

1. Purpose of Report
  2. Fiscal Impacts
  3. Trade
  4. Inward Investment
  5. EU Regulation of Products and Markets
  6. Inward Investment
  7. Agriculture
  8. Fisheries
  9. Safety and Security
  10. Conclusions and Recommendations
- Appendices

### 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 At Full Council on the 23 November 2015 a motion was debated and agreed to - *Ask the Chair of the Co-operative Scrutiny Board to create a cross party EU task group, including representatives from all parties, that will invite evidence from local business leaders, the LEP, trade unions, local universities, the police, the NHS, agricultural representatives, charities, district and parish councils and other partner agencies in order to compile a comprehensive report that will be presented to full Council, all partner agencies, the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills and be made available to the public prior to the referendum. The Co-operative Scrutiny Board is required under the constitution to undertake work as directed by Full Council.*
- 1.2 This report provides the findings of a session of the Co-operative Scrutiny Board into the advantages / disadvantages of European Union membership on the City of Plymouth.
- 1.3 Due to the Budget Scrutiny process the request was agreed by the Board on the 17<sup>th</sup> February 2016.
- 1.4 In preparation for the session the Board invited local representatives to provide evidence on the advantages / disadvantages of EU membership for Plymouth. Requests were made to representatives of –
  - Other Local Authorities
  - Blue Light Emergency Services
  - National Health Service
  - Voluntary and Community Sector
  - Universities and Higher Education
  - The Business Community
  - Fisheries and Agriculture
- 1.6 In addition all members of the Council were invited to submit evidence and take part in the scrutiny process and to distribute the call for evidence amongst their networks.
- 1.7 As a result of the Call for Evidence two written submissions were provided. Submissions from the Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chair of the Plymouth and Devon Chamber of Commerce are attached as appendices to this report. In addition the City Council's Economic Development service was asked to prepare a short report as outlined in the Project Initiation Document and Full Council Motion.
- 1.8 In order to achieve a wider response to the call for evidence the Chair and Vice Chair of the Board agreed to post-pone the initial meeting in February until early March 2016, during which time the Prime Minister concluded negotiations and the timing of the referendum was announced. The Board

agreed to meet on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2016 to consider evidence put forward by witnesses and to receive information from council officers.

- 1.9 This report draws on the information provided at the meeting of the 2 March 2016 and the extensive *Reading list on UK-EU relations 2013-16: reform, renegotiation and withdrawal*<sup>1</sup>.

## 2. Fiscal Impacts

- 2.1 It is almost impossible to quantify the advantages and disadvantages of EU membership for Plymouth in monetary terms.
- 2.2 It is not possible to extrapolate fiscal data down to a local level as figures relating to national contributions and receipts are only available at national or regional level. For example, European Social Fund allocations are only available at a regional level and there is no further project data available publicly. Similarly we are unable to obtain local data for other European funds such as INTERREG or FP 7 (Europe's research programme).
- 2.3 Data on the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) investments in the last programme round (2007-2013) for the South West are available publically. From this data it was possible to identify projects that were primarily based in Plymouth (Appendix 1) and as such have benefitted Plymouth.
- 2.4 Further to this, ERDF has funded several programmes which targeted the whole South West region, meaning that while not exclusively aimed at Plymouth or located in Plymouth, Plymouth businesses were able to participate and benefit from these projects. The investments presented in Appendix 2 show these regional-wide ERDF funded programmes.
- 2.5 Without project data from each project it is impossible to identify to what extent Plymouth's businesses have benefitted from these programmes.

## 3 Trade

- 3.1 The UK has traditionally had strong trade links with Europe. Despite changes in the composition of the global economy, the EU in 2015 accounted for 43.9% of UK exports of goods and services, and 53.4% of UK imports of goods and services<sup>2</sup>. As the Eurozone economy continues to underperform against forecast, the proportion of British trade accounted for by the rest of the EU is falling.
- 3.2 Within the South West region dependency on trade with EU countries appears to be higher than nationally: 59.2% of all South West exports are to the EU (£8.2bn out of £13.8bn), compared with 45% nationally; 40% of SW imports are from the EU (£7.6bn out of £11.5bn).

### 3.3 South West Exports

	2014	2013	2012
EU	£8,180m	£8,015m	£7,465m
EU (%)	59.2%	58.6%	58.6%
Non-EU	£5,631m	£5,662m	£5,268m
Non-EU (%)	40.8%	41.4%	41.4%

### South West Imports

	2014	2013	2012

<sup>1</sup> <http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-7220/CBP-7220.pdf>

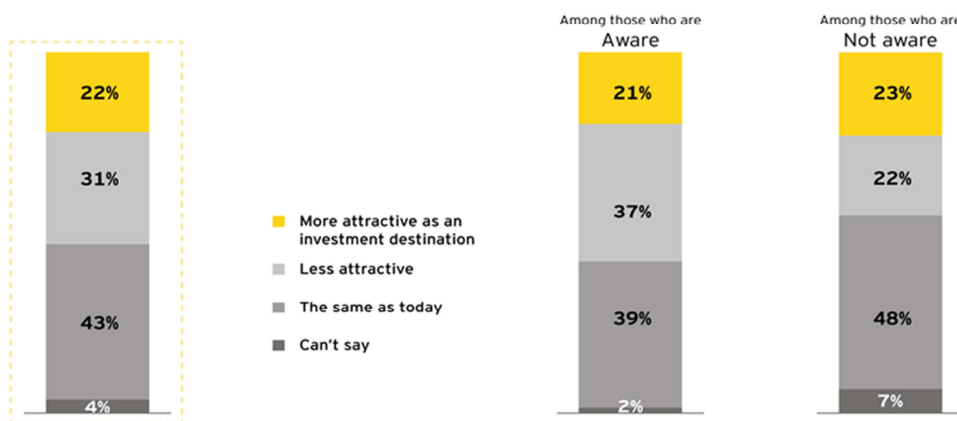
<sup>2</sup> Source: UK Regional Trade Statistics, HMRC 2015

EU	£7,626m	£7,750m	£7,093m
EU (%)	39.9%	39.9%	39.5%
Non-EU	£11,489m	£11,683m	£10,866m
Non-EU (%)	60.1%	60.1%	60.5%

**4 Inward Investment**

- 4.1 In their latest UK attractiveness survey, EY have highlighted that the UK remains the 4<sup>th</sup> most attractive Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) location in the world, after US, China and India and before any other European country.<sup>3</sup>
- 4.2 EU countries are an important source of FDI for the British economy. In 2014, the EU countries accounted for 46% of the United Kingdom’s stock of inward foreign direct investment. However, inflows of foreign direct investment by EU countries have been slowing over recent years and more investment has been flowing in from non-EU countries.
- 4.3 Of the largest 20 companies by sales turnover registered in Plymouth (excluding education and government), 50% are owned in the UK and 50% are foreign owned. Of these half are owned by an EU company and the other half are subsidiaries of multinational US or Japanese firms.
- 4.4 72% of surveyed investors in the EY report stated that access to the European market was an important part of the UK’s attractiveness. Furthermore, several foreign government leaders have named the UK as their preferred entry point to Europe and the European market<sup>4</sup>.
- 4.5 The extent to which a decision to leave the European Union will influence future FDI decisions is unclear and assessments regarding this are contested.<sup>5</sup> Already the prospects of an EU referendum seem to have an impact on FDI, with 31% of investors stating they were likely to reduce or put on hold any investments before the EU referendum.<sup>6</sup> When asked whether leaving the EU (while still maintaining access to the Single Market) would affect the UK’s attractiveness, 22% believed it would be more attractive and 31% believed the UK would become less attractive as a FDI destination.<sup>7</sup>

4.6 If the UK did vote to leave the EU but retained access to the single market on similar terms as today but with no political links to the EU, would this make the UK more or less attractive as an FDI location, or the same as today?



Source: EY 2015 UK attractiveness survey

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.ey.com/UK/en/Issues/Business-environment/2015-UK-attractiveness-survey>

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.uk.emb-japan.go.jp/en/japanUK/governmental/130711\\_UKEU.html](http://www.uk.emb-japan.go.jp/en/japanUK/governmental/130711_UKEU.html)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-33647154>

<http://www.cityam.com/228670/eu-referendum-indian-prime-minister-narendra-modi-says-uk-is-indias-entry-point-into-the-eu>

<sup>5</sup> <http://assets.woodford.in/the-economic-impact-of-Brexit.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.ey.com/UK/en/Issues/Business-environment/2015-UK-attractiveness-survey>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.ey.com/UK/en/Issues/Business-environment/2015-UK-attractiveness-survey>

## 5. EU regulation of products and markets

- 5.1 The Board has not received evidence from local stakeholders on whether local businesses feel that EU regulations have a negative or positive impact on their business.
- 5.2 The Confederation of British Industry (CBI) has stated in their report 'Our global future: the business vision for a reformed EU' that, "Despite frustrations with a number of specific pieces of legislation, the majority of CBI members continue to believe that the benefits of EU membership through enhanced market access and competitiveness outweigh the costs of regulation. 71% of CBI member companies reported that, on balance, the UK's membership of the EU has had a positive impact on their business – with over half (52%) saying that they had directly benefitted from the introduction of common standards. Only 15% suggested this had had a negative impact."<sup>8</sup>
- 5.3 Much of the UK's public procurement is regulated by the European Union. The rules which are summed up in terms such as OJEU<sup>9</sup> and Alcatel<sup>10</sup> are often criticised as being too bureaucratic and a barrier to buying British<sup>11</sup>. Withdrawal from the EU may lead to such regulations disappearing however; the potential for public body decisions to be subject to judicial review will remain. As such public bodies are unlikely to be left to regulate themselves, and it is likely that the UK government would step in to provide regulation and the Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Act 2015 provides the opportunity to do so. In addition, if the UK was to exit the EU but negotiate to remain a member of the European Economic Area (EEA) bodies in the UK would continue to be subject to EU regulation but would be unlikely to be able to influence their review in 2024.<sup>12</sup>

## 6. Agriculture

- 6.1 The Board has not received evidence from local stakeholders regarding this issue.
- 6.2 Farms surrounding Plymouth, registered in PL1 to PL9 postcodes received £4.5million total payments under the CAP in 2014. Included within this were payments to Plymouth City Council of approx. £20k in Rural Payments and Market Schemes<sup>13</sup>.
- 6.3 The National Farmers Union has not established a position on the question of whether to leave or remain within the EU. The NFU in *UK Farming's Relationship with the EU*<sup>14</sup> highlighted a number of industry benefits derived from EU membership including the Single Market, labour availability, market standards and the CAP's ability to protect Farmers from volatile markets and ensuring a fair income. Latest figures from Defra show that 55%<sup>15</sup> of UK Total Income from Farming comes from CAP support payments.
- 6.4 The NFU are more critical of the UK rebate and suggest that the rebate causes reluctance on the part of the UK Government to draw down discretionary funds which results in the UK's share of the Rural Development Fund being one of the lowest of all member states.<sup>16</sup>
- 6.5 Withdrawal from the EU could allow the UK to negotiate bilateral trade deals with countries outside the EU and at the WTO which could have a positive economic impact; benefits would depend on the terms on which the UK joined a different trade area, if it chose to do so.<sup>17</sup>

## 7 Fisheries

- 7.1 The Board has not received evidence from local stakeholders regarding this issue.

<sup>8</sup> <http://news.cbi.org.uk/reports/our-global-future/>

<sup>9</sup> Official Journal of the European Union (S Series, Invitation to Tender)

<sup>10</sup> Alcatel mandatory standstill period a period of at least ten calendar days following the notification of a contract award decision tendered via OJEU before the contract is signed

<sup>11</sup> <http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-7213/CBP-7213.pdf>

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.cips.org/en-gb/supply-management/analysis/2015/september/what-would-a-brexite-mean-for-public-procurement-in-the-uk/>

<sup>13</sup> <http://cap-payments.defra.gov.uk/SearchResults.aspx?Page=1&Sort=ARuralDevelopmentTotal>

<sup>14</sup> <http://www.nfuonline.com/assets/52824>

<sup>15</sup> [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/480012/agriaccounts-tiffstatsnotice-26nov15.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/480012/agriaccounts-tiffstatsnotice-26nov15.pdf)

<sup>16</sup> <http://www.nfuonline.com/assets/52824>

<sup>17</sup> <http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-7213/CBP-7213.pdf>

- 7.2 The European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) is the fund for the EU's maritime and fisheries policies for 2014-2020. It is one of the five European Structural and Investment (ESI) Funds which complement each other and seek to promote a growth and job based recovery in Europe. The fund attempts to –
- help fishermen in the transition to sustainable fishing
  - support coastal communities in diversifying their economies
  - finance projects that create new jobs and improve quality of life along European coasts
  - make it easier for applicants to access financing.<sup>18</sup>
- 7.3 Plymouth Fisheries is now the second largest fresh fish market in England and sustains over 600 direct and indirect jobs.<sup>19</sup> A recent investment of £1.2million into facilities based at Sutton Harbour has been part-funded by grants totalling more than £500,000 from the European Fisheries Fund (EFF).<sup>20</sup>
- 7.4 Total allowable catches (TACs) or fishing opportunities, are catch limits (expressed in tonnes or numbers) that are set for most commercial fish stocks. The Commission prepares the TAC proposals, based on scientific advice on the stock status from advisory bodies. TACs are set annually for most stocks (every two years for deep-sea stocks) by the Council of fisheries ministers. TACs are shared between EU countries in the form of national quotas. For each stock a different allocation percentage per EU country is applied for the sharing out of the quotas.<sup>21</sup>
- 7.5 EU countries have to use transparent and objective criteria when they distribute the national quota among their fishermen. They are responsible for ensuring that the quotas are not overfished. When all the available quota of a species is fished, the EU country has to close the fishery.<sup>22</sup> In the UK management of quotas is delivered by the Marine Management Organisation, an executive non-departmental public body, sponsored by the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs.<sup>23</sup>
- 7.6 In December 2014 south west fisheries quotas remained stable however the Council of Ministers agreed to cuts of 10 per cent to channel-caught plaice and sole, 26 per cent of cod, 14 per cent whiting and 12 per cent haddock, all species regularly caught and landed at ports in Devon and Cornwall. The Manager of Plymouth Fisheries and Harbour Master of Sutton Harbour said in 2014 “The new quotas are the best result for the South West fishing industry that we could have hoped for from what is now accepted to be a bad management system, and admittedly not the disaster we first feared. But whilst they may not herald the demise of the industry entirely, they will still increase the pressure on fishermen already struggling to operate viable businesses.<sup>24</sup>

## 8 Safety and Security

- 8.1 There is no evidence that Britain's membership, or lack thereof, of the European Union would directly impact Britain's membership of NATO or seat on the UN Security Council. However it is not possible to accurately assess whether and to what extent intelligence sharing would cease if the UK left the EU and what the effects of this would be.
- 8.2 The submission from the Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Commissioner outlined a number of European Treaties and Agencies which increase co-operation, security and intelligence sharing such as Europol, Eurojust and the European Arrest Warrant.

## 9 Conclusions and Recommendations

- 9.1 Whilst the Board has provided information in this report regarding the advantages and disadvantages for Plymouth of EU membership as far as it has been able, the Board has not been able to provide a

<sup>18</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/emff/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/emff/index_en.htm)

<sup>19</sup> <http://www.plymouthfisheries.co.uk/news/2015/3/9/plymouth-fisheries-fact-file>

<sup>20</sup> <http://www.plymouthfisheries.co.uk/news/2015/2/24/plymouth-fisheries-celebrates-20th-anniversary-as-turnover-soars-by-1795million-in-two-decades>

<sup>21</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/fishing\\_rules/tacs/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/fishing_rules/tacs/index_en.htm)

<sup>22</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/fishing\\_rules/tacs/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/fishing_rules/tacs/index_en.htm)

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/marine-management-organisation>

<sup>24</sup> <http://www.plymouthfisheries.co.uk/news/2014/12/17/fishing-industry-experts-respond-to-new-eu-quotas>

comprehensive report as set out in the motion on notice.

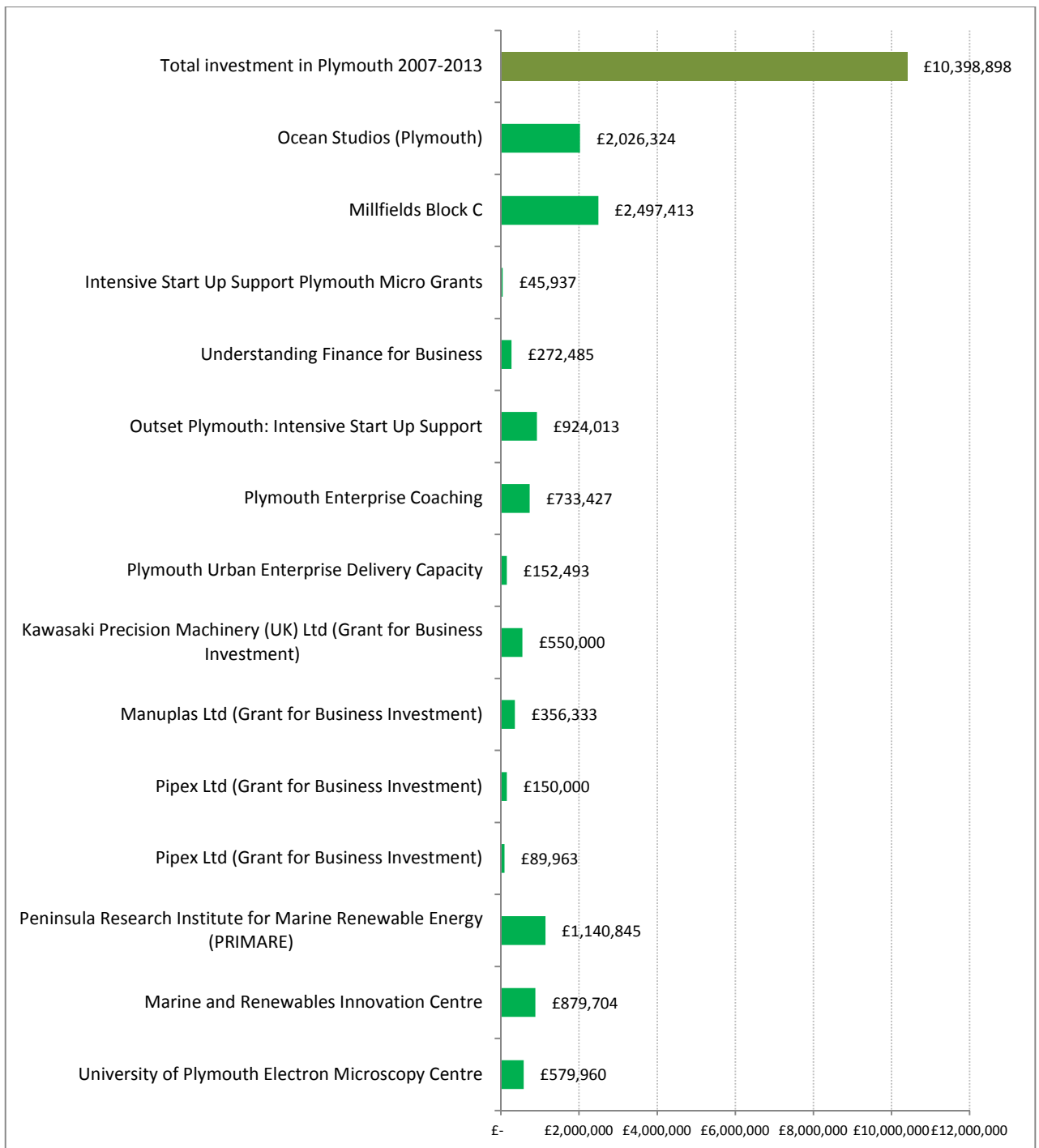
- 9.2 Members were struck by the vast amount of information available on a national and regional level and the lack of information on how the EU has impacted on Plymouth at a local level.
- 9.3 Overall the Board concluded that the EU is a subjective decision for every eligible voter with advantages and disadvantages being interchangeable dependent on personal beliefs and circumstance. As a result voters would be well advised to consider carefully the large amount of information available in the public domain, particularly with a decision of this gravity which is likely to impact upon subsequent generations.
- 9.4 To assist the public, the Board requested the lead officer to investigate the feasibility of holding an EU debate at the Plymouth Guildhall and the City Council website hosting information for the public on the arguments for and against continued membership of the European Union.
- 9.5 The date of the referendum pre-election period (15 April to 23 June) will overlap with regulatory timeframes for the May 2016 polls. This pre-election period is regulated by the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000. Section 125 (7) of the Act places a specific restriction on the publication by a local authority of material relating to a referendum and as such it is not considered feasible for information to be placed on the City Councils website on the advantages and disadvantages of EU membership. It is also felt that this would preclude free use of the Plymouth Guildhall for an EU debate, but further information will be sought from the Monitoring Officer when official Leave and Remain campaigns have been designated by the Electoral Commission.
- 9.6 The Board identified the European Referendum as an opportunity to encourage eligible people to register to vote. The Electoral Commission has confirmed that they will run a public awareness campaign ahead of the referendum to provide voters with clear, neutral and accessible information to enable them to cast their vote confidently. The Commission will send an information booklet to every household in the United Kingdom which will include a page from designated campaigns setting out their position and web address where voters can find more information on the consequences of a remain/leave decision.

### **Recommendations**

1. Recommend to the Assistant Director for Learning and Communities that schools in Plymouth are encouraged to hold debates on the EU referendum
2. the content of this report is forwarded to Full Council on the 21<sup>st</sup> March 2016 as directed by the motion on notice agreed at Council on the 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2016.

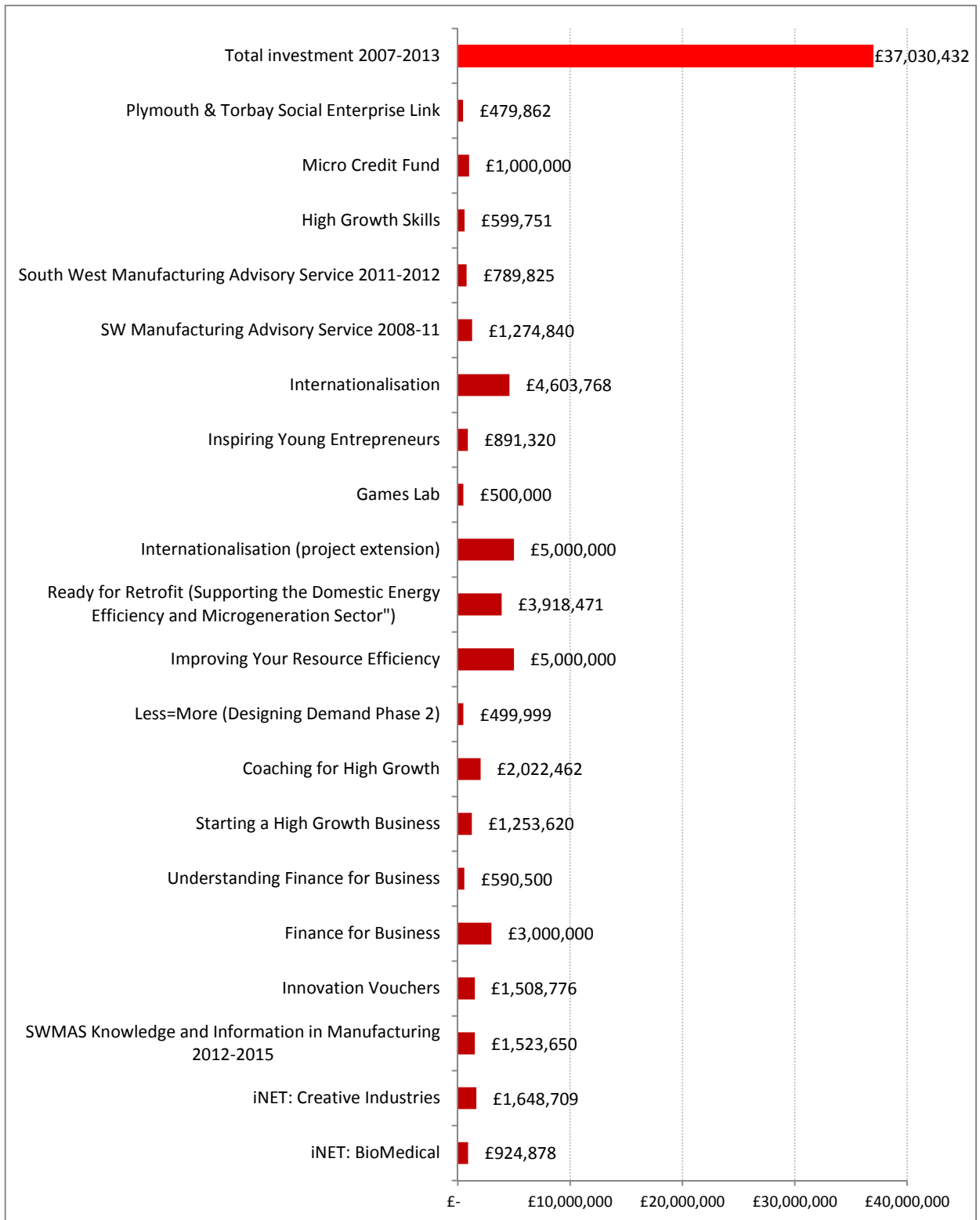
## Appendix I

## Total ERDF Structural Investment in Plymouth 2007 – 2013



## Appendix 2

## Additional ERDF Structural Investment with benefits to Plymouth 2007 – 2013





## Appendix 3

## Call for Evidence – Organisations Contacted

- Theatre Royal Plymouth City Council
- Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust
- University of St Mark and St John
- University of Plymouth
- Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership
- Livewell South West
- NEW Devon CCG
- Local Members of Parliament
- Devon District Councils
- Devon and Somerset Fire Service
- Federation of Small Businesses
- Growth Board
- Plymouth and Devon Chamber of Commerce
- Plymouth Octopus Project
- Plymouth Trade Union Council
- The Fishermen's Mission
- New under Ten Fishermen's Association
- National Farmers Union
- Interfish
- Devon Communities Together
- Devon and Cornwall Police
- Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Commissioner
- National Farmers Union
- Devon Local Pharmaceutical Committee
- Plymouth Association of Secondary Heads
- Plymouth Association of Primary Heads
- City College Plymouth City Council
- Devon County Council
- Plymouth Fisheries at Sutton Harbour

All elected members of Plymouth City Council

**From:** George Cowcher  
**Sent:** 24 February 2016 17:00  
**To:** Scrutiny  
**Cc:** Amanda Bishop  
**Subject:** European Referendum

I write on behalf of the Devon Chamber of Commerce which represents more than a 1000 businesses of all sizes and sectors and over 40,000 employees. The Chamber would wish to make the following points:-

- In the last survey of Members 60% of respondents said that they preferred to stay in the European Union and 30% responded that they wanted to leave. The percentage in favour was even greater amongst those companies who trade in the European Union. The Chamber is about to survey its Members again and will have up- dates on these figures in March.
- Companies who currently receive economic support from Europe are concerned that they will suffer, unless assurances are given that a future UK Government would replace any money lost as a result of exit.
- There is a similar concern that public infrastructure currently funded by Europe will not be provided unless the UK Government gives assurances that it will replace any money lost.

Yours faithfully

George Cowcher

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t [@Chamber\\_Devon](https://twitter.com/Chamber_Devon)  
[www.devonchamber.co.uk](http://www.devonchamber.co.uk)



Plymouth City Council EU Referendum Scrutiny Review  
Plymouth City Council  
Ballard House, West Hoe Road  
Plymouth  
PL1 3BJ

Email to [Scrutiny@plymouth.gov.uk](mailto:Scrutiny@plymouth.gov.uk).

**24 February 2016**

Dear Sir

I offer the following submission to Plymouth City Council's EU Referendum Scrutiny Review which is offered solely from the perspective of crime, policing and community safety in the city.

Individual Member States remain responsible for ensuring internal security within their own borders but with growing and complex threats posed by continental criminality, EU members increasingly rely on the support and assistance from other countries.

As part of UK policing, Devon and Cornwall Police benefits from a number of European agencies and treaties aimed at increasing co-operation, security and intelligence sharing.

A number of such are outlined here.

**Europol** - the European Union's law enforcement agency. Europol's main goal is to achieve a safer Europe by assisting Member States tackle serious international crime and terrorism.

Europol assesses that the biggest security threats to EU citizens come from terrorism, international drug trafficking and money laundering, organised fraud, counterfeiting of the euro currency, and people smuggling. New dangers are also accumulating, in the form of cybercrime, trafficking in human beings, and other modern-day threats.

**Eurojust** - the EU's Judicial Cooperation Unit which coordinates investigations and prosecutions and improves the cooperation between Member States. Eurojust supports EU countries to make their investigations and prosecutions more effective when dealing with cross-border crime.

**European Judicial Network**- a network of national contacts for the facilitation of judicial cooperation in criminal matters.

**Schengen Information System** – This is the largest law enforcement exchange platform in Europe, containing over 62 million alerts on wanted persons and objects which led to over 128,000 police actions in 2014.

**European Agenda on Security** – This agreement assists the police and other law enforcement services in different Member States to share data and better cooperate against cross-border crime. Member States can rely on support by EU Agencies to improve information exchange, increase operational cooperation, and through supporting actions such as training and co-funding.

**Eurodac** - The EU asylum fingerprint database to address data protection concerns and to help combat terrorism and serious crime. When someone applies for asylum or is apprehended having crossed an external border, their fingerprints are transmitted and updated to the Eurodac central system within 72 hours,.

**European Criminal Records Information System** – This supports information exchange between EU law enforcement authorities. Approximately 100,000 messages are exchanged between national authorities each month.

**European Arrest Warrant** – Applied throughout the EU, the European Arrest Warrant replaced lengthy extradition procedures within the EU's territorial jurisdiction. It improves and simplifies judicial procedures designed to surrender people for the purpose of conducting a criminal prosecution or executing a custodial sentence or spell in detention.

**EU countries can no longer refuse to surrender, to another EU country, their own citizens** who have committed a serious crime or are suspected of having committed such a crime in another EU country, on the grounds that they are nationals

**Financial Intelligence** - A platform bringing together Financial Intelligence Units from the Member States is now fully in place. Its purpose is to detect and disrupt terrorist finance and money laundering activities and packages to deter money laundering. FIU's closely cooperate with EUROPOL.

**Internet Referral Unit** - Europol's Internet Referral Unit aims to help reduce the volume of terrorist material online.

**Prüm** - An information exchange tool offers automated comparison of DNA profiles, fingerprint data and vehicle registration data – which are key to detecting crime and building an effective case for prosecutions.

**Border Package and Smart Borders:** The Border Package to be presented before the end of the year will create a European Border Guard with much stronger obligations in terms of cooperation. The Smart Borders initiative – planned for 2016 – will provide for a much more effective EU entry/exit system permitting to trace the movements of third country nationals across the EU's external border. This information could be highly valuable for law enforcement

The EU debate is a complex matter. I do not offer an opinion on whether the UK should remain a member.

However, given the provisions set out above, I am of the view that there are clear benefits to the public and policing in Devon and Cornwall by being a member of the EU.



**Tony Hogg**  
**Police and Crime Commissioner**

## EU Referendum Scrutiny Review

Submission from the UKIP Group to Co-operative Review to evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of EU membership on Plymouth.

The scope of this review has been set out as a consideration of a number of issues which may include.

1. How leaving or remaining in the EU will impact on UK influence and security both in Europe and Globally;
2. The overall economic advantages and disadvantages of membership on the City of Plymouth;
3. The EU's regulation of products and markets;
4. The economic effects of the free movement of people on the economy, market and public finances;
5. The extent to which EU membership attracts and maintains inward investment into the UK, and how this might be affected by "Brexit".

We would argue the Review group may have set itself an almost impossible task, the reason being, so many of the issues under consideration are a matter of opinion, whether they are individuals or organisations/employers, will have a direct bearing on their opinion. Also, the actual quantification of the financial impact of the topics listed above would take months of work and possibly thousands of Freedom of Information requests of Plymouth City Council.

We would also argue that to demonstrate the impact EU legislation has on local authorities is far easier. It is important to understand almost everything is affected by European Law, and this includes the operations of our local Councils.

Most people are unaware of the extent to which Local Government officers spend their lives enacting legislation that comes from the EU Parliament.

To give a perspective of the volume of legislation that is involved, in the three year period between the 2010 election and 2013 Brussels handed down 3600 pieces of new regulation and directives affecting British businesses. See note 1.

A number of these laws are worth mentioning.

Firstly, the EU Procurement Rules which have several adverse effects. Public bodies now have to acquire tenders for goods and services not only from British companies but from member states across the entire European Union. This costs time, especially when there is the bickering of unsuccessful bidders to deal with. It also costs money, which has to be provided by the tax-payer.

Building new houses is affected by these rules as well and these, according to the National Housing Federation, cost £30 million annually, reducing the Association's financial ability to build new homes. The Procurement Rules are also considered both complex and costly by the Partnership for Schools who say they bring no obvious benefit. See note 2.

Transport may soon be affected further by EU legislation. At present there is a draft proposal to compel Britain, in the name of EU harmonisation, to accept lorries which are substantially longer and heavier than those at present onto our roads. Enlarged roads and the inevitable surface damage they cause will, of course, be paid for by our local Councils and so, ultimately by the taxpayers. The British Government may not want these huge lorries but if the law goes through the Brussels Parliament, they will have no choice in the matter.

It is EU legislation that has caused the closure of so many of our smaller post offices by opening up postal services to other EU countries, such as Deutsche Post which now undercuts our Post Office deliveries in such lucrative markets as business post. In rural areas these post offices often form part of the only shop in the village and are an essential of the community yet without the postal service these shops would not be viable. Knowing this, the Government has tried its best to keep them open by offering subsidies, but Brussels now insists that Britain must ask for permission before doing so. So, our Post Office is currently in a critical

financial state so that post office closures have become inevitable, to the benefit of other EU countries.

Population growth, due largely to the EU's basic right of 'Free Movement of Peoples' throughout the Union, has resulted in over 300,000 people per year for the last two years coming to the UK to live, work and claim benefits.

We know the Prime Minister has recently negotiated a separate set of rules for new migrant benefits, how much this will stem the flow of migration is again debateable, but neither central nor local government will be able to control the demand for services which will obviously follow.

Open door immigration is having a massive effect on local councils, on planning and house building and therefore on schools, hospitals and social services.

The extra population will inevitably cause extra waste, but EU Rules state that by 2020, half of our waste must be diverted from landfills, possibly to incinerators which are being built around the country. Because of this, householders are now seeing their council taxes go up while waste collections in many areas have gone down to once in two weeks.

EU Rules can have a farcical effect. In 2005 an EU Regulation on 'Working at Heights' came into effect which means that any work involving ladders is banned. To avoid litigation, some Councils now ban ladders across their estates' properties and have introduced the expensive alternative of scaffolding instead, more money for the taxpayer to find.

They can also have a disastrous effect, a Draft Efficiency Directive will compel Councils to refit local properties, both old and new-build, to the highest energy efficiency standards. This would, for instance, make Victorian Town Halls and other old buildings obsolete if the local authority did not have the required funding to meet the new efficiency standards.

And the Local Government Association estimates that applying this legislation would cost Councils £50 billion — at a time when they really don't need yet more financial pressure. See note 3.



There is also the “Membership Fee”, we pay to belong to the EU, currently estimated at 13 billion pounds per annum. We do, of course, receive subsidies in return but our net contribution to the EU is roughly 8.5 billion pounds per year. Could we use this money more effectively if we had control of it? We believe we could. See note 4.

Councils around this country are mainly full of people with a genuine desire to serve their community through Local Government who now find themselves powerless because all the big decisions are taken elsewhere in the EU.

Nationally and even locally, whether it is our post offices, our bin collections, the lorries which drive on our roads or how our homes are built — the European Union, of which Britain is merely a 28<sup>th</sup> part, rules on everything.

Now, returning to our argument that the demonstration of EU legislation on PCC is relatively easy, we do acknowledge what one person or organisation will consider an advantage, another may consider a disadvantage, so it follows that even if a piece of legislation has a financial impact on a Local Council some may consider that a price worth paying, ie good value for money, others not.

And so, all of the above could be considered our opinion, arguments or views on EU legislative impact on local authorities to a greater or lesser extent.

However, we in the UKIP Group, believe there are two undisputable Facts regarding the upcoming EU referendum if the UK votes to Leave.

1. We will make own laws in our own Parliament, and,
2. We will control the quantity and quality of those wishing to come here to live and work from wherever in the world.

So, in a world in which we are constantly being told is uncertain and unsafe we would conclude that the two certainties listed above would be the best mechanism by which the UK and therefore, PCC would best serve the citizens in their care.

Some legislative areas and EU rules that apply but by no means all.

Agriculture which together with Fisheries accounts for about 30% of all legislation.

Impact on food prices.

School meals, school milk, meals on wheels and food in care homes.

Public Contracts Directive 2004/18/EC and Public Procurement Remedies Directive 2007/66/EC

Cost of Council contracts

The Landfill Directive 99/31/EC

Direct Cost to Council

Agency Workers Directive COD 2002/0149

Working Time Directive 93/104/EC

Energy Efficiency Directive 2012/27/EU

Drivers Hours Directive 2006/561/EC

Environmental Impact Assessment Directive 85/337/EEC as amended by Directive 97/11/EC

Note 1. Source <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-35658731>

Note 2. Source <http://www.insidehousing.co.uk/eu-tendering-costs-9000-homes-a-year/6513618.article>

Note 3. Source [http://www.local.gov.uk/eu-policy-and-lobbying-/journal\\_content/56/10180/2944145/ARTICLE](http://www.local.gov.uk/eu-policy-and-lobbying-/journal_content/56/10180/2944145/ARTICLE)

Note 4. Source <https://fullfact.org/europe/our-eu-membership-fee-55-million/>

The Government is committed to holding an in-out referendum on the UK's membership of the EU by the end of 2017. At the request of Council the Co-operative Scrutiny Board is establishing Co-operative Review to evaluate the advantages and dis-advantages of EU membership on Plymouth.

The review will consider a number of issues which may include:

- How leaving or remaining in the EU will impact on UK influence and security both in Europe and Globally;
- the overall economic advantages and disadvantages of membership on the City of Plymouth;
- the EU's regulation of products and markets;
- the economic effects of the free movement of people on the economy, market and public finances;
- the extent to which EU membership attracts and maintains inward investment to the UK, and how this might be affected by "Brexit".

### Written Evidence

In its evidence-gathering, the review wishes to hear from all organisations, both public and private, and individuals with an interest in this subject. In particular we are keen to hear from –

- Local business leaders and the local enterprise partnership
- Trade unions
- Local education establishments
- Police
- Representatives of the NHS
- Agricultural / Fisheries Representatives
- Charities
- Other partner agencies

Written submissions are sought in word version. Ideally, they should be no more than five sides of A4 and should be emailed to by **as soon as possible to [Scrutiny@plymouth.gov.uk](mailto:Scrutiny@plymouth.gov.uk), please let us know in your submission whether you would be prepared to attend the Review public meetings as a witness.**

Our normal practice is to publish all relevant evidence that is sent to us on our website and we may also include it in the hard copy of any report. Therefore, if you wish your evidence to be treated as confidential, or for your evidence to be published anonymously, please contact us via [Scrutiny@plymouth.gov.uk](mailto:Scrutiny@plymouth.gov.uk) or by contacting the Democratic Support Officer before you submit your evidence. For further information on how we deal with evidence please see our [policy](#).

### ***For organisations and individuals giving evidence:***

The information you give to the review will be used only for the purposes of the review. **The only exception is information received that suggests someone is currently at significant risk of harm or an indication of criminal activity. In that case there would be an obligation for the review to report that information to the appropriate authorities, but it would keep you informed about any action it intended to take.**

# REQUEST FOR A COOPERATIVE REVIEW



Please submit this document to Democratic Support once complete.

The request will be submitted to the Co-operative Scrutiny Board for consideration against the approval criteria and you will be notified of its success. If the Board approve the request for a Co-operative Review on the subject matter below then a project plan will be completed and you may be asked for further information.

<b>What is the name of the review?</b>	<b>EU Referendum Task Group</b>
<b>Please provide a brief outline of the subject and scope of the review?</b>	<p>This review request follows a motion on notice moved and agreed at the meeting of the City Council on the 23 November 2015. The motion noted that -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● That the United Kingdom had been a member of the European Union since 1973, and that the Council recognised that the UK's continued membership of the EU is now in question and will be subject to a national referendum.</li> <li>● That the Council believed that the people of Plymouth have a right to take part in the forthcoming referendum.</li> <li>● That the Council further believed that it has a responsibility to ensure that local residents have the facts regarding the socio-economic impact that the UK's membership of the EU has on Plymouth before the referendum takes place.</li> </ul>
<b>Please outline the reasons as to why you believe a review needs to take place?</b>	<p>The main reasons of the review are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● This is the result of a motion at council. The scrutiny function has a duty, under the constitution, to implement the wishes of full council.</li> <li>● The EU referendum is likely to be of significant interest to the general public.</li> </ul>
<b>What will the review attempt to achieve?</b>	<p>The Co-operative Scrutiny Board will establish a cross party EU Co-operative Review which will seek to include representatives from all parties.</p> <p>The review will invite evidence from -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Local business leaders and the Local Enterprise Partnership</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Trade Unions</li> <li>● Local Education Establishments</li> <li>● Devon and Cornwall Police</li> <li>● Representatives of the NHS</li> <li>● Agricultural Representatives</li> <li>● Charities</li> <li>● District and Parish Councils</li> <li>● Other Partner Agencies</li> </ul> <p>A comprehensive review report will be provided to full council before the referendum vote.</p>
<b>Who will benefit from the review?</b>	The beneficiaries will be the Plymouth citizens for whom the review will establish and identify the social, economic and cultural benefits and disadvantages that the UK's membership of the EU has on Plymouth.
<b>How long do you think the review might take?</b>	The review is anticipated to be undertaken over three public meetings and will report before the EU referendum, date yet to be confirmed.
<b>When do you think the review should commence and why?</b>	The review will commence in February 2016.
<b>When do you think the review should be completed by and why?</b>	The review is anticipated to be completed in March 2016. This will allow adequate time for the panel to complete the review and consider all the relevant and required evidence and witness statements and ensure that any recommendations are prepared in sufficient time to be presented at the next available Cabinet meeting.
<b>Review requested by?</b>	Full Council

Received in Democratic Support Section:	Reviewed by the Co-operative Scrutiny Board:
Date:	Date:
Scrutiny Review Approved/Rejected	
If approved initial Project Plan meeting date:	