

ADEPT President's Awards 2026

Entry form

Award category

Shaping Places for People

Project Title

Plymouth Plan for Nature and People

Local authority

Plymouth City Council

Headline summary (150 characters max.)

A co-designed, citywide plan creating inclusive, nature-rich places, and improving health, wellbeing, and resilience across Plymouth.

Video - please paste links to any video evidence here. (Leave blank if not relevant.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UCgmk5FaM70>

<https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/plymouth-plan-nature-and-people>

Shaping Places for People: How was this project an innovative response to a significant local challenge? (150 words max.)

1. Plymouth faces challenges of biodiversity loss, climate risk, and health inequality. To progress towards addressing these challenges, we have created a Plan for Nature and People, which will see Plymouth's nature and communities thrive. In creating this Plan, we moved residents from consultees to co-designers, guided by live demographic monitoring that redirected outreach weekly to ensure representation across ages and neighbourhoods. We formed a cross-sector Steering Group (planning, Public Health, businesses, community leaders), to embed the Plan across services, then translated "you said, we did" changes into a Delivery Programme with clear measures, accountability, cross-sector/community governance, and regular reporting. This innovative approach extends to on the ground delivery: community co-designed SuDS on priority streets, blended digital/offline volunteering pathways, and school/youth workshops to ensure youth representation. Together, these are the basis of a strategy at which people are at the heart, making it both inclusive and resilient by design.

Shaping Places for People: Please give evidence of the quality of outcomes obtained from the project (for example improved/more efficient services, increased inclusivity for residents, futureproofing the service). (150 words max.)

2. Public consultation shows 76.2% of responders support the Plan; 88.1% understand its aims; 75.2% feel it reflects the urgency of climate and nature; 76.2% find the vision clear and achievable. 12.5% of respondents were children/young people after targeted outreach, improving inclusivity. Engagement feedback strengthened and directly informed delivery: commitments to tree equity and aftercare, accessible nature routes (including coastal "anchor points"), expanded school-based programmes, a Delivery Programme with measures of success, and clearer governance and reporting. Residents also signalled willingness to act (56.3% Yes; 28% Maybe), enabling co-stewardship roles and volunteering pathways that bolster health, skills, and confidence. Separately, 92% rated our frontline engagement positively, with testimonials praising consistent presence and action. In relation to committed delivery outcomes from the Plan, they will be measurable, shared transparently, and the Council will be held accountable by a multidisciplinary Steering Group.

Shaping Places for People: Please give evidence of the level of collaboration between place and people services (both within the council and with external partners/providers). (150 words max.)

max.)

3. Collaboration is at the heart of the Plan. A multidisciplinary Steering Group, spanning planning, Public Health, businesses, and community influencers, provided oversight and ensured the Plan is embedded across services. Similarly, a cross-departmental authoring group wrote the Plan together, to ensure a collaborative representation of people and services. Council-wide webinars invited staff from all departments to shape content and identify how actions fit their delivery objectives, strengthening internal 'place and people' integration. On the ground, frontline officers partnered with neighbourhood teams (health connectors, community builders, youth workers), to cohost events, share signposting, and reduce duplication, expanding reach into seldom heard groups. Schools, charities, and local businesses participated in focus groups and targeted outreach, while alignment with the Net Zero Action Plan and emerging Climate Adaptation Plan connected environmental outcomes to wider health and service goals. This is a whole system approach that turns collaboration into day-to-day practice.

Shaping Places for People: Please give evidence of the level of buy-in to the project or its goals from members of the local community, health and social care, and external organisations. (150 words max.)

4. Community and partner buy in is strong and growing. Public consultation found 76.2% support the Plan and 88.1% understand its aims; 56.3% said they would get involved (28% maybe), converting into delivery actions for a blended volunteering offer. The Steering Group was expanded to include broader community representation and demographic diversity, signalling shared ownership and formal routes to influence delivery. Schools and youth groups contributed directly (lifting participation by children/young people to 12.5%), while partners such as cultural organisations and access providers shaped actions on inclusive routes and creative nature connection. Testimonials report appreciation for officers "showing up every week" and "bringing nature into our everyday," underscoring trust and legitimacy. Together, these indicators show residents, services and external organisations actively backing the Plan's goals, and committing to help deliver them.

Shaping Places for People: Please give evidence of the use or consideration of new sources of investment to fund projects. (150 words max.)

5. The Plan is designed to be financially resilient and investable. 62% of Plymouth's environmental planning programmes are already funded through external grants, demonstrating a strong track record of mobilising noncore funding. We are also establishing Ocean City Nature as a habitat banking vehicle to attract, align, and deploy sustainable investment toward community action. This will create a clearer route for philanthropic, corporate and grant funding to back inclusive, people-centred nature projects. The Delivery Programme's transparency (measures of success, governance, reporting) and the Plan's alignment with climate and health priorities strengthen funding cases, while community codesign strengthens sustainability by building local stewardship from day one. In short: we've combined external income, a new vehicle for investment, and a robust delivery framework to futureproof financing and scale impact.

All categories: please add anything else that supports your award entry

6. This is frontline public service at its best: officers who show up, listen, adapt, and act, turning priorities into projects and residents into co-stewards. The Plan ensures sustainability and achievement through an expanded Steering Group, transparent monitoring, and regular public reporting; it integrates with planning and climate strategies to sustain impact beyond political cycles; and it centres equity through nurturing accessible participation routes, tree equity, youth voice, and inclusive volunteering. Most

importantly, it's a replicable model that any place can adopt to improve community wellbeing and citywide resilience while restoring nature. It sets a benchmark for people first placemaking that others can follow.