HOW DO WE MAKE THE MOST OF OUR UNIQUE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT?

Plymouth Plan topic paper
Natural Environment
How do we make the most of our unique natural environment?

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What is this topic paper about?

How do we make the most of our unique natural environment?

This topic paper has been published as part of Plymouth Plan Connections. It is one of a series of topic papers that are being published to provide information and support ongoing discussions with local people and organisations about the future of the city.

The topic paper looks at how we can ensure that Plymouth’s unique natural environment plays a key role in delivering the city vision of a vibrant city where an outstanding quality of life is enjoyed by everyone.
Our approach to the natural environment

Traditionally the natural environment has been seen as something that must be protected as development happens rather than being valued as a great asset that can be used to catalyse and add value to growth. If the natural environment and all the benefits it can deliver are integrated, planned and delivered in parallel with the development of houses, employment facilities and other ‘grey infrastructure’ such as roads, it can play a full and substantial role in the future of an area. In the development of Plymouth we will ensure that the natural environment is fully considered and embedded as part of growth agenda to ensure we realise the maximum level of benefit for people, businesses and wildlife.

The Natural Environment White Paper of 2011 “The Natural Choice; Making Space for Nature” identified that a high quality natural network would have the following attributes:

- Support biodiversity and incorporate ecologically important areas, including special biodiversity.
- Be of adequate size to adapt to climate change.
- Receive long-term protection and appropriate management.
- Provide sufficient ecological connections between sites to enable species movements.
- Be valued and accessible to people including sites close to where they live.
Plymouth’s natural environment

Plymouth has one of the most unique and diverse natural environments of any city in the country. This provides an enviable setting and a distinctive collection of assets that can support the growth of the Plymouth. The city boasts a distinctive and world class waterfront location and over 40 per cent of the city is identified as green space. These spaces provide places to play, to learn, to relax and participate in sports. They also support businesses through the encouragement of inward investment and providing a high quality of life for workers. Green and blue spaces that are healthy and able to function naturally also provide solutions to climate change impacts, including reducing flooding, improving water quality and enabling wildlife to thrive.

Plymouth’s natural environment is very special. We have a number of iconic species in and around the city including the Plymouth Pear, ancient trees, 14 species of bat, peregrine falcon, cirl bunting, otters, seahorses, sea-grass, and common dolphin that together demonstrate the quality of the blue and green spaces that form an integral part of the city.

Plymouth’s natural environment includes a European Marine Site, three Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs), a World Heritage Site and Dartmoor National Park. Figure one shows the quantity and diversity of natural spaces within and around Plymouth that demonstrates the network of opportunities.

Within the city there are nine Sites of Special Scientific Interest, 10 Local Nature Reserves, 24 County Wildlife Sites and six Regionally Important Geological Sites. Figure 3 provides a look at all of the city natural environment designations.
Figure 1 - Plymouth’s Natural Networks
Plymouth’s natural network – the benefits

Plymouth’s Natural Network refers to the living networks of green spaces (including parks, nature reserves, woodlands and allotments) and blue spaces (including rivers, streams, the coast and sea). As natural networks do not conform to administrative boundaries, this paper will refer to spaces within and around the city which will require cross border cooperation.

High quality natural spaces, and the network of links between them, are essential in the delivery of ecosystem services that provide significant social, economic and environmental benefits. A high quality and properly functioning Natural Network could therefore provide the following:

Space for recreation and relaxation

It is well documented that time ‘in nature’ promotes recovery from stress and attention fatigue, and has positive effects on mood, concentration and self-discipline. Natural spaces also provide opportunities for increased social interactions and a focus for community activity that can improve people’s quality of life.

There is a key relationship between the quantity of accessible green space and population health; we know that people use green space much more when it is within a short walking distance. Increasing levels of obesity and common mental health disorders (depression and anxiety) are two of the biggest challenges we face. It is therefore more important than ever that people are encouraged to adopt healthy lifestyles to prevent illness and maximise health.

As Plymouth grows we must ensure that we provide high quality natural spaces that are accessible to everyone across the city to enable them to access the health and well-being benefits these spaces offer.

Playful spaces

The time children play outside during the week has halved in one generation. Roaming distances from home have shrunk by 90 per cent in 30 years and fewer than 1 in 10 kids regularly play in wild spaces. A major British Medical Journal study in 2013 found that only half of seven-year-old children in the UK achieve recommended levels of physical activity and in Plymouth childhood obesity (in Year 6) is 19.6 per cent. These figures show how vital it now is to provide high quality places to play that are near to where children live and that families are confident to enjoy and explore.
Engaging learning environments

There has been lots of research into the benefits of learning outside of the classroom. Ofsted has noted that ‘when planned and implemented well, learning outside the classroom contributed significantly to raising standards and improving pupils personal, social and emotional development’. The English Outdoor Council stated that ‘learning outside the classroom raises educational standards’. These learning experiences also provide young people with an opportunity to have contact with nature.

The design of our natural spaces therefore must incorporate features that allow them to become exciting and thought provoking learning environments where students can flourish.

Benefits to businesses

An attractive natural setting encourages inward investment and the relocation of businesses. Studies have shown that 95 per cent of real estate developers and consultants across Europe believe that open space adds value to commercial property. On average, developers would be willing to pay at least three per cent more for land in close proximity to open space, with some putting the premium as high as 15 to 20 per cent. These figures show that a high quality natural network will have an economic benefit. Due to Plymouth’s distinctive natural environment, this could be a unique selling point for city businesses.

Climate change support measures

- **Reducing flood risk and improving water quality** - Urban flooding costs £270 million a year in England and Wales and is an issue in Plymouth. ‘Sustainable Urban Drainage’ systems that make use of natural features such as green roofs, urban trees, ponds and swales are cost effective and successful ways of reducing the impact of increased rainfall events. Utilising natural water systems also improves water quality by intercepting and managing pollutants. As Britain’s Ocean City we need to ensure our water quality is high and utilising natural water networks needs to be a key part of the solution.

- **Heat island effect** - Temperature and humidity regulation of indoor and outdoor spaces is essential for human health and wellbeing. The ‘Urban Heat Island’ effect is caused by the large area of heat absorbing surfaces (buildings) that increase the ambient temperature. Urban trees are an effective way to reduce urban temperature. As urban parks are on average 1 degree cooler than built up areas during the day, incorporating these green features into the future development of Plymouth will help to mitigate some of the unavoidable impacts of climate change.
**Productive growing areas**

The benefits of providing food growing areas are numerous. They range from a link to increased consumption of fruit and vegetables to lower BMI. The benefits of social and therapeutic horticulture are well documented and include increased self-esteem and self-confidence, the development of literacy and numeracy skills, an increased sense of general well-being and the opportunity for social interaction and the development of independence. There is also a need to develop new growing areas as a result of the great demand from communities in Plymouth.

**Spaces for wildlife**

The UK National Ecosystem Assessment (NEA) published in June 2011 provides a comprehensive account of how the natural world, including its biodiversity, provides us with services that are critical to our wellbeing and economic prosperity. It reported that over 40 per cent of priority habitats and 30 per cent of priority species were declining. This has led to a challenge to halt this decline by 2020.

Plymouth has a diversity of habitats as shown in figure 1. These need to be protected and enhanced as part of a wildlife network that links across Plymouth and into the marine environment to the south and into the farming and upland habitats to the north. The city contains a wealth of rare and protected species that can thrive in these spaces if they are embedded and enhanced as the city grows.

A high quality natural environment will therefore provide these services for communities, businesses and visitors to the city. It is therefore vital that the strategic planning and enhancement of these Natural Network features is embedded as a key part of the growth of Plymouth.

**Are there other benefits that the natural environment provides that you think need to be highlighted?**
Key drivers for delivering the network

The ambitious growth agenda for the Plymouth area brings with it specific challenges on how existing natural spaces are managed, how future spaces are created and how we link them together. We also need to ensure we deliver our statutory requirements to protect designated habitats and features in and around the city.

There are also a number of key policy drivers that will shape the manner in which the natural environment will be embedded within and make a positive contribution towards the growth of Plymouth.

Natural environment white paper

The Government’s response to the Lawton report was the publication of the Natural Environment White Paper, The Natural Choice: Securing the Value of Nature, in 2011. This recognised that nature is a complex, interconnected system and that a healthy, properly functioning natural environment is the foundation of sustained economic growth, prospering communities and personal wellbeing. It recommended an integrated approach to improving this natural resource and set a national policy to actively improve biodiversity.

This policy is based on a report by Professor Lawton. The report concluded that if the rate of decline continued then this would impact not just on the wildlife but also on the general population which relies heavily on nature to provide the many services upon which it depends. He also highlighted the need for people to reconnect with nature.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

Published in 2012, the NPPF clearly sets out what Local Authorities should do to meet the requirements of the Natural Environment White Paper. The NPPF sets out the requirement to protect the natural environment including habitats and species and gives new powers to designate ‘Local Green Space’ which will be afforded the same protection as green belts. Most importantly the NPPF supports sustainable development which includes a move away from a net loss of biodiversity. Instead it advocates that development should achieve positive gains for nature and calls for integrated enhancements of the country’s natural infrastructure.

Economic growth

Plymouth is aspiring to be a waterfront City of European status and is now identified at Britain’s Ocean City. There are also many aspects of the City’s growth that are linked to the marine environment including City Deal. To achieve and deliver against these growth ambitions the City’s water environment and the environments surrounding the marine environment must be of the highest quality. The requirement for a healthy water environment is also enshrined in European legislation through the Bathing Water Directive and Water Framework Directive. These directives provide standards that the City must meet. A healthy, robust and high quality environment is therefore vital to the City’s prosperity.
Natural network benefits

As detailed above Plymouth’s natural environment provides significant opportunities to help meet the City vision and the manner in which Plymouth develops should ensure the maximum benefits and services are delivered for people and wildlife.

Highly protected sites and species

The quality of Plymouth’s natural environment means that many sites within and around the City are designated for their wildlife and/or landscape value both at a European, National and Local level. The many wildlife habitats in and around the City also support rare species that benefit from legal protection. This means that due care must be given to these sites and species as the City grows to ensure they are not negatively impacted and the development of Plymouth results in enhancements that benefit wildlife. Delivery of a robust Natural Network will ensure this requirement is met.
What are the opportunities for delivering a natural network for Plymouth?

The diversity and quantity of Plymouth’s natural environment provides a unique opportunity to embed the benefits it can deliver through every community in the City. To deliver this aspiration a strategically planned and delivered Natural Network is required. The alternative to a cohesive strategy that proactively embeds the natural environment within the growth of the City is to revert to a strategy of working to protect the natural environment from growth. The approach would not result in the multitude of benefits that have been outlined early in this paper and would not result in an enhancement to the natural environment across the City. Therefore we are proposing to go forward and embed the Natural Network into the Plymouth Plan as a proactive and positive approach to the natural environment as the City grows.

Do you agree with the proposed strategy of making enhancements to the natural environment a key element of the growth agenda?
Proposed method for planning and delivering a Natural Network for Plymouth.

This will lead to a number of network elements that come together to achieve an overarching Plymouth Natural Network. The components of that network will include the following:

**Community use and enjoyment**

**The Current Network:** There are currently more than 4,000 ha of formally identified greenspace across the city which accounts for 40 per cent of its area. Of this, 3,000 ha are accessible to communities. The size, use, and quality of these spaces vary and so we have categorised them into different types, and quantified how many hectares there currently are per 1,000 head of population.

The table on the next page provides the initial figures for quantity standard. These may be subject to change as more detailed work becomes available. Figure 2 show the distribution of different categories of natural space.
## Proposed Natural Network Categories and Criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Natural Network Sites</th>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Examples</th>
<th>Current number of hectares per 1000 population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Strategic sites**   | More than 50ha and deliver a range of natural spaces functions. They will act as hubs on the natural network. | • Saltram Community Park  
• Derriford Community Park  
• Plymouth Sound | 6.3 ha / ‘000 population |
| **City parks**        | More than 2ha and designed for public enjoyment. | • Devonport Park  
• Freedom Fields  
• Victoria Park | 2.2 ha / ‘000 population |
| **City natural spaces** | More than 10ha and designated due to quality of wildlife habitat or within the existing Biodiversity Network. | • Ham Woods Local Nature Reserve (LNR)  
• Radford Woods LNR  
• Bircham Valley LNR | 2.3 ha / ‘000 population |
| **City coastal spaces** | Natural space adjacent to the water that provides a physical or visual connection to the coast. | • Devil’s Point  
• Plymouth Hoe  
• Jennicliff | 0.3 ha / ‘000 population |
| **City sport sites**  | Greater than five pitches and contains community facilities. | • Staddiscombe  
• Central Park | Not currently assessed |
<p>| <strong>City play space</strong>   | Play space with other benefits such as community facilities. | • King George V Playing Fields | Not currently assessed |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Natural Network Sites</th>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Examples</th>
<th>Current number of hectares per 1000 population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City allotments</td>
<td>Provide community food growing space.</td>
<td>• Swarthmore</td>
<td>Not currently assessed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighbourhood parks</td>
<td>Less than 2ha and designed for public enjoyment.</td>
<td>• Patna Park</td>
<td>0.3 ha / ‘000 population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighbourhood natural spaces</td>
<td>Less than 10ha undesignated site and on the existing Biodiversity Network</td>
<td>• Compton Vale</td>
<td>0.3 ha / ‘000 population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighbourhood sports sites</td>
<td>Less than five pitches.</td>
<td>• Budshead Pitch</td>
<td>Not currently assessed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighbourhood play space</td>
<td>Only a play space.</td>
<td>• Paradise Road.</td>
<td>Not currently assessed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Quantity Standard for Plymouth (excluding sports, play and allotment sites)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>15.8 ha / ‘000 population</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What are the opportunities for delivering a natural network for Plymouth?
Improving the network as the city grows

Enhancing community access to high quality, accessible natural spaces is vital as the city grows. Improvements to the network need to be embedded as a key part of Plymouth’s development. To drive this improvement the following objectives are proposed to form part of the Plymouth Plan. These standards are proposals to be tested and refined as part of the consultation on this topic paper:

Maintain a Plymouth quantity standard of 15.8 ha of accessible natural network per 1000 people (excluding sports, play and allotment sites) – As the population of Plymouth is projected to rise to 300,000 over the plan period the following actions will need to be delivered to meet this challenge:

- Enable access to currently inaccessible green spaces
- Recognise the role that those greenspaces directly adjacent to the Plymouth city boundary play in delivering accessible space for communities. This could include the Plym Valley and Mount Edgcumbe

Enhance the quality of accessible natural spaces so they better meet the needs of communities – In order to make sure that the natural spaces are of high quality we will need to:

- Set local quality standards - These will be based on factors that are highlighted as most important to communities when they are using these spaces. This will come from the evidence collected when developing the Natural Network strategy but also through consultation events to inform the Plymouth Plan
- Require enhancements to natural spaces from new developments – This could either be delivered through improvements to greenspaces within the development or by providing contributions to other natural spaces to enable them to be enhanced
- Work with communities to enhance their local spaces – initiatives will be delivered which encourage communities to lead works to enhance their local spaces
- Work with partners – partnership approach to enhancements will be vital in achieving a significant improvement in natural space quality across the city.

Deliver natural space accessibility standards for Plymouth – To ensure people can easily and safely enjoy the benefits of natural spaces we will need to deliver accessibility standards specifically for Plymouth. These are based on data collected during the greenspace strategy preparation and utilising Natural England ANGST standards (Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards). The proposed standards are:

- All people to be able to access greenspace within 400m of where they live
- All people to be able to access play space within 600m of where they live
- All people to be able to access a strategic natural space within 2km where they live.
To achieve these standards we will need to:

- Work with communities and partners to remove physical and perceptual barriers to natural spaces.
- Recognise the role that natural spaces directly adjacent to the city boundary play in delivering accessible space for city communities. This could include the Plym Valley and Mount Edgcumbe.
- Open up currently inaccessible greenspaces – such as by creating a new community park at Derriford.

Ensure spaces that enable a physical and/or visual connection to the coast are protected – Many parts of the city do not have access to either to the waterfront or onto the water. As Britain’s Ocean City we need to ensure that the spaces that allow access to this fantastic resource are protected and that community use is enabled.

Develop a new model for managing natural spaces – The enhancement and management of natural spaces should not solely be driven by individual land owners such as the Council. They are community assets that should be looked after in a co-operative manner with communities and partners. A new approach to the management of natural spaces should:

- Enable communities to have involvement and ownership of their local spaces
- Enable cooperative working with partners from other sectors such as health
- Enable new funding streams to be directed towards natural spaces, including taking a more entrepreneurial approach to revenue generation providing it does not result in exclusion or inequality of use.

Identify and designate ‘Local Greenspace’ of value to local communities – The new planning system enables us to designate ‘local green spaces’ that are important to local communities. We need to work with communities to set out the parameters for identifying these sites and enable a process where communities can put forward their special places for designation.

Enhance the sports offer for the city – Many people in Plymouth are part of a club that uses sports facilities within green and blue spaces, or uses these spaces for recreation. The health and well-being benefits of these spaces are important and form an essential part of the Natural Network. To continue to raise the offer these spaces provide, the following need to be achieved:

- Work with communities, national sport governing bodies, clubs and partners to identify and deliver improvements to our existing playing pitches and sports fields;
- Investigate ways to work with other landowners and organisations to bring more sports sites into public use such as school playing fields;
- Support sports that utilise the water such as sailing, diving, kayaking, coasteering and ensure access to the water is available to everyone;
If all seven of these objectives are achieved as the city grows it will ensure that natural space plays a significant role in achieving an outstanding quality of life for all of Plymouth’s residents, workers and visitors.

Do you agree that delivering the seven objectives identified would result in a healthy natural environment that supports the City’s Vision? Do we need to do more?

Wildlife network

What we have now: There is already a biodiversity network across Plymouth. The purpose of the network is to enable wildlife to move across the city through features that act as buffering area, corridors or stepping stones. This will enable wildlife to cope with the unavoidable impacts of the climate change.
What are the opportunities for delivering a natural network for Plymouth?
Improving the network as the city grows: It is proposed to review and enhance this network in line with Professor Lawton’s principles outlined in his paper ‘Making Space for Nature’ (2010). This identified the need to do more, bigger, better and joined-up. The paper states:

‘It will not be possible to halt and reverse the collapse of England’s wildlife without a larger network comprising more areas rich in wildlife, bigger sites, better managed sites, and more inter-connected sites’

To halt a decline in biodiversity and ensure habitats are enhanced and species protected as Plymouth grows, the following objectives are proposed to form part of the Plymouth Plan:

Protect, improve and encourage the high quality management of our special wildlife sites and enable protected and rare species to thrive – The protection and enhancement of biodiversity needs to be delivered in a joined-up manner across the city with every development, project or landowner playing their part. To achieve this objective the following will need to be delivered:

- All new development projects will need to deliver a net gain for wildlife through – minimising impacts, mitigating and/or compensating for unavoidable impacts and providing an enhancement to the wildlife value.
- All landowners of designated sites will be encouraged to deliver management that will maintain and improve the wildlife value.

Identify and protect the functions of a wildlife network that crosses the city and links to the countryside and coast beyond the Plymouth boundary - A cross-city wildlife network is vital in enabling species to move and thrive. To achieve this objective the following will need to be delivered:

- Identify and protect the function of a wildlife network that incorporates Lawton principles by identifying key hub sites, corridor functions and sites that act as stepping stones
- Identify sites where wildlife value could be enhanced within the network
- Work with communities and partners within and around the city to make the network a success.

Increase the community’s ability to access and engage with sites of high wildlife value – The benefits of having ‘time in nature’ are well documented - the benefits of a functional and healthy wildlife network are as important for people as they are for wildlife. To enable this objective to be achieved the following will need to be delivered:

- 1ha of Local Nature Reserve (LNR) will be designated for every 1000 people in Plymouth
- Continue to deliver the Stepping Stones to Nature approach for engaging people with the natural environment jointly with communities and partners.
Identify and enhance key trees within the Natural Network that have intrinsic value to the city – City trees have a role to play in controlling our temperatures whilst ancient and veteran trees are of environmental and social value. Many of our most valuable trees will be within sites already identified for their wildlife value and in these locations the role of key trees will be identified. There will however be key trees that are situated in areas of public realm or different locations such as along roads that play an important role for the city and these must be valued as part of the network.

Do you think the measures identified above will protect and enhance wildlife as the city grows? Are there other objectives we should be embedding in the Plymouth Plan?

Landscape network

What we have now: Plymouth is very fortunate to be set within a very high quality landscape. It is surrounded by three Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), adjacent to Dartmoor National Park and has Plymouth Sound on its doorstep. There are many places within the city where these spectacular landscapes can be viewed and many places where Plymouth can be viewed from these landscapes.

Improving the network as the city grows: As the city grows, it is vital to take account of these important landscapes that are on the city’s boundary and ensure that the physical and visual connections with these landscapes are protected and valued. To ensure this is achieved the following objectives are proposed to form part of the Plymouth Plan:

Protect and enhance key landscape areas and views that define the city – Key views that enable a connection to the sea or surrounding landscape and help to define what makes Plymouth special need to be preserved and enhanced. Some of the landscapes that buffer the edge of the city are of such intrinsic value that they must be protected. To enable this objective to be achieved the following will need to be delivered:

- Identify, protect and enhance key landscape areas on the border of Plymouth working with adjacent authorities
- Identify, protect and enhance key views that help define the setting and context of Plymouth
- Utilise development opportunities and regeneration projects to open up views that have been previously lost or disguised.

Utilise growth to enhance the relationship between the city and the surrounding landscapes - At the boundary of the city there are opportunities to deliver change that could finish the edge and provide a better transitional area between countryside and city. This would improve the relationship between the landscape and the urban form. To enable this objective to be achieved the following will need to be delivered:
Work with partners, communities and adjacent authorities to identify areas where the city connects with the surrounding landscape poorly and where it could benefit from the introduction of a transitional area from urban form to wider countryside;

- Develop clear guidelines jointly with adjacent authorities on the scale and design of any project coming forward in those areas to ensure the change is a positive one.

**Do you agree with the proposed landscape network? Will it help enhance key views and improve the relationship between the city and the surrounding landscape?**

**Water network**

Plymouth’s coastal location means that the city is closely connected to the water. As Britain’s Ocean City our water quality must be high to encourage use of this city asset for economic, social and environmental benefits. The coastal position and the many watercourses that criss-cross the city mean that the city has a level of flood risk that must be managed. Detail on these subjects can be found in topic papers that specifically cover ‘Water Resources’ and ‘Flood Risk’. It is recommended that you read these papers in parallel to the Plymouth Natural Network paper to get a full picture of the water network needs and opportunities for Plymouth. In summary for the water network the following objectives are proposed to form part of the Plymouth Plan:

- Ensure Plymouth achieves excellent environmental water quality to encourage the use of its greatest asset
- Ensure that Plymouth’s drinking water supply is robust and quality is excellent as the city grows
- Sustainably manage Plymouth’s water catchment to reduce flooding and increase the quality of our rivers and streams
- Ensure the city is resilient to the unavoidable impacts of climate change including an increased number of storms and sea level rise.

**Do the objectives above go far enough to ensure the city is more resilient to flooding? Are we setting a high enough aspiration for our water network, especially as we are Britain’s Ocean City?**
How will the network be delivered?

A cross-border, cooperative approach to delivery will be required to make the Natural Network a success. The Plymouth Area Local Nature Partnership (LNP) has been involved in drafting and approving this topic paper to inform policies in the Plymouth Plan. The LNP provides the single voice for the natural environment in and around Plymouth and is made up of senior decision-makers of key agencies and organisations.

The Plymouth Local Nature Partnership consists of:

- Plymouth City Council
- South Hams District Council
- West Devon Borough Council
- South West Water
- Plymouth University Marine Institute
- Devon Wildlife Trust
- Environment Agency
- Dartmoor National Park
- Natural England

It is proposed that the LNP will drive forward the embedding and successful delivery of the network within Plymouth and across its boarders working with communities and other sectors such as health and economy.

Should we be highlighting other deliver mechanism to help us deliver the Plymouth Natural Network? What other delivery mechanisms are there?
What happens next?

Over the summer, consultation on this and other topic papers will take place to gain views from communities, partners and businesses on the proposed strategies to be included in the Plymouth Plan.

In relation to the proposal to embed a Natural Network for Plymouth within the Plymouth Plan there will be opportunities to comment over the whole of the Plymouth Plan consultation period.

The responses received will help to inform and refine the final strategy that will be embedded within the strategic level Plymouth Plan later this year. Once this high level document that contains the principles for delivering growth in Plymouth has been completed, work will commence on more detailed, site-specific work that will inform the ‘Local Plan’ element of the Plymouth Plan. Further consultation will happen on this more detailed in 2015.

Any comments received on this topic paper will be considered in the preparation of the Plymouth Plan. You can make comments at www.plymouth.gov.uk/PlymouthPlan or by email plymouthplan@plymouth.gov.uk. Alternatively, please post your comments to:

Strategic Planning & Infrastructure Department
Plymouth City Council
Ballard House
West Hoe Road
Plymouth
PL1 3BJ

The closing date for consultation responses is 25 October 2014.

You can also find out more about natural environment work and events happening in Plymouth by going to our Facebook page ‘SteppingStones Plymouth’ or by following us on Twitter @NaturePlymouth.
References


