

COMPLETED PLEDGES UPDATE – JANUARY 2019



FOR JOBS AND PROSPERITY

Pledge 10 – Set out an action plan to double the co-operatives and mutuals sector

What we said we would do: We believe there is scope to increase the number of businesses owned by the people that employ them. As we've shown with community energy, people should be able to come together to use their buying power to improve the quality of the goods and services they receive. We will map the current work of co-operatives and mutuals within the city and set out an action plan to double the size of this sector by 2025.

What we wanted to achieve: Map the current work of co-operatives and mutuals within the city and set out an action plan to double the size of this sector by 2025.

What we have done: Plymouth City Council is the first council in the country to commit to doubling the size of its cooperative economy – helping local people to take more control of jobs, livelihoods and to keep more money in the city – creating the right environment for organisations to be established that are owned and run by their own staff and customers, signalling a return to the city's co-operative roots.

The city had its first co-operative way back in 1859, which was set up by Charles Goodenew, a shoemaker in Bretonside. By 1918 a host of shops, dairies, and butcher shops all worked together as co-operatives supplying local people with the goods they needed, as well as ensuring that money made stayed in the city. Even Nancy Astor was a member of the Co-operative Women's Guild.

Now the Council is hoping that Plymouth's residents will look to how businesses operated in the past to help shape those of the future.

What's next: Plymouth City Council has launched its strategic action plan that outlines how we will double the co-operative economy by 2025. The plan focuses on creating the right conditions for co-operative formation, promoting and supporting pathways into co-operation for local businesses/organisations. There is also a specific focus on health and social care in terms of encouraging and supporting co-operative approaches in the wellbeing economy.

Find out more!

Here is a news story about our work to deliver the pledge:

<http://plymouthnewsroom.co.uk/plymouth-leading-way-cooperative-economy/>



FOR KEEPING PLYMOUTH ON THE MOVE

Pledge 17 – Accelerate a programme of pavement repair and tackle the worst potholes

What we said we would do: Accelerate a programme of pavement repair and tackle the worst potholes across the city.

What we wanted to achieve: An overall improvement in pavement condition and a continuous improvement programme to reduce the number of potholes.

What we have done: We have undertaken a detailed survey of the city's roads and footways and have an up-to-date picture of their condition and we are ensuring money is spent where it is most needed.

We have delivered more than 48,000 square metres of new road / footway surface so far this financial year, on 23 footway sites and 37 carriageway sites.

We are working more closely with our highways maintenance provider and have been able to increase and refocus resources, driving down response times and making repairs more quickly. This year we have fixed more than 2,300 potholes and carriageway faults.

We have also clearly defined our major carriageway and footway networks so that potholes and defects on our most important and more travelled routes are prioritised for attention, ensuring that we keep the city's road network moving and resilient.

What's next: A further 25 carriageway sites and 15 footway sites will be treated before the end of March 2019 through our annual plan. In addition, we will spend an additional £450,000, made available by the Department for Transport, to deliver additional footway and carriageway resurfacing before April 2019.

We will continue to be intelligence-led, applying industry best practice to ensure that funding and resources are targeted where they are most effective and deliver the best value for money.

Find out more!

Here are some news stories about our work to deliver the pledge:

<http://plymouthnewsroom.co.uk/council-invest-pavement-repairs-20mph-zones/>



FOR KEEPING PLYMOUTH ON THE MOVE

Pledge 23 – Review the real time information system at bus stops

What we said we would do: We know there are complaints from bus passengers about the real time information system at bus stops. We will review this system when we take office, and ensure it is fit for purpose and gives passengers the information they require.

What we wanted to achieve: Review of real time information system at all bus stops. Achieving 90 per cent or more accuracy for a month in November would mean that we are a national leader in real time passenger information (RTPI).

What we have done: The Sustainable Transport Team has undertaken extensive monitoring of the system and has been out on site with Councillors Mark Coker and Pauline Murphy to ensure that their concerns have been fully understood. Following the results returned from monitoring, a solution to change the data feed to the system was implemented, aiming to significantly improve the quality of the data being returned and sent out to the display screens.

Initial testing revealed that further work was required to improve accuracy to a consistent 90 per cent or more. Using the intelligence gained from the testing, an alternative method of transferring the data from the bus to the displays was introduced. This was switched on for testing on 7th December 2018. Testing took place on that day and produced accuracy results of 91.6 per cent and further testing took place in the subsequent weeks producing an accuracy result exceeding 90 per cent.

What's next: Councillor Coker continues to receive weekly updates from the Sustainable Transport Team to ensure that the improvements are being maintained. In addition there are a number of ideas to improve journey times in and around the city which will form part of the exciting Transforming Cities Bid which was submitted on 4th January 2019.

Find out more!

Here is a news story about our work to deliver the improvements to buses:

<http://plymouthnewsroom.co.uk/tag/buses>



FOR MORE TRULY AFFORDABLE HOMES

Pledge 27 – Support the building of bungalows and care facilities for older people

What we said we would do: For older people we will support the building of new bungalows and extra care facilities.

What we wanted to achieve: New bungalows and care facilities for older people built.

What we have done: A new Council initiative will see the first bungalows built in Plymouth for a number of years. Five new bungalows will be built on the site of the former Sure Start Centre on Ham Green Lane, as part of the Council's commitment to improve housing across the city.

In partnership with Westward, this 100 per cent affordable housing scheme will see four one-bedroom and one two-bedroom bungalows built on the site, which will go some way to addressing the shortfall of low-cost, accessible housing for Plymouth residents.

Work also continues to enhance the care and support available to older people through working in partnership with Bournemouth Churches Housing Association (BCHA) and Homes England on the development of twelve extra care supported housing flats for adults with learning disabilities, with three of the 12 flats to be wheelchair adapted in How Street.

In Millbay, we are working in partnership with Abbeyfield Housing and Homes England on the development of our next Extra Care Housing Scheme, as part of the successful wider regeneration of Millbay, to increase the range and mix of new homes in the area.

What's next: Negotiations to transfer ownership of the land to Westward Housing are now underway. Planning permission will be sought in early 2019, with building hoped to begin before the autumn. We have also identified two further Plymouth City Council sites and are inviting proposals from housing providers and welcoming the development of new bungalows to rent for older people.

Find out more!

Here is a news story about our work to deliver the pledge:

<http://plymouthnewsroom.co.uk/council-makes-commitment-build-bungalows>



FOR MORE TRULY AFFORDABLE HOMES

Pledge 30 – Pressure Government to fund the recladding of Mount Wise tower blocks

What we said we would do: We will continue to pressure the Government to fully fund the recladding of the Mount Wise tower blocks. It is unfair that residents in Plymouth have to foot the bill for a national crisis.

What we wanted to achieve: The Government will agree to fund the recladding of the Mount Wise tower blocks to make them safer places for residents to live.

What we have done: John Clark, Plymouth Community Homes (PCH) Chief Executive: “The support of our Plymouth MPs, local councillors and officers at Plymouth City Council was instrumental in achieving a great outcome for the residents at Mount Wise, PCH and the city. It is a further demonstration of what we can achieve when we work together for the benefit of our city.”

PCH received official confirmation that works to replace the cladding at the Mount Wise Towers will be fully funded by the government. The application to the Social Sector ACM (Aluminium Composite Material) Cladding Remediation Fund for c£14 million to fully fund the cladding replacement work at Mount Wise Towers was approved. PCH received 80 per cent of the funding when work started in November and the final 20 per cent on completion.

PCH received planning permission in September 2018 for a new non-combustible external wall covering for the Mount Wise Towers, which will provide the highest levels of fire safety for the block.

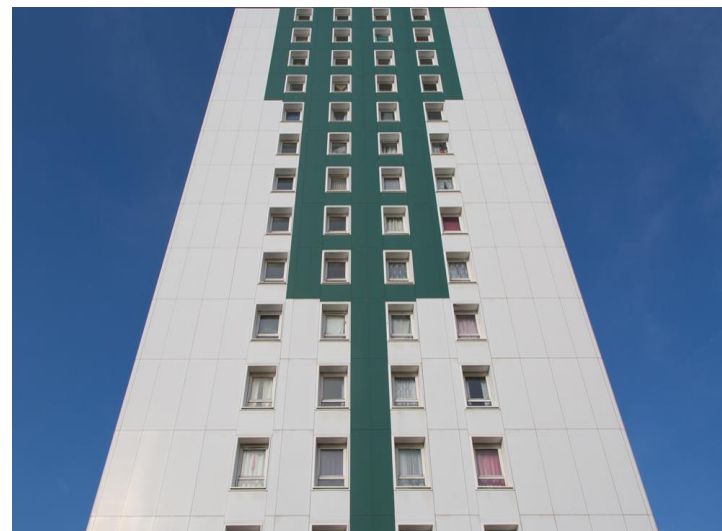
What's next: Work began to remove the existing cladding in November 2018 and initially involved preparing the ground and erecting the scaffolding. The removal and replacement of the cladding was the final part of a commitment to ensure the safety of residents, building on the safety measures already in place, including the installation of sprinklers in communal areas and to each flat.

The works are expected to finish in early 2020 and include the replacement of all of the windows at the three Towers.

Find out more!

Here is a news story about our work to deliver the pledge:

<https://www.plymouthcommunityhomes.co.uk/news/mount-wise-towers-fire-safety-update>



FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Pledge 47 – Promote fostering and adoption in Plymouth

What we said we would do: Every Plymouth child deserves a safe and loving home. That is why we will promote fostering and adoption in Plymouth with a renewed public campaign.

What we wanted to achieve: To ensure that we have enough placements available to provide children and young people with homes that give them the love, support and stability that they so desperately need. To ensure that the placements we offer are suitable for the individual needs of the children and young people needing support, for example those with disabilities and/or complex needs. To prevent unnecessary delays in providing these children and young people with a long term safe and loving home.

What we have done: We fully supported the transfer of our adoption service to 'Adopt South West', which went live on 1 October 2018. To promote and renew our fostering campaign we have refreshed the suite of marketing materials for the campaign for all of our channels, and have also recorded Christmas messages of thanks from local looked after children. In the run up to Christmas, we have relaunched both the fostering and adoption campaigns jointly at Radio Plymouth with Councillor Sue McDonald and representatives from our fostering service and Adopt South West. We are continuing to advertise on social media and a Christmas message of thanks from Councillor McDonald was also published on Christmas Eve. As well as advertising on our own screens, we are also advertising fostering on the digital screens at Derriford Hospital.

What's next: We will meet with colleagues as part of a South West Regional Communications Group in 2019 to look at how we can improve collaboration on regional recruitment practices. We are in the process of designing a joint flyer and are looking at the possibility of a short film that each authority can use to promote the need for new foster carers. We will also propose a regional digital campaign, as well as the possibility of a match funded arts initiative (with Big Lottery/Arts Council for England) across the South West. These activities will feed into our ongoing and future annual campaigns for fostering.

Find out more!

Here are relevant news stories about our work to deliver the pledge:

<http://plymouthnewsroom.co.uk/plymouth-increases-efforts-recruit-foster-carers-adoptive-parents-run-christmas/>

<http://plymouthnewsroom.co.uk/could-you-be-a-foster-carer/>



FOR A SAFER, WELCOMING CITY

Pledge 71 – Celebrate the 100th anniversary of women being given the right to vote

What we said we would do: We will continue to celebrate the 100th anniversary of some women being given the right to vote and the important part Plymouth played both in 1918 and in 1919, with the first woman to take her seat in the House of Commons, representing Plymouth Sutton.

What we wanted to achieve: Encourage residents to vote, especially women. Create a sense of pride in the city by showing how we have made a difference in the past.

What we have done: Women from across the city took part in a march in December to celebrate the centenary of some women being given the opportunity to vote for the first time in the UK. The 100 Metre March, each metre representing a year of women being able to cast a ballot, involved women from politics, business, academia and charities. It was followed by a short gathering at Elliott Terrace to speak with others about the value of women using their vote, supporting the Electoral Commission's #Vote100 campaign. Councillor Sue Dann, Cabinet Member for Environment and Street Scene, said: "100 years ago today millions of women voted in a general election for the first time. Not every woman mind, only those over 30 and those with property, but still, this was a huge step and something that opened up opportunities for all of us here. We are here not only to celebrate the amazing achievements of women in this city, but to encourage more women of all ages to take part in democracy and use their right to vote."

A plaque to commemorate the life of Nancy Astor was unveiled at her former home on the Hoe in August 2019. Nancy Astor was the first female MP to take her seat in Parliament. She served as MP for Plymouth Sutton from 1919 to 1945. She also served as Lady Mayoress of Plymouth during World War II. The Blue Plaque will sit above a brass plaque already in place at her residence 3 Elliot Terrace on The Hoe.

Councillor Pete Smith, Deputy Leader of the Council, said: "This acknowledgement has been a long time coming. Lady Astor was a remarkable woman, and a true champion of this city."

What's next: Centenary celebrations will continue during 2019, with other key democratic moments being marked.

Find out more!

Here is a news story about our work to deliver the pledge:

<http://plymouthnewsroom.co.uk/nancy-astor-honoured-blue-plaque/>

<http://plymouthnewsroom.co.uk/women-march-centenary-celebration/>

