

PLYMOUTH CITY COUNCIL

Subject:	Governance Arrangements for the Delivery of the Plymouth and South West Devon Joint Local Plan.
Committee:	Audit and Governance Committee
Date:	11 th March 2019
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Coker
CMT Member:	Anthony Payne (Director for Place)
Author:	Richard Grant (Strategic Planning Manager – Joint Local Plan)
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Ref:	
Key Decision:	Yes
Part:	I

Purpose of the report:

This report seeks the approval of the governance arrangements for the delivery of the Plymouth and South West Devon Joint Local Plan, as set out in the accompanying Paper “Plymouth and South West Devon Joint Local Plan – Delivery and Governance”, and in particular the establishment of a member-led Joint Local Plan Partnership Board.

The Plymouth and South West Devon Joint Local Plan has been prepared in collaboration with South Devon Joint Local Plan has been prepared in collaboration with South Hams District Council and West Devon Borough Council. It is nearing the end of the Examination in Public of the plan, undertaken by the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State, and is hoped that the plan will be able to be adopted in Spring 2019.

Collaboration with South Hams District Council and West Devon Borough Council on production of the plan has taken place through the terms of a Collaboration Agreement, which was agreed at the same time as the decision to collaborate on the JLP was taken, and has been overseen by the Plymouth and South West Devon Joint Local Plan Joint Member Steering Group.

As part of the Examination process, the Inspectors raised questions about how the Councils would ensure delivery of the JLP through ongoing collaboration and joint working. The Councils therefore produced a Governance Topic Paper, which was agreed by the Steering Group, which was submitted to the Inspectors during the Examination. The governance arrangements set out in that paper were accepted by the Inspectors and no further questions or concerns were raised.

Now that the JLP is nearing adoption, it is necessary to ensure that the updated governance arrangements are formally endorsed by the JLP Councils, in order that the Councils can immediately and efficiently proceed to deliver the plan along the lines presented to the Inspectors.

Corporate Plan

A GROWING CITY – the JLP has a strong focus on reinforcing and delivering Plymouth’s radical growth agenda. These governance arrangements will ensure that the JLP can continue the delivery of the growth of the city.

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

There are no additional financial or resource implications of this report. In setting out details of how the JLP Councils will collaborate on the delivery of the Joint Local Plan, and the governance arrangements enabling this work, the report sets out how existing resources will be used in the most efficient way.

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

The JLP 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. This report sets out how the JLP Councils will organise themselves to deliver the Joint Local Plan.

Equality and Diversity

Has an Equality Impact Assessment been undertaken? An Equality Impact Assessment has already been undertaken for the Plymouth and South West Devon Joint Local Plan, and is included in the Final Sustainability Appraisal.

Recommendations and Reasons for recommended action:

It is recommended that approval be given to the establishment of Joint Local Plan Partnership Board in accordance with the Joint Local Plan governance arrangements set out in the Plymouth and South West Devon Joint Local Plan – Delivery and Governance Paper.

REASON: To enable the efficient delivery of the strategy and policies set out in the Plymouth and South West Devon Joint Local Plan by the JLP Councils.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

The JLP Councils could decide not to collaborate on the delivery of the JLP. However, such an approach would lead to a lack of coordination of delivery of policies, and particularly of levels of housing and employment growth across the three authorities. This lack of coordination would likely lead to the strategy as set out in the plan failing to be delivered, jeopardising the 5 Year Land Supply of land for new housing in all three Councils and the achievement of the milestones on the Government's Housing Delivery Test, with the consequences of this being felt by all three authorities. It would also lead to the duplication of work in all three authorities leading to resource inefficiencies.

Published work / information:

Report to Full Council on Plymouth and South West Devon Joint Local Plan – 16th February 2016
Report to Full Council on Plymouth and South West Devon Joint Local Plan – 27th February 2017

Background papers:

Title	Part I	Part II	Exemption Paragraph Number							
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Plymouth and South West Devon Joint Local Plan – Delivery and Governance.										

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	pl.18.19.219	Leg	LS/32168/J P/F eb19	Mon Off	It/62225/2702	HR	n/a	Assets	n/a	IT	n/a	Strat Proc	n/a
Originating SMT Member Paul Barnard (Service Director for Strategic Planning & Infrastructure)													
Has the Cabinet Member(s) agreed the contents of the report? Yes													

1.0 Background

- 1.1 On 16th February 2016 the City Council agreed to collaborate with South Hams District Council and West Devon Borough Council on the production of the Plymouth and South West Devon Joint Local Plan. The working arrangements for the collaboration were also approved by the City Council, as set out in the Collaboration Agreement accompanying the report.
- 1.2 The key elements of the collaboration set out at that time were:
- The creation of a Joint Member Steering Group to oversee and guide the work on the Joint local Plan
 - Informal officer collaboration on the Joint Local Plan with each authority committing to make the necessary resources available, with the work on the plan being led by Plymouth City Council's Local Planning Manager.
 - Each authority sharing the costs of preparing the plan.
- 1.3 The City Council approved the Joint Local Plan for Publication and subsequent Submission to the Planning Inspectorate on 27th February 2017. Council also instructed officers to revise the Collaboration Agreement, to ensure that arrangements were put in place for delivery of the JLP post adoption.
- 1.4 The Joint Local Plan was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate on 31st July 2017, and the Examination in Public process commenced. During the Examination, the Planning Inspectors asked questions relating to the ongoing collaboration between the JLP Councils, and the reassurance that could be given that the Councils were committed to working together to deliver the JLP strategy and commitments. In response the Councils produced the Governance Topic Paper ([TP6](#)), which set out in detail the proposed ongoing governance arrangements. This Topic Paper was revised following the Hearings into the JLP which took place between January and March 2018, to reflect discussions with the Inspectors. The Revised Governance Topic Paper ([TP6\(Rev\)](#)) was submitted to the Inspectors in March 2018. Both of these versions of the Governance Topic Paper were approved by the Joint Local Plan Member Steering Group following consultation with the Leaders of the Councils.
- 1.5 Given that the JLP may soon be adopted by the Councils, it is timely to also formally approve the Governance arrangements that the three Councils will use to deliver the JLP. South Hams District Council and West Devon Borough Council will be asked to approve the arrangements at the Full Councils which adopt the JLP. In Plymouth, these matters have been delegated to the Audit and Governance Committee. The Governance Topic Paper has been slightly amended so that it reflects the latest position regarding the Joint Local Plan. It is appended to this Report so that Members can see the detail of the Governance Arrangements.

2.0 Summary of the Governance Arrangements

- 1.6 The Governance Topic Paper proposed the following Governance Arrangements for the delivery of the JLP:
- The Joint Local Plan Member Steering Group will be disbanded and replaced with a Joint Local Plan Partnership Board. This Partnership Board will be a more formal body than the existing Steering Group, with powers to review progress on the implementation of the JLP and engage with the individual Councils in addressing any delivery issues revealed by monitoring. The existing Member representation of the

Steering Group would remain for the Partnership Board – ie 2 senior Members from each Council.

- A Joint Local Plan Senior Management Team, comprising of senior managers from all three Councils to provide oversight and a strategic steer to officers working on the monitoring, delivery and review of the JLP. This joint management team is now operational.
- A new Joint Local Plan Team be created, responsible to all three Councils, and charged with the monitoring and review of the Joint Local Plan, maintaining the evidence base, and providing advice to the three Councils on strategic planning policy matters. This team was operational from August 2018 and is overseeing the final stages of the JLP Examination and adoption.

1.7 These arrangements are set out in more detail in the attached paper “Plymouth and South West Devon Joint Local Plan – Delivery and Governance”, which also sets out the scope of the Joint Local Plan Team, and the Terms of Reference of the Joint Local Plan Partnership Board.

1.8 The Paper also sets out how the Councils will address any delivery issues which are highlighted by monitoring of the Joint Local Plan up to the first review of the plan. In particular, the Paper sets out that monitoring of housing delivery will take place at the whole plan level, and explains how any issues that are identified by the Councils will be handled.