will be combined with Part One of the plan, consulted on one final time, and will finally be submitted to the Government by April 2016.

3.5 The Plymouth Plan timetable is set out below:

Plymouth Plan Stage	Programme
<p>1. Plymouth Plan Conversations An engagement process to scope and evidence the Plan</p>	<p>Summer 2012 to Spring 2013</p> <p>COMPLETED SPRING 2013</p>
<p>2. Plymouth Plan: Your Plan, Your City A key milestone and engagement process on the Plymouth Plan through the Plymouth Plan Convention</p>	<p>8 June to 22 June 2013</p> <p>COMPLETED JUNE 2013</p>
<p>3. Plymouth Plan Evidence Base Commissioning and completion of Plymouth Plan Evidence Base Studies</p>	<p>By June 2014</p> <p>Evidence base all commissioned, and final drafts in process of being signed off. PUBLICATION SEPT 2014</p>
<p>4. Engagement to help shape the plan Plymouth Plan Connections engagement exercise</p>	<p>By August 2014</p> <p>ON TRACK Engagement underway. Topic Papers being published on the Plymouth Plan Consultation Portal</p>
<p>5. Plymouth Plan Part One: strategic framework (draft) published</p>	<p>By December 2014</p> <p>ON TRACK Plymouth Plan Part One will be considered by Cabinet on 9 December 2014</p>
<p>6. Preparation of Plymouth Plan Part 2</p>	<p>By September 2015</p> <p>ON TRACK</p>
<p>7. Pre Submission Consultation on single Plymouth Plan</p>	<p>By January 2016</p> <p>ON TRACK</p>

8. Submission of the Plymouth Plan	By April 2016 ON TRACK
9. Legal Stages Examination Adoption	By July 2016 By April 2017 ON TRACK