

PLYMOUTH CITY COUNCIL

Subject:	'Refresh' of the Plymouth Plan
Committee:	Cabinet
Date:	27th February 2017
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Nicholson
CMT Member:	Anthony Payne (Director for Place)
Author:	Jonathan Bell (Head of Development Planning)
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Ref:	
Key Decision:	Yes
Part:	I

Purpose of the report:

The Plymouth Plan (Part One) was approved by Full Council in September 2015 as the single integrated strategic plan for the city.

At the time it was anticipated that a Part Two would be prepared which would include area and site specific policies, enabling the Plymouth Plan to become also the statutory development plan.

In January and February 2016, following a period of senior officer and member level discussion with South Hams and West Devon councils, the three authorities agreed to prepare a joint local plan for the three areas, called the Plymouth and South West Devon Joint Local Plan (JLP). This decision was ratified by Plymouth's Cabinet on 16 February 2016.

The Plymouth Plan Member Working Group (PPWG) has continued to meet and a new JLP Member Steering Group was also set up. These groups have been overseeing the preparation of the JLP, and in respect of the PPWG a refresh of the Plymouth Plan which is required as a result of the JLP work.

The next steps are to publish a pre-submission JLP and the Plymouth Plan refresh.

The JLP will then be subject to a statutory six week period for formal representations to be made (March / April) and submitted for independent public examination (May). Subject to a successful public examination (Autumn) it is anticipated that the JLP will be formally adopted early in 2018.

Once the JLP is formally adopted, the Plymouth-related policies will be re-united with the refreshed Plymouth Plan Part One policies, enabling the fully web based interactive Plymouth Plan to be re-created, as originally envisaged.

The purpose of this report is to consider the approval of the Plymouth Plan refresh pending its re-coupling with the Plymouth policies of the JLP once that plan is adopted.

PIONEERING PLYMOUTH – the JLP and Plymouth Plan are ground breaking initiatives, creating both a single strategic integrated plan for the city and a pioneering joint planning approach across the entire Plymouth Housing Market Area with the adjoining councils.

GROWING PLYMOUTH – the JLP and Plymouth Plan have a strong focus on reinforcing and delivering Plymouth’s radical growth agenda.

CARING PLYMOUTH – between them , the JLP and Plymouth Plan between them provide integrated policies and a framework for delivery of a healthy and caring city.

CONFIDENT PLYMOUTH - the JLP and Plymouth Plan set out a strategic framework for reinforcing Plymouth’s role in the region and firmly establishing Plymouth as an international city with great confidence and civic pride.

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

No new resource implications arise from this report.

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

The JLP and the Plymouth Plan provides a strategic policy framework for both people and place. The creation of sustainable communities, and the theme of providing quality of life for everyone in the city, runs through the heart of the plans, providing an effective and integrated strategic framework for addressing and responding to issues such as community safety, community cohesion, child poverty and equalities and diversity.

Equality and Diversity

Has an Equality Impact Assessment been undertaken? An Equality Impact Assessment has already been undertaken for the Plymouth Plan Part One.

Recommendations and Reasons for recommended action:

It is recommended that the Plymouth Plan Refresh be referred to a meeting of Full Council with the following recommendations:

1. That the updates set out in the report to Modules 2 (Philosophy), 3 (Vision), 5 (Healthy City), 6 (Growing City) and 7 (International City) of the Plymouth Plan Part One be approved.

REASON: To ensure that the Plymouth Plan reflects the most recent information

2. That following formal adoption of the Plymouth and South West Devon Local Plan, the Plymouth specific policies be combined with the Plymouth Plan refresh to re-create a single integrated web based document, with delegated authority to the Assistant Director for Strategic Planning and Infrastructure, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Strategic Housing, Transport, and Planning, to publish this on the Plymouth Plan website.

REASON: In order to create a single integrated web based document (incorporating the adopted Plymouth-specific policies from the Joint Local Plan).

Alternative options considered and rejected:

Alternatives were considered at the time that the original report was considered in September 2015. No further alternatives considered as no change to the strategic direction is proposed.

Published work / information:

[Plymouth Plan Part One](#)

Background papers:

Title	Part I	Part II	Exemption Paragraph Number							
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	

Sign off: comment must be sought from those whose area of responsibility may be affected by the decision, as follows (insert references of Finance, Legal and Monitoring Officer reps, and of HR, Corporate Property, IT and Strat. Proc. as appropriate):

Fin	SAFINI 617 163 16- 2-2017	Leg	2765 0/DV S	Mon Off	275 60/ DV S	HR	n/a	Assets	n/a	IT	n/a	Strat Proc	n/a
Originating SMT Member Paul Barnard (Assistant Director for Strategic Planning & Infrastructure)													
Has the Cabinet Member(s) agreed the contents of the report? Yes													

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Plymouth Plan Part One was formally approved by Full Council in September 2015 as the City's single integrated strategic framework. Since that time it has been used to drive the delivery of a healthy, growing and international city.
- 1.2 However, the decision to move to a joint local plan (JLP) for Plymouth, South Hams and West Devon means that some consequential amendments will be required to the Plymouth Plan.
- 1.3 Furthermore, the Planning Inspectorate has advised that the development plan components of the Plymouth Plan be separated out from the non-development plan elements and included instead in the separate joint local plan. This is because non-development related policies should not be submitted for public examination as part of the local plan.
- 1.4 The need to amend the Plymouth Plan in these ways also presents an opportunity to update the policies, reflecting new and updated evidence / data (where this is available), together with emerging priorities for the City Council and its partners.
- 1.5 However, it should be emphasised that this is not a full review of the Plymouth Plan and the strategic direction remains unaltered.

2. Summary of changes to the Plymouth Plan

- 2.1 Tables 1 and 2 summarise the main changes proposed to the Plymouth Plan by module and by policy.

Table 1: Summary of amendments to Plymouth Plan Part One by Module

Module	Amendments
1. Introduction	Updated to explain the relationship between the Plymouth Plan refresh and the JLP process.
2. Philosophy	Retained as a Plymouth Plan only section; minor wording adjustments and text simplification; move Theme 2 (sustainable linked neighbourhoods) to JLP as new policy in spatial strategy section.
3. Vision	Retained in Plymouth Plan but with minor wording clarifications; new Vision chapter to be created in JLP to provide strategic vision for entire plan area.
4. Plymouth's strategic role	Moved to JLP.
5. Healthy City	Retained in Plymouth Plan.
6. Growing City	Retained in Plymouth Plan.
7. International City	Retained in Plymouth Plan.
8. Spatial Strategy	Moved to JLP.
9. Delivery and monitoring	New delivery and monitoring section in JLP; Plymouth Plan delivery and monitoring section will be redrafted once JLP is adopted to ensure it is consistent with the JLP monitoring framework which will be tested at public examination.

Table 2: Summary of amendments to Plymouth Plan Part One by Policy

Policy	Amendments
1 Enhancing Plymouth's strategic role	Moved to JLP - simplified to avoid duplication with later policies.
2 Unlocking Plymouth's regional growth potential	Moved to JLP –re-phrased to read better as a development plan policy.

Policy	Amendments
3 Utilising Plymouth's regional economic assets	Moved to JLP.
4 Enhancing Plymouth's strategic connectivity	Part of policy moved to JLP spatial strategy section and updated; part of policy moved to Growing City module in Plymouth Plan.
5 Protecting and strengthening Devonport Naval Base and Dockyard's strategic role.	Moved to JLP – updated, and re-phrased to read better as a development plan policy.
6 Enhancing Plymouth's role in maintaining the south west's special natural environment	Policy deleted – its purpose is covered by a new policy in the JLP spatial strategy section and by other changes to Plymouth Plan and JLP policies.
7 Safeguarding Plymouth's mineral resources	Moved to JLP - with further detail included in policy.
8 Addressing health inequalities and supporting healthy lifestyles	Retained – updated to add reference to improving health literacy and oral / dental health (change requested by partners); amended to create cross references to supporting JLP policies.
9 Delivering the best outcomes for children, young people and families	Retained - minor wording improvements and additional references relating to parents (change requested by partners).
10 Supporting adults with health and social care needs	Retained - minor clarification of policy.
11 Playing an active role in the community	Retained.
12 Delivering strong and safe communities and good quality neighbourhoods	Retained.
13 Delivering a safe, accessible, sustainable and health enabling transport system	Retained, but with cross references to JLP and some wording clarifications.
14 Optimising the health and wellbeing benefits of the natural environment	Retained, with minor improvement to the explanatory text.
15 Meeting Local Housing Needs	Those elements of the policy relating to the role of the local planning authority moved to JLP; amended policy retained in Plymouth Plan.
16 Delivering accessible health services and clinical excellence	Retained.
17 Creating the conditions for Economic Growth	Retained, but with cross references to JLP.
18 Delivering sufficient land for new jobs	Moved to JLP with amendments as appropriate.
19 Delivering skills and talent development	Retained, but with cross references to JLP and updates to supporting narrative.
20 Delivering sufficient land for new homes to meet Plymouth's housing need	Policy principles retained in Plymouth Plan; substance of housing target moved to JLP and updated.
21 Provision for shops and services	Moved to JLP with amendments as appropriate.
22 Using transport investment to drive growth	Substantial re-edit to reflect discussion on transport strategy at PPWG 9 November 2016, with refresh of strategic connectivity asks also included now in this section.

Policy	Amendments
23 Enhancing Plymouth's sporting facilities	Retained, but with cross references to JLP.
24 Delivering Plymouth's natural network	Retained and simplified, with development plan elements moved to JLP.
25 Reducing carbon emissions and adapting to climate change	Retained but with those elements of the policy relating to the role of the local planning authority moved to JLP.
26 Dealing with flood risk	Retained but with those elements of the policy relating to the role of the local planning authority moved to JLP.
27 Minimising Plymouth's waste	Retained but with those elements of the policy relating to the role of the local planning authority moved to JLP; plus wording updates.
28 Promoting Plymouth's heritage	Moved to JLP with amendments as appropriate.
29 Place shaping and the quality of the built environment	Moved to JLP with amendments as appropriate.
30 Safeguarding environmental quality, function and amenity	Moved to JLP with amendments as appropriate.
31 Implementing Britain's Ocean City	Retained with new element to policy on celebrating the city's coastal location, with new reference to fishing industry (change requested by partners).
32 Plymouth in the global market place	Retained.
33 Positioning Plymouth as a major UK Destination	Retained but with those elements of the policy relating to the role of the local planning authority moved to JLP.
34 Delivering a distinctive, dynamic cultural centre of regional, national and international renown	Retained, but with cross references to JLP.
35 Celebrating Plymouth's sporting excellence	Retained.
36 Enhancing Plymouth's 'green city' credentials	Retained.
37 Supporting world class universities and research institutions	Retained but with those elements of the policy relating to the role of the local planning authority moved to JLP.
38 Celebrating diverse communities	Retained.
39 Defining the spatial distribution of housing in Plymouth	Moved to JLP with amendments as appropriate.
40 Principles for development in Plymouth's urban fringe	Moved to JLP with amendments as appropriate.
41 Defining the spatial provision of retail development and main town centre uses	Moved to JLP with amendments as appropriate.
42 Improving Plymouth's city centre	Moved to JLP with amendments as appropriate.
43 Managing and enhancing Plymouth's waterfront	Moved to JLP with amendments as appropriate.
44 Strategic transport and other infrastructure measures to deliver the spatial strategy	Moved to JLP with amendments as appropriate.
45 Plymouth's investment priorities	Moved to JLP with amendments as appropriate.

Policy	Amendments
46 Approach to development delivery and viability, planning obligations and the community infrastructure levy	Moved to JLP with amendments as appropriate.

3. Conclusions

- 2.1 The vision of a single integrated strategic plan for Plymouth remains in place, but there has been a need to amend the route to achieving this in light of the JLP.
- 2.2 Once the JLP is formally adopted, its Plymouth specific spatial policies will be re-united with the refreshed Plymouth Plan Part One policies so that a fully web based interactive Plymouth Plan can be re-created, as originally intended.