



DRIVING **GROWTH IN**









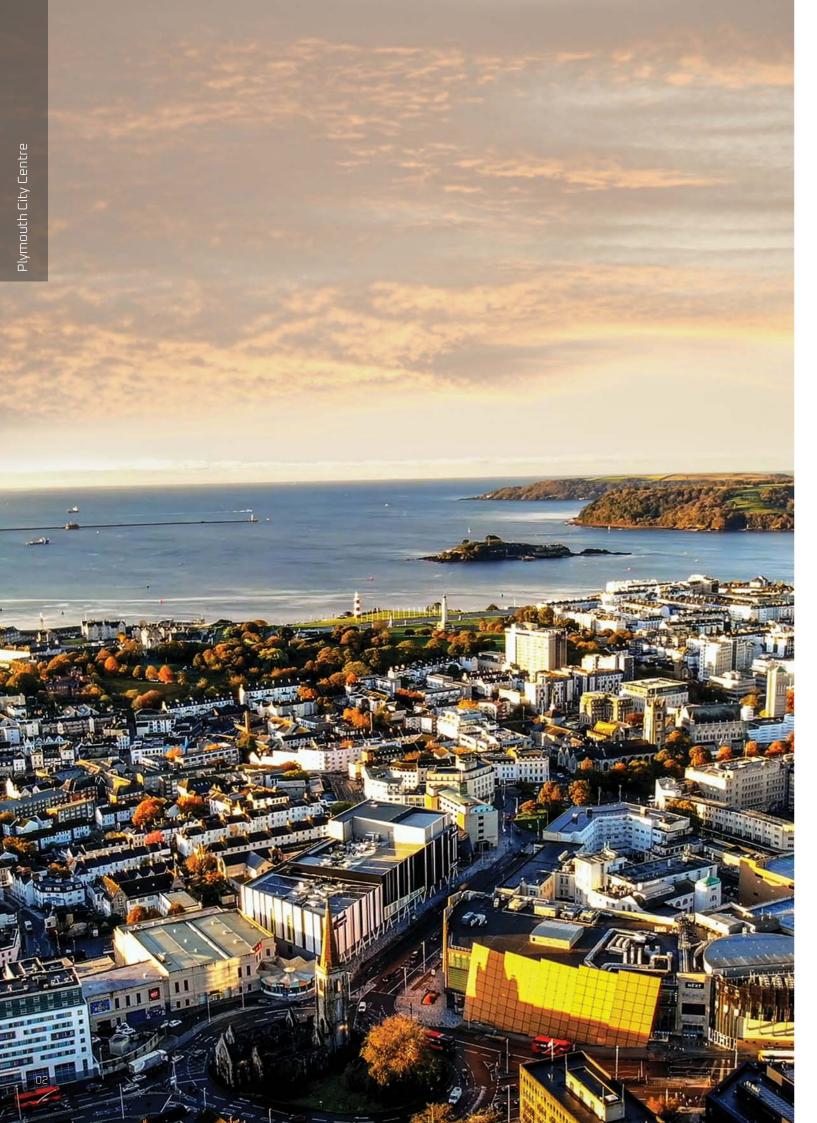




For further information, please contact us

invest@plymouth.gov.uk InvestPlymouth.co.uk

Economic Development, Plymouth City Council, Ballard House, Plymouth, 2025 - 2026





Introduction

from Councillor Tudor Evans OBE, Leader, Plymouth City Council and Richard Stevens MBE, Growth Board Chair

Historic, vibrant and ambitious.

Plymouth City Council and Devon and Plymouth Chamber of Commerce are proud of our long-term Strategic Economic Partnership, delivering growth for the city through the Plymouth Growth Board.

A vibrant waterfront city with a £6.97bn economy supporting 116,000 jobs, Plymouth is the largest urban area in the South West Peninsula. Home to over 268,700 people, the city aims to reach a population of 300,000 by 2034.

With a history of delivering significant economic development, Plymouth boasts a £900m investment track record and a projected £6bn pipeline over the next decade. This commitment to growth is evident in ongoing regeneration, large-scale projects, and initiatives focused on improving residents' lives.

Plymouth offers a unique blend of assets: three universities, world-leading research institutions, Western Europe's largest naval base, the South West's only Freeport, the award-winning museum and art gallery The Box, Theatre Royal and the UK's first National Marine Park. A cultural hub, the city hosts a vibrant calendar of events, from acclaimed theatre productions to world-renowned festivals. Plymouth is the West Country's economic powerhouse and a great place to live, work and study.

A key player in the UK's defence industry, the city is home to the nation's nuclear submarines and a cluster of defence and marine autonomy businesses. Plymouth also boasts a strong manufacturing sector, with household names like Princess Yachts, Burts Crisps, and Vispring Mattresses.

Plymouth's educational landscape is equally impressive, featuring University of Plymouth with its renowned research in marine, cyber security, and marine autonomy; Plymouth Arts University, a creative force for over 165 years; and Plymouth Marjon University, specialising in education, sport, health, performing arts, and business.

Launched in 2024, Plymouth's new Economic Strategy charts a course for productive, inclusive and sustainable growth, capitalising on the city's unique strengths to ensure a high quality of life for all. With a new Port Strategy and Cultural Strategy for 2025, an exciting future lies ahead.

Why Plymouth

Britain's Ocean City is a confident and growing city, undergoing a cultural revolution, with strengths across business sectors

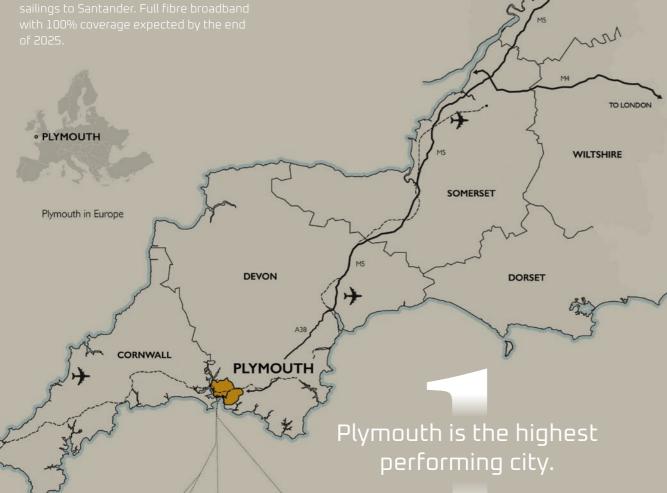
Connected:

Two hours by road and rail from Bristol. A central train station - a short walk from the city centre - with an average of 24 daily services between Plymouth and London, taking just over 3 hours. Three international airports within a one to two-hour drive. Daily ferry sailings to Roscoff and weekly sailings to Santander. Full fibre broadband with 100% coverage expected by the end of 2025.

Ambitious:

to reach 300,000 residents by 2034. With an agreed £4.4bn investment in defence at HM Devonport Naval Base requiring at least an additional 5,500 recruits at Babcock over the next 10 years, plus 2,000 additional construction jobs.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE



The Demos-PwC Good Growth for Cities Index 2024

Transformation:

The city continues to transform and grow, breathing new life into old buildings and re-imagining the city centre with large-scale improvements underway at the University of Plymouth, Guildhall and railway station. Ongoing and completed foundation projects include The Box, Oceansgate and Royal William Yard. These set the scene for future and ongoing transformational projects for Plymouth Sound National Marine Park and the iconic Tinside Lido.

Freeport Opportunity:

Plymouth and South Devon Freeport is the only one on the South West Peninsula. Offering businesses incentives including tax and customs breaks, business rates relief, stamp duty land tax relief and 100 per cent enhanced capital allowance among others.

Premises:

A diverse mix of high-quality business premises including city centre, Science Park and Freeport sites. On average, business premises are 35 per cent cheaper in Plymouth than in the Southeast, with the highest concentration of manufacturing and engineering employment in the whole of the south of England.

Skilled and Adaptable:

Three award-winning universities plus an expanding City College dedicated to growing and developing a talented business-focused workforce. Future skillset for growth lies in construction, green/blue technology, digital technologies, health care, marine and civil engineering, with 5,500 new roles linked to the investment in the HM Devonport Naval Base.

Affordable Housing:

Average house price is now £240,402, nearly seven times the average salary, in contrast to London being 16 times the average salary. Plymouth plans to build at least 10,000 new homes.

Good Company:

Home to world-renowned businesses, such as Babcock International, Becton Dickinson (BD), Burts Snacks Ltd, Plessey, Fine Tubes (Ametek), Kawasaki Precision Machinery, Plymouth Gin, Princess Yachts International, Thales, Rittal CSM, Mars Wrigley, Twofour Group and The Range.

Quality of Life:

Few cities can rival such a rich maritime heritage and stunning waterfront. Home to the UK's first National Marine Park and sandwiched between Cornwall and Dartmoor, one of Britain's finest National Parks. One of the greenest cities in the UK, with 40 per cent of the city being green space.

Culture:

There's a thriving cultural scene supported by a growing digital and creative sector. Theatre Royal Plymouth, one of the largest and bestattended regional theatres in the UK, The Box serves as a major cultural hub with exhibitions and events. The city is also home to Europe's first-of-its-kind immersive dome at the Market Hall, providing unique experiences that blend art and technology. Festivals like Seafest celebrate maritime heritage, there's a lively music and performance programme.

Green and Innovation:

Plymouth is driving the global move towards autonomous and sustainable marine vessels, projected to be worth £103bn globally by 2030. The innovative Smart Sound, a real-world testbed for marine autonomy and environmental monitoring, demonstrates Plymouth's commitment. From renewable energy and marine conservation to sustainable tourism and green construction, Plymouth offers diverse investment opportunities, fostering growth and contributing to a greener world future.

Driving Growth in Plymouth

- New Economic Strategy endorsed by city partners and Plymouth City Council, setting the scene for the next 3 years.
- Plymouth became a Homes England Priority Place for city centre housing and regeneration.
- A new strategic partnership, Growth Alliance Plymouth is a new strategic partnership between Plymouth City Council, Babcock International Group and the Royal Navy. The Alliance was established to drive long term growth linked to Ministry of Defence investment.
- A £4.4bn investment in defence at HM Devonport Naval Base.
- £130m New Hospital Programme funding announced for a new Emergency Care Building at Derriford Hospital.



Focused, Ambitious and Uniquely Plymouth

Vision:

To be one of Europe's most vibrant waterfront cities where an outstanding quality of life is enjoyed by everyone.

Plymouth's Economic Strategy prioritises sustainable and inclusive growth, focusing on high-value jobs and sectors including defence, marine, and manufacturing while supporting emerging sectors including digital and creative industries. The city has four interlinking pillars to focus on, with skills as a cross cutting theme:



Productive Growth and High-Value Jobs

Increasing productivity and wages by leveraging strengths in key sectors like marine, defence, advanced manufacturing, health and health technology, and creative and immersive digital industries.



Inclusive Growth

Growing a prosperous economy that reduces inequality, is sustainable, and truly services the wellbeing of local people means ensuring that jobs are accessible.



Sustainable Growth

Prioritising environmental sustainability by attracting green investments, supporting businesses in transitioning to net-zero emissions, decarbonising the economy, and promoting restorative actions.



Civic Pride and Regeneration

Enhancing Plymouth's image, cultural vibrancy, and attractiveness as a place to live, work, and visit through investments in culture, leisure, city centre revitalisation and regeneration projects.

Skills



Skills



In Good Company

Plymouth is brimming with innovation and opportunity, attracting more than its fair share of pioneering businesses. The city offers a collaborative business environment, a strong network fostering creativity and attracting – and growing – remarkable talent.

Defence

Home to the largest naval base in Western Europe, Plymouth is a critical hub for naval operations, shipbuilding, and defence technology. This focus creates a ripple effect across related industries, generating high-skilled jobs and attracting further investment in housing, education and transportation.

Advanced Manufacturing

With the highest concentration of manufacturing employment on the south coast of Britain and a focus on automation, robotics, and process engineering.

Medical, Health and Life Sciences

Leveraging expertise in marine science and technology, Plymouth is a hub for medical research, clinical trials, and digital health solutions. The city is investing in research facilities, attracting medical professionals, and fostering collaboration between academia and industry. Home to the largest specialist teaching hospital on the South West peninsula and over 7,000 students enrolled in the medical, health and life science courses.

Marine Autonomy

A global centre of excellence for marine science and technology, with one of the largest clusters of expertise in the world and over 7,100 skilled people in marine manufacturing. Blue tech/marine sector accounts for 21 per cent of the national employment in this field, and 11.3 per cent of the city's total employment. Global research partners include Plymouth Marine Laboratory, Marine Biological Association, University of Plymouth and the Continuous Plankton Recorder (CPR) Survey.

Floating Offshore Wind

With wharfs, docks and marina facilities all sheltered by the natural harbour of Plymouth Sound, plus two breakwaters, Plymouth is ideally positioned to offer the most comprehensive shore-side marine offering in the South West. This creates manufacturing, engineering, and operations jobs, boosting the local economy, leading to green job opportunities.



Creative Industries

A growing, vibrant hub for the creative industries, with a focus on creative and digital media, audio-visual, design TV and film production, visual arts, music technology and games development.

90





Plymouth: Defence Powerhouse

Home to HM Naval Base Devonport - the largest Naval Base in Western Europe - and the daily workplace for 13,000 people, creating 14 per cent of the city's economic output.

HMNB Devonport is a vital component of the nation's Continuous At Sea Deterrent (CASD) chain. It is the only site in the UK capable of delivering the deep maintenance required by the Royal Navy's CASD submarine fleet.

In 2024 Growth Alliance Plymouth (GAP) was established. A city-wide partnership uniting Plymouth City Council, Babcock International Group (Babcock) and the MOD/Royal Navy, supporting the future growth of the city.

Defence by Numbers

- Babcock the dockyard site owner and operator - sustains approx.
 £511m local supply chain spend per annum, across 400 businesses
- HMNB Devonport and Devonport
 Dockyard are the largest land users in
 the city, with a 650-acre site, 4 miles
 of docks, 15 dry docks and 25 tidal
 berths.
- HMNB Devonport requires an additional 5,500 new recruits at Babcock over the next 10 years, plus 2,000 additional construction jobs.

Beyond these impressive figures, HMNB Devonport is driving a surge in high-value defence jobs, in specialist fields like engineering and technology attracting a highly skilled workforce and enabling innovation in cutting-edge technologies.

Plymouth boasts world-renowned defence research capabilities, pioneering technologies, and private sector businesses. Its unique location provides access for marine innovation in Smart Sound Plymouth, alongside lab facilities at South Yard and Turnchapels Wharf.

The defence sector's impact extends beyond the base, creating a robust supply chain that supports local businesses and drives development in infrastructure and housing.

Plymouth is a city with a proud naval history and a forward-looking defence powerhouse, shaping the nation's future.

Plymouth and South Devon (PASD) Freeport

One of just twelve Freeports in the UK and the only one within the South West, the Freeport offers tax benefits to 2031, a range of customs benefits, skills, innovation and net zero support. Working with councils in Devon and South Hams, the main focus of the PASD Freeport is on attracting new and high growth businesses to the area in the target sectors of marine, defence, space, advanced manufacturing, engineering and net zero tech.

The Freeport is:

- Helping businesses to grow across three sites at South Yard, Langage and Sherford.
- Home to Langage Green Hydrogen Hub, an industry leading project, that will use renewable energy to produce 100 per cent green hydrogen fuel for industry, transport and heating. A major milestone in the UK's transition to a low-carbon economy.
- Nurturing innovation with new units at Oceansgate forming part of the wider Freeport innovation hotbed which includes access to Smart Sound, the universities of Plymouth and Exeter, Plymouth Marine Laboratory and more.
- Demonstrating the opportunities available to business Babcock have invested in the Freeport and partnered with Supacat to build the Jackal for the British Army, developing an underutilised building in South Yard and a skills programme. This contract has led to creation of over 100 jobs, including eleven local people being helped from unemployment to positions in the Jackal production operation. 50 per cent of the supply chain is sourced from South West companies.
- Receiving £25m investment from Government for seed capital projects and over £31m match funding from local councils and the private sector.
- Forecasting over 3,500 jobs being delivered.

pasdfreeport.com



Langage, Beaumont Way

Started on site December 2024, this 50,000 sqft high-quality sustainable employment scheme is due for completion by December 2025, supporting 140 jobs.



Innovation Barns

£6.5m project at Oceansgate, and part of the PASD Freeport, will provide 1,800 sqft of light industrial units and create 49 jobs. Freeport tax benefits and incentives for businesses.





Plymouth Science Park

Plymouth Science Park is a world-class centre of excellence for ground-breaking research, business and laboratory innovation. A vibrant and thriving community of innovators, with a global reach.

An impressive 25-acre campus, the park is the region's largest science and technology centre, hosting 74 businesses and over 1,000 high-value jobs in the digital economy, health technology, defence, and engineering sectors.

Home to international businesses, start-ups and academics and a hub for inspirational health tech, advanced engineering, marine and technological advancements, the Science Park continues to develop new assets, including clean room facilities and high-tech metal 3D printers.

The Science Park is located in a cluster of healthcare assets including the University of Plymouth Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry and Derriford Hospital, a major teaching hospital linked to the University of Plymouth. The hospital is a leading light in research and innovation, offering opportunities for medical advancements and involvement in clinical trials.

plymouthsciencepark.com



Global Investments into Plymouth

Plymouth based companies continue to attract millions of pounds of foreign investment creating and securing quality jobs, with more investments on the horizon.

Over the last five years, £332m worth of foreign investment, mainly from American parent companies, came to city businesses across 33 projects, securing 1,460 new jobs.

The future foreign investment pipeline includes 23 projects worth £5m and the creation of 8,000 jobs, 3,500 of these are high-value graduate jobs, of which 74 per cent will come from the marine sector.

These large investments, made by global companies, are built on the

ambition of Plymouth's plans and the economic uplift driven by the increased growth in defence, knowledge, skills and technology industries.

Recent major investments in the city have included:

Meta/Plessey £120m (US FDI)

Amazon £10m (US FDI)

Barden £8m (German FDI)

Becton Dickinson £70m + (US FDI)

Inclusive Economic Success

Employers can be integral to thriving communities when work is accessible and household incomes cover living costs. Their presence and influence creates aspirations for education, good health, social networks and environmental responsibility.

A targeted focus puts resources into the geographic areas and groups which are most disadvantaged in the economy.

At the heart of these efforts are businesses who are supporting skills development and accessibility of jobs either individually or through strong collectives.

The work of our business champions is supported and amplified by the Skills and Inclusive Growth teams, working with professionals; overcoming barriers to learning and working.

Good growth models create incentives.
These include social value procurement and competitive employment terms.
Training programmes also play a key role.
Awareness grows through community support and business engagement.

17

Delivering increased prosperity through sustainable and inclusive growth.

Civic

£60m project directly delivered by Plymouth City Council. £16.5m grant funding secured to deliver 144 new homes and a blue/ green skills hub for City College Plymouth.

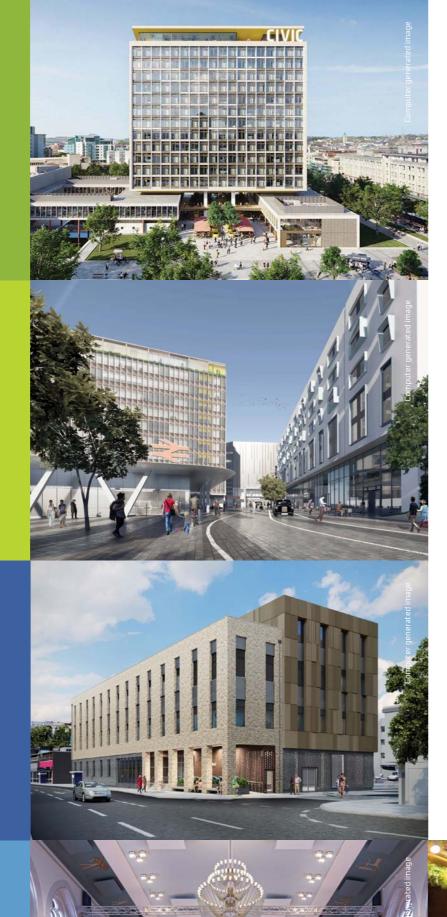
Railway Station

Plymouth Community Diagnostic Centre

Providing over 90K diagnostic test per year in a 37,700 sqft city centre facility. Delivered by the NHS in partnership with Plymouth City Council. (Completion 2026)

Guildhall

£4m modernisation and refurbishment project funded by Future High Streets Fund. Completion 2025.



A Town in the City Centre

Plymouth's ambitious regeneration programme will transform the city centre to create a modern, vibrant and mixed-use destination with a new community living in the heart of the city centre.

With an aim of building over 10,000 new homes in the city centre and surrounding area, plus 2,000 further afield, the first phase of 1,000 homes will be delivered in the next five years.

£4m modernisation and refurbishment project funded by Future High Streets Fund. Completion 2025.

The new 'Town in the City Centre' will offer access to healthcare, education and facilities. A real sense of wellbeing, a tangible connection to Plymouth and a strong community.

This revitalisation of the city goes beyond just new homes. It aims to attract new hotel developments and expand the leisure options available. Several major development sites are taking shape in the city centre, with

plans being drawn up for key areas including the railway station, Civic Centre, Armada Way and the West End. This city-wide approach recognises the need for new skilled workers and aims to attract them with Plymouth's urban, coastal and countryside offer, with good quality housing, efficient transport links, and all the advantages of living in a culturally rich city with easy access to healthcare and education.

Plymouth's high-quality events programme, featuring highlights like the British Firework Championships, Flavour Fest, Summer Sessions, and the Christmas Market, continues to bring the city to life throughout the year. This vibrant atmosphere contributed to a 20 per cent increase in footfall to the city centre in 2024. The city also benefits from a large student population, circa 23,000, adding to its energy and a developing opportunity around evening and night-time economy.



Creating space

Plymouth is undertaking a transformative £50m public realm regeneration project, strategically linking the train station, city centre, and the historic Hoe.

This initiative will create a vibrant urban core, attracting increased footfall and encouraging extended dwell time.
Key features include expanded green spaces, a destination play village, a new

cycle path, and flexible pop-up spaces for retail, arts, and entertainment.

Taking in Armada Way, Old Town, New George Street and Civic Square, the programme presents a compelling investment opportunity, delivering significant social and economic returns by creating a more attractive, accessible, and thriving city centre.



Heritage Action Zone

£1.99m of funding to promote cultural activities and improve the city centre conservation area through building and public realm improvements.



Tinside Refurbishment

Tinside Lido is currently undergoing a £4.5m refurbishment funded by grants from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, Youth Investment Fund, Levelling Up Fund and Plymouth City Council.



Building Plymouth

The vision is to address the city's skills needs by attracting, and investing in, a skilled supply of people to match the demand for delivering the city's ambitious capital build programme and transitioning to a net zero carbon economy.

Building Plymouth is an award winning, council-led sector skills partnership with the local construction and built environment sector. The partnership drives skills, training and employment, maximising social value and acting as the united city voice for the industry.

As an accredited CITB National Skills
Academy for Construction, Plymouth
City Council is committed to maximising
employment and skills opportunities
through local planning and procurement
on major developments.

buildingplymouth.co.uk

Recent Investment Overview

Derriford District Centre

Completed 2024 including M&S food hall, Aldi, Pure Gym, Costa, Oggy Oggy, Pets Corner and Gridserve.

Strategically located in North Plymouth, boasting excellent transport links.

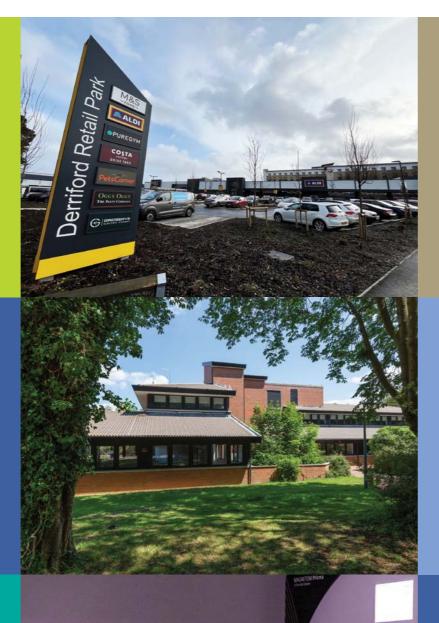
Crownhill Court

£9m investment to refurbish a 55,000 sqft redundant office block

Completed in 2021 and secured the future of the VOA in Plymouth safeguarding 90 civil servant jobs in the city and creating a further 300 jobs.

Plymouth International Medical and Technology Park

A £4m high quality two-storey 17,000 sqft commercial workspace scheme completed in 2023 to support 56 jobs.



The Box

Since opening in 2020, The Box has welcomed over 1m visitors. Plymouth's award-winning museum, art gallery and archive, The Box is a social space for people, art ideas and experiences.

Royal William Yard

Urban Splash converted 52,000 sqft of commercial space in the Melville building into work space, a cinema and space for leisure use. Poppy Developments is converting Factory Cooperage into 24 homes (completion 2025). Urban Splash are looking to enable car park extension.



Oceansgate

Two phases of development creating office and industrial space, now fully occupied.

Over the past decade the spend has been £28m. Oceansgate is now the home for Plymouth's Marine and Defence cluster.







Culture Plan

Plymouth's cultural activity is vital in making the city a unique and attractive place to live, work, visit and study.

The city boasts impressive cultural venues such as Theatre Royal Plymouth, Barbican Theatre Plymouth, The Box, and the renovated Market Hall with its awe-inspiring immersive 360-degree dome.

Plymouth's creative industries – which have grown by an impressive 10 per cent – are a high-value and high-growth sector. Supported by facilities for emerging sectors like immersive technologies and content, artist studios, and digital and design networks. The city has communities like Plymouth

Design Forum and Digital Plymouth and creative workspaces like Ocean Studios and Alma Yard. Cultural facilities including Mirror Art Gallery, Arts Cinema, and The House are accessible to students and the public.

- 365 creative and cultural enterprises in Plymouth
- The sector employs approximately 3,350 FTE
- Output of approximately £43,000 GVA per FTE
- Contributes £150m GVA to the economy

plymouthculture.co.uk

The Box

Plymouth believes in the power of culture to change lives and has invested more than £60m in the city's creative infrastructure over the past five years. Flagship venue The Box is home to two million amazing objects, a programme of innovative exhibitions and, since opening in 2020, has welcomed more than 1m visits.

This thriving venue levers nearly double the city's investment each year in external funding, whilst supporting skills and talent development through its work with artists, educators and communities. Dynamic culture increases civic pride, creates opportunity and strengthens the conditions for economic growth.

Nationally known and locally loved, The Box presents an ambitious programme of contemporary art and historical exhibitions attracting more than £5m of media coverage for the city each year. 60 per cent of The Box audience comes from Plymouth and 80 per cent of local schools visit regularly. The Box is continuing to attract new visits and supports the city's placemaking agenda.

theboxplymouth.co.uk

24 25

Visitor Economy

Plymouth is a major tourism destination in the South West of England, with around 4.1m visits annually, spending £292m locally and supporting the employment of just under 6,200 people in the visitor and hospitality sector.

The visitor base is 85% day visitors, 14% UK staying visitors and 1% international visitors. It is estimated that around 93,000 staying visitors visit the city for business, every year.

Plymouth is increasingly becoming a popular cruise port destination for major cruise lines bringing passengers from across the globe. In 2025 we will welcome 13 cruise visits to the city with over 14,000 passengers and crew.

This provides an all-year-round visitor economy, where occupancy is still

relatively high off peak, as well as in the peak summer months.

While the opening of the Moxy Hotel, and the upcoming Hilton Hotel, will increase bed stocks, there is still much scope for further capacity.

The Visitor Plan 2020-2030 provides a framework to grow visitor spend and visitor numbers by positioning Plymouth as Devon and Cornwall's premier visitor destination and a top ten UK City Break.

The city already boasts successful cultural and leisure opportunities, a testament to both the demand and delivery of the increased economic significance of the sector.





Home to the UK's First National Marine Park

Plymouth Sound National Marine Park is more than a landmark for the city—it's a catalyst for growth. With £11.6m in funding from The National Lottery Heritage Fund, the project is shaping a sustainable relationship between people and the sea.

As a thriving hub for marine science and technology, the Marine Park drives innovation, attracts investment, and unlocks opportunities in research, sustainable tourism, and marine engineering.

The Marine Park also offers enriching experiences for learning and recreation, strengthening the city's ties to the ocean. It appeals to families, students, and anyone drawn to exploration and the natural world.

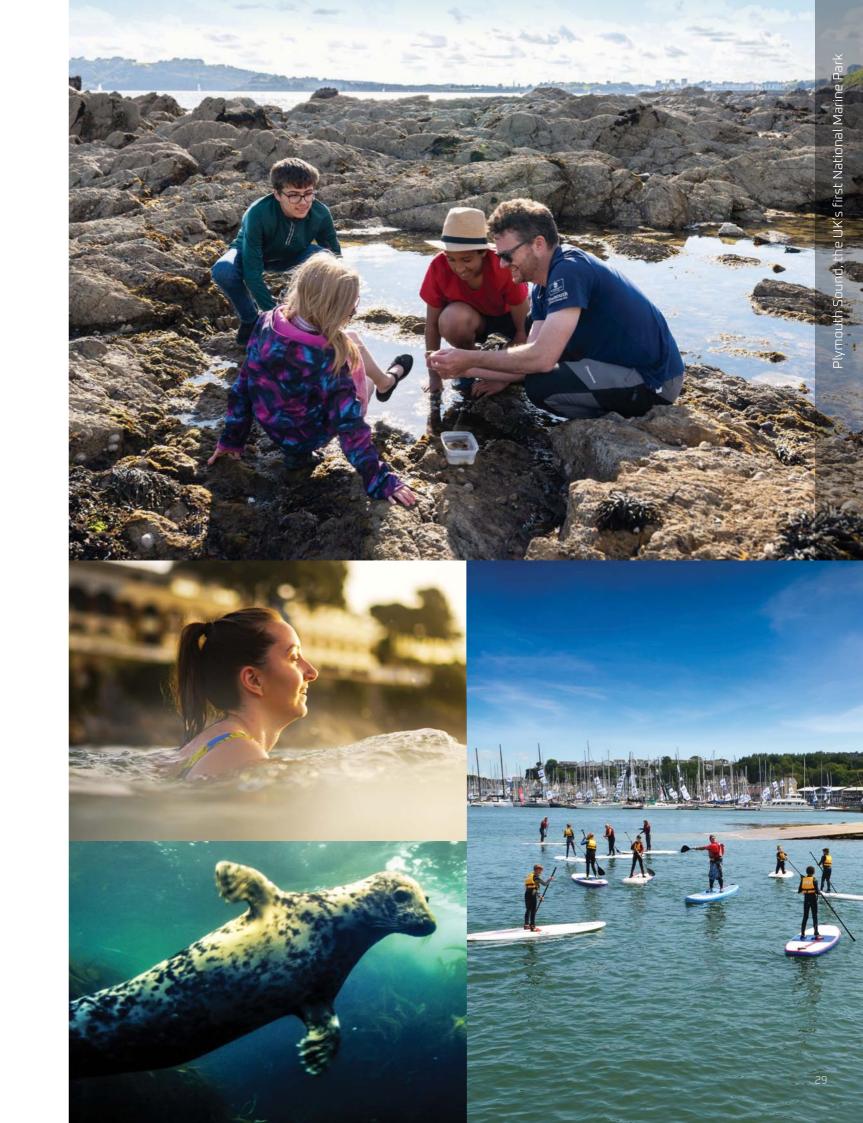
Acting as a dynamic centre for research and collaboration, Plymouth Sound National Marine Park draws researchers, businesses, and entrepreneurs from across the globe. This collaborative ecosystem drives innovation, creates employment, and places Plymouth at the forefront of sustainable marine solutions.

Internationally significant, Plymouth Sound National Marine Park's rich marine environment supports vital fish stocks, seabirds, and marine mammals. As a cornerstone of the UK's network of protected areas, the Marine Park not only contributes to global conservation efforts but also serves as a blueprint for future National Marine Parks across the UK.

The project aims to:

- Actively engage 264,000 people
- Connect 10m digitally
- Generate 100,000 volunteer hours
- Collaborate with 200 businesses
- Contribute £20.2m in GVA

plymouthsoundnationalmarinepark.com



£6bn Future Pipeline of Investment

135,000 sqft of new employment space has been created from our Direct Development Programme.

HMNB Devonport

An additional £4.4bn MOD investment into HMNB Devonport, playing a fundamental role in our Country's defence and Continuous at Sea Deterrent (CASD).



New Homes

At least 10,000 new homes will be built in the city centre and surrounding area over the next 5 years. This includes an affordable home scheme in Bath Street, central to the revitalisation of the city centre.



New Hospital

University Hospitals Plymouth NHS Trust has been prioritised for funding under the New Hospital Programme, to start work on a new Emergency Care Building at Derriford Hospital. Enabling the provision of modern, high-quality urgent care to patients in Devon, Cornwall and beyond.



Sport and Wellbeing Facilities

Works include:

Brickfields £22m project to include covered dome, grass, 3G pitches and new Plymouth Argyle Academy building.

Mount Batten Peninsula - £4m works to improve accessibility to the site as a main gateway to Plymouth Sound National Marine Park.



Heat Network

The UK heat networks opportunity is estimated between £60 - 80bn. Plymouth's pioneering new heat network will focus on the city centre, waterfront areas and Derriford.



Creating new jobs

Projects include

Embankment Road £14m forward funding investment for a new 88 bedroom hotel and associated leisure spaces creating 65 jobs, plus construction jobs.

Western Mill £21.1m forward funding investment for a 65,000 sqft supermarket together with works to adjoining playing fields and sports club.

