

PLYMOUTH CITY COUNCIL

Subject: Fishing and Fisheries Select Committee Review
Committee: Cabinet
Date: 11 September 2018
Cabinet Member: Councillor Tudor Evans OBE . Leader of the Council
CMT Member: Anthony Payne (Strategic Director for Place)
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Ref: BILCO4
Key Decision: No
Part: I

Purpose of the report:

The purpose of this report is to present the recommendations from the Fishing Select Committee Review meeting which was held on the 22 August 2018 on launching the Council's sustainable fishing plan and also the responses to DEFRA's fishing white paper "Sustainable Fisheries for Future Generations".

The Fishing Select Committee was held following the publication of DEFRA's fishing white paper "Sustainable Fisheries for Future Generations" and in light of the UK's upcoming exit from the European Union and the Common Fisheries Policy. This will lead to major legislative changes that presents both opportunities and risks to the fishing industry unless properly consulted.

There risks include:

- Borders and trade: there is currently no infrastructure in place at ports to act as a hard border with the EU, which will have a serious impact on delays to the delivery of fresh fish to international markets and the possibility of spoilt produce.
- EU retaliation: associated cost of additional policing and defence of our fishing opportunities.
- Infrastructure: not having the necessary infrastructure to keep pace with the additional fishing opportunities.
- New entrants: the uncertainty caused by Brexit may act as a barrier to new entrants into the fishing industry and act as a barrier for investment in new machinery and technology for existing businesses.

Whilst the opportunities include:

- Increased Total Allowable Catch: the additional fishing opportunities will allow the UK the opportunity to sell these additional stocks to EU member-states, or, to expand and develop our nation's fisheries to fill the gap.
- Profile of the Industry: the increased gains made post-Brexit could help address the profile of the industry as a high-tech and profitable sector and encourage new entrants into the industry.
- Organisational restructure: as the organisational institutions look to become more streamlined, Plymouth can lend its immense expertise to explore opportunities for regional or national fishing hubs.
- Policing and enforcement: although there is significant risk of EU member-states illegally fishing in UK waters, there is an opportunity with the necessary increase in policing and enforcement. As home to the largest naval base in Western Europe, and positioned in the

middle of the 3 largest fishing ports in England, Plymouth will have a significant role in hosting additional security measures.

- Sustainability: change in fisheries policy as a result of Brexit also allows the country to put sustainability as the forefront of our strategies. With ambitions of a National Marine Park, and an ongoing commitment to abolishing marine plastics and the devastating practice of discards, and a world-class cluster in marine science, Plymouth has an opportunity to shape the future direction of the fishing industry.

Corporate Plan:

Plymouth is Britain's Ocean City and the Fishing Industry is part of our heritage and a key contributor to our vibrant waterfront. The scrutiny review approach embeds our values, it is democratic, responsible fair and cooperative. The subject matter reflects our growing city priorities, in particular, economic growth, jobs and skills and sustainability. We are delivering in line with our commitment to listen to our communities and to provide a strong voice for Plymouth regionally and nationally.

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

The recruitment of a Fishing Development Officer would cost in the region of 50,000 – 60,000 per annum. Any associated expenses would need to be contained within existing Economic Development revenue budgets. A bid for grant resources has been submitted which could meet year 1 costs. If this bid is not successful, and any cost of employment beyond year 1 would need to be funded from within existing Economic Development revenue budgets.

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

None.

Equality and Diversity:

Due regard would be given to the Public Sector Equality Duty for all relevant management actions which result from this recommendation.

Recommendations and Reasons for recommended action:

Cabinet support the recommendations made by the Select Committee Review on the Council's launch of a sustainable fishing plan and the responses to DEFRA's fishing white paper – Sustainable Fisheries for Future Generations.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

None.

As per the Constitution Cabinet are obliged to consider recommendations made by Overview and Scrutiny function.

Published work / information:

- Sustainable Fisheries for Future Generations”, published by the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on 26th July 2018
- The UK Sea Fisheries Annual Statistics Report 2016. MMO, published 28th September 2017
- Economic Impacts of Scenarios for Scottish and UK Seafood Industries Post EU Exit
- Fishing for a Future: An Analysis of Need, Challenges and Opportunities in UK Fishing Communities an Interim Research Report by Cornwall Rural Community Charity & Rose Regeneration on behalf of Seafarers UK (Jan 2018)
- Living on the Edge – Britain’s Coastal Communities Scott Corfe – Social Market Foundation – Sept 2017
- Brexit, Infrastructure and Legislative Change Overview and Scrutiny Committee Fishing and Fisheries Report 6 June 2018

Background papers:

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

Sign off:

Fin YES	pl.1 8.19 .85	Leg	MS/3 1173	Mon Off		HR YES		Assets		IT		Strat Proc	
Originating SMT Member													
Has the Cabinet Member(s) agreed the content of the report? Yes													

Background Information

A Select Committee Review on fishing and fisheries was completed on 22 August 2018. The purpose of the Review was as follows –

- make recommendations to Cabinet in relation to the Administration's Manifesto commitment;
- to work with Plymouth's fishing industry to launch a Plan for Sustainable Fishing to secure the industry to launch a Plan for Sustainable Fishing to secure the industry's future in the City;
- to inform the Council's response to the Fisheries White Paper; Sustainable Fisheries for Future Generations;

As part of the review the Committee attended an organised tour of the Fishing Quay, Fish Market and a demonstration of the Dutch auction. During the tour Members had an opportunity to ask questions from stakeholders and gained an understanding of the issues faced by the fishing industry in Plymouth.

Following the tour, the Select Committee Review took place in the National Marine Aquarium where Members heard evidence from witnesses from across the sector including Plymouth Trawler Agents Ltd, Interfish, Devon and Severn Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities and the Angling Trust and Bass Anglers' Sport fishing Society. Luke Pollard MP also attended the evidence hearing in his capacity as the Shadow Minister for Flooding and Coastal Communities and provided his view on the importance of sustainable fishing and fisheries for Plymouth.

Recommendations

Recommendation 1

To produce a plan for sustainable fishing to secure the industry's future in the City by September 2019;

Cabinet Response

Agree the recommendation.

Recommendation 2

To agree the consultation responses to the Fisheries White Paper: Sustainable Fisheries for Future Generations (as attached as appendix 1);

Cabinet Response

Agree with the consultation responses as outlined in appendix 1 and submission to DEFRA by the consultation deadline of 12 September 2018;

Recommendation 3

To increase resources and expertise supporting the sector by employing a Fishing Development Officer which will enable the Council to deliver recommendation 1 above;

Cabinet Response

Agree the recommendation.

Recommendation 4

Plymouth works with the Local Government Association in order to create a network of key port cities.

Cabinet Response

Use the Key Cities Network, of which we are already a part, to liaise and cooperate with other port cities to best support the fishing sector in England; examples of support would relate to the impact of Brexit on exports and licensing.

Recommendation 5

Recreational angling should be considered as part of the whole approach to sustainable fisheries.

Cabinet Response

Agree the recommendation