

**Peter Hartland, Chief Executive of Plymouth Chamber of Commerce**

Plymouth City Council (PCC), like other authorities in the UK, needs continuing focus on operational efficiencies, under the umbrella of continuing, substantial central government grant funding reductions. The indicative four year balanced budget shows thoughtful and determined consideration of these challenges, whilst not losing sight of key city strategic deliverables – such as the commitment of PCC to continue to transform and modernise its services, in tandem with continuing to develop the city, into a more attractive place to live, work and visit. As with all demanding multi-year budgets, the successful delivery needs to be driven by focussed timely execution, of clear project(s) milestones. The ambitious PCC transformation programme, is the key driver of the forecast operational cost efficiencies and will therefore determine, in the main, the successful implementation of the four year balanced budget programme.