

## I. INTRODUCTION

The Labour Group was elected as the administration for Plymouth City Council at the local elections on 3 May 2018 and renewed that democratic mandate on 2 May 2019. Labour gained one seat in Peverell from the Conservatives and now make up 31 of the 57 councillors. Full results for each ward, along with turnout figures, are available on our [local election results](#) page.

The administration will continue with their four year programme to deliver against the 100 pledges from their 2018 manifesto for a better, greener and fairer Plymouth. Within the 2019 manifesto the Deputy Leader also highlighted a new set of priorities for the forthcoming year:

- **Building homes for Plymouth** - We will deliver 1,000 homes a year for the next five years. Truly affordable, to rent and to buy - the right homes in the right place for Plymouth people.
- **Caring for Plymouth's environment** - We will lead the battle against single-use plastics, put our new Plan for Trees into practice, and campaign to deliver a National Marine Park.
- **More and better jobs for Plymouth** - We will invest in developments like Langage, Oceansgate, Hearder Court and in the City Centre to bring well-paid, secure jobs to Plymouth.
- **Council Tax as low as possible** – We know Council Tax is an unfair tax that hits people on lower incomes hardest. That's why we will always keep any rises we are forced to make as low as possible.
- **Fair funding for our schools** - Plymouth schoolchildren are funded over £300 a head less than the national average. We will campaign for fair funding for nurseries, schools and colleges in Plymouth.

Pledges that relate to delivery against these priorities will be updated with a “Priority Pledge (Top 5)” annotation to identify their relevance to the above priorities.

The 100 Pledges and manifesto priorities continue to inform the development and delivery of the Corporate Plan and therefore have been adopted by the Council as part of the delivery of the Corporate Plan.

As at 11 June 2019, 47 pledges had been completed. There is a varied distribution of completed pledges across the themes, as shown in the table below. Work continues to deliver the remaining pledges and updates on completions are described in the ‘Pledge on a page’ template.

Manifesto Theme	Open	Complete	% Complete
Affordable Homes	3	6	67%
Children and Young People	6	4	40%
City Centre	3	1	25%
Fighting Poverty	5	1	17%
Greener, Cleaner City	4	7	64%
Health and Adult Social Care	4	6	60%
Jobs and Prosperity	8	3	27%
Keeping Plymouth on the Move	6	7	54%
Marine and Maritime	4	2	33%
Safer, Welcoming City	6	7	54%
Sport, Culture and Leisure	4	3	43%
<b>Total</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>47%</b>

This report provides an update on seven pledges completed over the period of April and May. Each completed pledge is presented on a single page, with the intention of compiling a booklet of all 100 when complete.

# FOR KEEPING PLYMOUTH ON THE MOVE

## Pledge 21 – Safeguard the airport land

**What we said we would do:** We have safeguarded the airport land in the local plan and we make a clear and unequivocal statement that we will continue to fight any attempts by developers to build on the runway.

**What we wanted to achieve:** Safeguard the airport land and continue to fight any attempts by developers to build on the runway.

**What we have done:** On 26 March 2019, Plymouth City Council formally adopted policies in the [Plymouth and South West Devon Joint Local Plan](#) and in the [Plymouth Plan](#), which safeguard the airport land from development. This followed the presentation of evidence to the Public Examination in March 2018 in support of the City Council policies and resisting alternative development proposals for the site.

Specifically, the policies seek to ensure that the quality and resilience of Plymouth and South West Devon's transport and digital connectivity to the rest of the country and to global markets will be protected and enhanced by safeguarding the opportunity for the potential future re-use of Plymouth Airport as a general aviation airport, whilst at the same time strengthening transport links to the airports in Exeter and Bristol. Provisions aimed at safeguarding the airport land include prohibiting any development at the airport site itself or on nearby sites that will prejudice the future resumption of aviation use, as well as preventing the removal of key airport infrastructure.

**What's next:** Looking into the future, aviation remains an important element of strategic connectivity. Although Plymouth Airport closed in 2011, the Joint Local Plan policies safeguard the opportunity for re-opening Plymouth Airport for general aviation uses until the next review of the plan when the site will receive a specific land use allocation. This time limit has been identified to provide sufficient time for a private sector-led business plan to be finalised and put into action to deliver aviation use at the site. The Joint Local Plan policies regarding the airport site will now be applied to any development proposals coming forward in the next five years on this land, or proposals on adjacent land that might prejudice the aviation uses at the site in this period.

### Find out more!

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

<http://plymouthnewsroom.co.uk/?s=Airport>



# FOR PLYMOUTH'S MARINE AND MARITIME ROLE

## Pledge 35 – Repair and re-open the Sutton Harbour footbridge

**What we said we would do:** The delay in re-opening the pedestrian footbridge at Sutton Harbour has caused real damage to our tourist economy. We will work with Sutton Harbour Holdings, who own the bridge, and the Environment Agency, who own the lock gates, to repair and re-open the foot bridge as soon as possible.

**What we wanted to achieve:** Work with Sutton Harbour Holdings, who own the bridge, and the Environment Agency, and re-open the foot bridge as soon as possible.

**What we have done:** While Plymouth City Council engineers coordinated the complex legal and engineering challenge of replacing the bearing to enable the bridge to work and to be re-opened as soon as possible, we installed a temporary walkway across the inner lock gates in the summer of 2018 to make it easier for people to get across the harbour and help support businesses which rely on this route. Around 30,000 people used the temporary walkway during the peak summer season. The Sutton Harbour lock footbridge reopened on Good Friday – 19 April 2019. Replacement of the one tonne bearing was successfully completed by a local company. The bearing acts like a turntable, with the inner ring attached to the underside of the footbridge, while the outer ring is attached to the foundation plinth.

Plymouth City Council commissioned the repairs, which involved coordinating a complex engineering project with a bespoke bearing manufactured in America after local engineering companies turned down the work. The repairs have been jointly funded by Plymouth City Council, Sutton Harbour Group and the Environment Agency, with all three organisations contributing more than £250,000. Plymouth Waterfront Partnership also contributed £10,000. Sutton Harbour Company also took the opportunity to re-paint the bridge before it was re-opened to the public.

The custom built pedestrian footbridge across Sutton Lock was fitted over 20 years ago as part of the installation of the Sutton Harbour lock gates. The lock gate's main function is to manage flood risk and allow marine traffic, such as fishing boats, to enter Sutton Harbour.

**What's next:** The lock footbridge will now be open to the public between 0600 – 2300, seven days a week, with the exception of Christmas Day when it will be closed. Operating times are dependent on waiting marine traffic, which will continue to take priority, as it did before.

### Find out more!

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

<http://plymouthnewsroom.co.uk/temporary-walkway-comes-to-end/>

<http://plymouthnewsroom.co.uk/bearing-good-news-good-friday-lock-footbridge/>



# FOR BETTER HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

## Pledge 5 I – Train Council staff in dementia awareness

**What we said we would do:** We will continue to train Council staff in dementia awareness and encourage other public bodies to do the same.

**What we wanted to achieve:** To continue to increase the number of Council staff who are Dementia Friends following a dementia awareness session, contributing to Plymouth becoming a Dementia Friendly City.

**What we have done:** Plymouth City Council pledged to become a Dementia Friendly City in 2013 and has been working together with the Plymouth Dementia Action Alliance to achieve this. To become a Dementia Friendly City we have been implementing the Alzheimer's Society's Dementia Friends programme, in which people are given an awareness raising session and commit to taking action to make it possible for people to live independently with dementia for as long as possible. In 2018/19 we trained an additional 75 members of staff in dementia awareness, including social care, environmental health, trading standards, taxi licensing and Community Connections.

**What's next:** We will continue to increase the number of staff who are Dementia Friends.

### Find out more!

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

<http://plymouthnewsroom.co.uk/dementia-action-week-21-27-may-2018/>



# FOR BETTER HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

## Pledge 55 – Publish an action plan to ease loneliness

**What we said we would do:** Loneliness is a growing problem, and its effects were highlighted by the late Jo Cox MP. Far too many people in Plymouth face life in isolation without human contact. We will work with charities, social care providers and others to publish an action plan to ease loneliness.

**What we wanted to achieve:** To ensure that loneliness is recognised as a problem that impacts on health and that a range of actions are in place with our partners to address loneliness.

**What we have done:** Plymouth City Council is working with local partners to tackle the growing issue of loneliness. We have published a Loneliness Action Plan, which has been developed following the Plymouth Wellbeing Survey that had 2,296 responses from residents, and consultation with a wide range of partners. Drawing from the National Government Strategy for Tackling Loneliness, the plan, which was published in October 2018, was signed off by Plymouth's Health and Wellbeing Board in March 2019.

The plan seeks to deliver a number of outcomes, such as raising awareness of loneliness, reducing stigma and helping people to be more connected. There is a range of work and activity underway. We launched the new pledge and action plan with local man Gordon Murdoch, a Merchant Navy Veteran, who uses the Elder Tree's Befriending Service. They plan to recruit 50 new Befriending volunteers.

The government's strategy was initiated in response to the Jo Cox Commission on Loneliness and highlights the health impacts of loneliness, including higher rates of depression and dementia, and an increased risk of high blood pressure, falls, more use of health services, and the need for long term care.

**What's next:** The Council will continue to work with a range of local organisations, such as the Elder Tree, as well as other charities and social care providers in an attempt to ease loneliness in the city. The Action Plan will be kept under review by the Wellbeing System Design Group, which is attended by a wide range of partners. The Elder Tree are also looking to recruit further volunteers for their befriending service.

### Find out more!

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

<http://plymouthnewsroom.co.uk/volunteer-help-people-like-gordon-tackle-loneliness-plymouth/>



# FOR BETTER HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

## Pledge 57 – Adopt the ‘safer places scheme’

**What we said we would do:** We will adopt the ‘safer places scheme’ that provides people with learning disabilities with a safe place to go if they feel anxious, or face verbal abuse, harassment or bullying.

**What we wanted to achieve:** An increase in the number of Safe Places across Plymouth and all of its neighbourhoods. To raise awareness of the scheme and to promote more with local businesses.

**What we have done:** We have increased the number of Safe Places and the Safe Places window sticker continues to appear across the city in shops, community centres, libraries, Plymouth Community Homes’ offices and businesses ranging from hairdressers to bakeries. In March 2019, the number of organisations signed up for the scheme – which is designed to help people with learning disabilities feel confident and safe when they are out and about in Plymouth – was 195, with 33 new places identified since the start of January 2019. We have made direct contact with all organisations signed up for the scheme to ensure that they are committed to continuing to provide this support to people with a learning disability.

**What’s next:** To continue to increase numbers of Safe Places across Plymouth, with a goal of developing a map of locations that people can see at a glance using the Plymouth Online directory and Plymouth’s Open to All website. By utilising the data that we gather, we will work closely with partners across the city to target our resources across our communities accordingly.

### Find out more!

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

<http://plymouthnewsroom.co.uk/yay-safe-places-adults-learning-disabilities/>





# FOR BETTER HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

## Pledge 58 – Provide more care in local communities

**What we said we would do:** The staff at Derriford Hospital and in our NHS do a superb job, but there is far too much demand and not enough of them. We will work with health partners to provide more care in local communities to help prevent admission to hospital. When someone has been in Derriford or Mount Gould we will seek to speed up their discharge and receive care in their own home or other care setting by working to integrate services better.

**What we wanted to achieve:** Work with health partners to provide more care in local communities to help prevent admissions to hospital and ensure that people return to their own homes.

**What we have done:** Plymouth has made good progress since the Local System Review in December 2017. The local Strategic Commissioning intentions were approved in July 2018, which set the direction for further improvements across the health and wellbeing system. Through whole system focused intervention, significant improvements have been achieved across Derriford Hospital in relation to both length of stay and delayed transfers of care. Despite pressures throughout winter, performance has remained relatively stable in these areas. This has been achieved by working with partners to ensure that the right resources are available to people in their own homes.

Our local improvements were recognised by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) when they undertook a review of our local action plan. The monitoring report noted the progress that had been made and agreed that as a result, no further CQC monitoring of the Plymouth system was required.

**What's next:** Through the delivery of the published commissioning intentions, over the next two years there will continue to be a focus on joined up services across the health and wellbeing landscape.

### Find out more!

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

<http://plymouthnewsroom.co.uk/new-service-launched-help-people-recover-home/>



# FOR BETTER HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

## Pledge 59 – Support oral health and hygiene

**What we said we would do:** It is a scandal that there are 8,000 people in Plymouth waiting for an NHS dentist. More than 20% of those waiting are children. We will continue to support the inclusion of oral health and hygiene in the child poverty action plan, and we will look to work with the Peninsula Dental School at Plymouth University, the Director of Public Health and dental professionals to provide more dental services in our city.

**What we wanted to achieve:** (1) Oral health improvement remains a priority in the city and this commitment is reflected by its inclusion in the revised Child Poverty Action Plan for 2019-22; and (2) additional dental services for both children and adults are made available in the city to reduce the dental waiting list.

**What we have done:** Oral health improvement will be included in the revised Child Poverty Action Plan for 2019-22 as a sub-group of the wider 'health' priority area. This has come about as a result of poor oral health being highlighted as an issue in the refreshed child poverty needs assessment, as well as the ongoing work to highlight this issue carried out by both the Portfolio Holder for Health and Adult Social Care and the Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People.

Discussions are taking place between the Council, the Dental School and NHS England with regards to the establishment of a new dental practice in the city centre. This new practice will be staffed by fifth year dental students (working under supervision) and when operational will significantly reduce the dental waiting list. A pilot project is also being established in the city to improve the oral health of children under two years of age. This multi-agency project will not only improve the oral health-related advice given to the parents of young children, it will also include putting contracts in place to secure improved access to dental services for those in greatest need. Funding has also been secured from NHS England to set up and maintain supervised teeth brushing clubs for children living in those areas of Devon with the greatest need. Brushing clubs are an evidence-based way to improve children's oral health in a short period of time and a number of new ones will be established in Plymouth.

**What's next:** We will continue to deliver oral health improvement initiatives targeting children and young people in greatest need and work with partners to ensure improved access to dental services in the city.

### Find out more!

Look out for our press releases about the Plymouth under twos scheme and the Devon-wide brushing clubs scheme, which you will find on Plymouth Newsroom in the next couple of months.

