

## PLYMOUTH CITY COUNCIL

**Subject:** 'Refresh' of the Plymouth Plan  
**Committee:** City Council  
**Date:** 26 March 2019  
**Cabinet Member:** Councillor Coker  
**CMT Member:** Anthony Payne (Strategic Director for Place)  
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**Ref:**

**Key Decision:** Yes

**Part:** I

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### **Purpose of the report:**

The report seeks the formal adoption by Full Council of the second 'refresh' of the Plymouth Plan as part of the City Council's Policy Framework.

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 there would be a Part Two which would include area and site specific policies, enabling the Plymouth Plan to become also the statutory development plan. However, this intent changed once a decision was made in 2016 by the City Council to work with South Hams District Council and West Devon Borough Council on a Joint Local Plan (JLP) for Plymouth and South West Devon.

A first refresh of the Plan was approved by Full Council on 27 February 2017. This refresh anticipated a second refresh taking place at the time the JLP was to be adopted, enabling the Plymouth specific policies of the JLP to be knitted back into the Plymouth Plan.

The JLP was submitted for public examination in July 2017 and formal hearing sessions were conducted between January and March 2018. On receipt of the Inspectors Final Report, the JLP is able to move forward for formal adoption by the three councils.

The second refresh of the Plymouth Plan has incorporated the Plymouth policies of the JLP as well as taking into consideration new evidence/needs that have come to light, for example through the Plymouth Report and other assessments, whilst also responding to external influences such as Brexit and Government legislative changes.

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### **Corporate Plan**

A GROWING CITY – the JLP and Plymouth Plan have a strong focus on reinforcing and delivering Plymouth's radical growth agenda.

A CARING COUNCIL – the JLP and Plymouth Plan provide integrated policies and a framework for delivery of a healthy and caring city.

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

No new resource implications arise from this report.

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

The JLP and the Plymouth Plan provide 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.

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**Equality and Diversity**

Has an Equality Impact Assessment been undertaken? Yes

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**Recommendations and Reasons for recommended action:**

It is recommended that the Plymouth Plan Refresh be formally adopted as part of the City Council's Policy Framework.

REASON: To ensure that the Plymouth Plan is based on the most up to date evidence and policy frameworks, including the Plymouth and South West Devon Joint Local Plan.

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**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.

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**Published work / information:**

[Plymouth Plan Part One](#)  
[Plymouth Plan Refresh 2017](#)

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**Background papers:**

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

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**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 .212	Leg	LS/32 072/J P/Mar 19	Mon Off	AL T/3 050 8/0 6	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 On 11 September 2012 the Cabinet established a programme to develop, with city partners, a single integrated and long term strategic plan for the city. The Plymouth Plan was a hugely ambitious project, seeking to incorporate all existing and future strategic plans and strategies into a single plan, and so address the issues arising from a plethora of separate plans and strategies at the time, each operating to different agendas and timescales and often with different and sometimes conflicting visions and priorities for the city.
- 1.2 On 25 March 2014, after a period of extensive discussion and engagement with the local community on the development of the Plymouth Plan, Cabinet considered a further report which set out the relationship of the Plymouth Plan with legal requirements for each local planning authority to have a statutory development plan, particularly in light of the then recently published National Planning Policy Framework. This resulted in the identification of a two stage process for preparing the Plymouth Plan. Part One of the Plymouth Plan would be a strategic document for the city similar to that which was originally envisaged. Part Two was to be more like a traditional planning policy document, setting out site specific policies as well as a series of policies to guide planning applications. The two 'parts' would ultimately be united into a single Plymouth Plan following completion of the independent public examination that is required for all statutory development plans.
- 1.3 Part One was formally approved by Full Council on 21 September 2015. Since that time it has been used to drive the delivery of a healthy, growing and international city. However, the proposal to prepare Part Two was suspended when on 16 February 2016 Cabinet approved a proposal to work with South Hams and West Devon on a Joint Local Plan (JLP). The report identified that the City's vision for the Plymouth Plan as a single strategic plan would remain intact by incorporating Plymouth-specific parts of this JLP into the Plymouth Plan after the JLP has concluded its public examination stage.
- 1.4 On 27 February 2017, at an Extraordinary Meeting of Full Council, the Draft JLP was formally approved, enabling its consultation and subsequent submission for public examination.
- 1.5 Additionally on 27 February 2017, Full Council approved a first 'refresh' of the Plymouth Plan and resolved that subject to formal adoption of the JLP, the Plymouth specific policies be combined with the Plymouth Plan refresh to re-create a single integrated web based document. The resolutions on the JLP and Plymouth Plan were unanimously supported by those present at the Council meeting.
- 1.6 On 31 July 2017, the JLP was formally submitted for public examination by planning inspectors. The public hearings associated with the examination took place between 30 January and 22 March 2018, sitting for a total of ten days. The receipt of the Final Report of the inspectors enables the JLP to move forward to adoption (see separate report to this meeting of City Council).

## **2. The need for a Plymouth Plan 'refresh'**

- 2.1 As a minimum, in light of previous resolutions of City Council, there is a requirement to mesh the Plymouth-specific elements of the JLP with the Plymouth Plan in order to maintain the City's commitment to have a single integrated strategic plan for the city. In accordance with Minute 65.2 of Full Council, 27 February 2017, this is something that has been delegated to the Assistant Director (now Service Director) for Strategic Planning and Infrastructure, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Strategic Housing, Transport, and Planning (now Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Infrastructure).
- 2.2 However, three years on from adoption of the Plymouth Plan it was recognised that there would be significant advantage in undertaking a wider refresh and this is something that would have required the Plan to be referred back to Full Council for approval.

- 2.3 The refresh has provided the opportunity to ensure that the Plymouth Plan reflects the most current evidence and local and national policy directions, taking into consideration new evidence/needs that have come to light, for example through the Plymouth Report and other assessments, whilst also responding to external influences such as Brexit and Government legislative changes. However, it should be emphasised that this is not a full review of the Plymouth Plan and the strategic direction of the Plymouth Plan remains unaltered.

### 3. Summary of changes to the Plymouth Plan

3.1 The main changes covered as part of this refresh are as follows:

- a. Recognition throughout the Plan of the major new initiative for a **National Marine Park**.
- b. Review and strengthening of language around **inclusiveness** throughout the plan.
- c. Strengthening references to **Smart Cities and digital technology** throughout the plan.
- d. Refresh of the Introduction, particularly to explain the **relationship of the Plymouth Plan to the Plymouth and South West Devon Joint Local Plan** (Section 1).
- e. Updating and strengthening the Green City theme in the plan, to highlight the wider ambition of **carbon neutral city by 2050** and reflect the **growing role of technology** (Section 2).
- f. Wording clarifications to the articulation of the **Healthy City vision** (Section 3).
- g. Significant updates to Policy HEA1 (Addressing health inequalities, improving health literacy) and its narrative, to incorporate the **Five Ways to Wellbeing**, better recognise **life long impacts of adverse experiences and traumas**, incorporate the **Wellbeing Hubs** initiative and incorporate general updates on public health data and initiatives (Section 4).
- h. Clarifications and updates to Policy HEA2 (Delivering the best outcomes for children, young people and families) and its narrative, including more explicit recognition of **SEND** (children with special educational needs and disabilities) (Section 4).
- i. Update to Policy HEA4 (Playing an active role in the community) through recognition of the **Cities of Service programme** (Section 4).
- j. Update to Policy HEA8 (Meeting local housing needs) to be more responsive to **specific housing needs and tackling homelessness** (Section 4).
- k. Update to Strategic Objective 2 (Delivering a growing city), through including **creative/digital and defence** in the list of key sectors, and this is followed through to policies (Section 5).
- l. Updates to the economic strategy of the Plymouth Plan, including reflecting the latest regional and national initiatives around **productivity** (Section 4).
- m. Update to Policy GRO1 (Creating the conditions for economic growth), including to better reflect the **inclusive growth** agenda.
- n. Updates to the International City section of the plan in relation to the plan's ambition and approach to the **visitor economy**, responding to further work on the Visitor Plan (Section 6).
- o. Update to Policy INT4 (Delivering a distinctive, dynamic cultural centre of regional, national and international renown) to better reflect the emerging **cultural hub** geography (Section 6).
- p. Update to Policy INT8 (Celebrating diverse communities) to reflect the importance of **tackling hate crime** (Section 6).
- q. Inclusion of a revised Spatial Strategy section through appropriate links to the JLP (Section 7).
- r. A new Delivery and Monitoring section which sets out the proposed approach to **governance, and frameworks for delivery, communications, performance and risks / contingency planning** (Section 8).

#### **4. Next steps**

- 4.1 Once both the JLP and Plymouth Plan second refresh have been formally adopted, the web based interactive Plymouth Plan will be created on-line, providing a user-friendly digital expression of the City's single strategic plan. This will also support the active implementation of the Plan, and be supported by a delivery and performance framework through which local communities and all city partners will be able to play their part.