The Hoe Neighbourhood Forum

Consultation Statement

Version for Regulation 14 Consultation

15 November 2024



Foreword

This consultation statement accompanies the Hoe Neighbourhood Plan at the point of its submission to Plymouth City Council as local planning authority. It meets the requirements laid down in the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (hereinafter referred to as "the Regulations") and sets out:

- Details of the persons and bodies who were consulted about the plan
- An explanation of how the consultation was carried out
- A summary of the main issues and concerns raised through the consultation
- A description of how those issues and concerns have been considered and addressed in the plan

The Hoe Neighbourhood Forum is grateful to Plymouth City Council, AECOM, Locality, and other bodies and the local community for their help and involvement in shaping the plan.

Revision History:

Updated link to Appendix 12's revised consultee list

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1. Introduction

1.1 This consultation statement has been prepared by the Hoe Neighbourhood Forum, which is the qualifying body that prepared the Hoe Neighbourhood Development Plan.

1.2 This statement sets out the way in which consultation was undertaken to meet the requirements of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 in the preparation of the Hoe Neighbourhood Development Plan.

2. Legislative Framework

2.1 The Hoe Neighbourhood Development Plan is submitted by the Hoe Neighbourhood Forum, which is a qualifying body and entitled to submit a Neighbourhood Development Plan for the designated neighbourhood area.

2.2 Hoe Neighbourhood Forum was designated as an appropriate qualifying body required in under Regulation 11 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 by Plymouth City Council on 14 July 2022. Details of the application and its approval are available on the council's website at https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/hoe-neighbourhood-plan

2.3 The Hoe Neighbourhood Area covers the area designated by Plymouth City Council on 10 July 2017. Details of the application and its approval are available on the council's website at https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/hoe-neighbourhood-plan. The Hoe Neighbourhood Area is shown on the map below. There are no other neighbourhood development Plans in place within the Hoe Neighbourhood Area.

2.4 The Hoe Neighbourhood Area (the designated area) is shown on the map below.

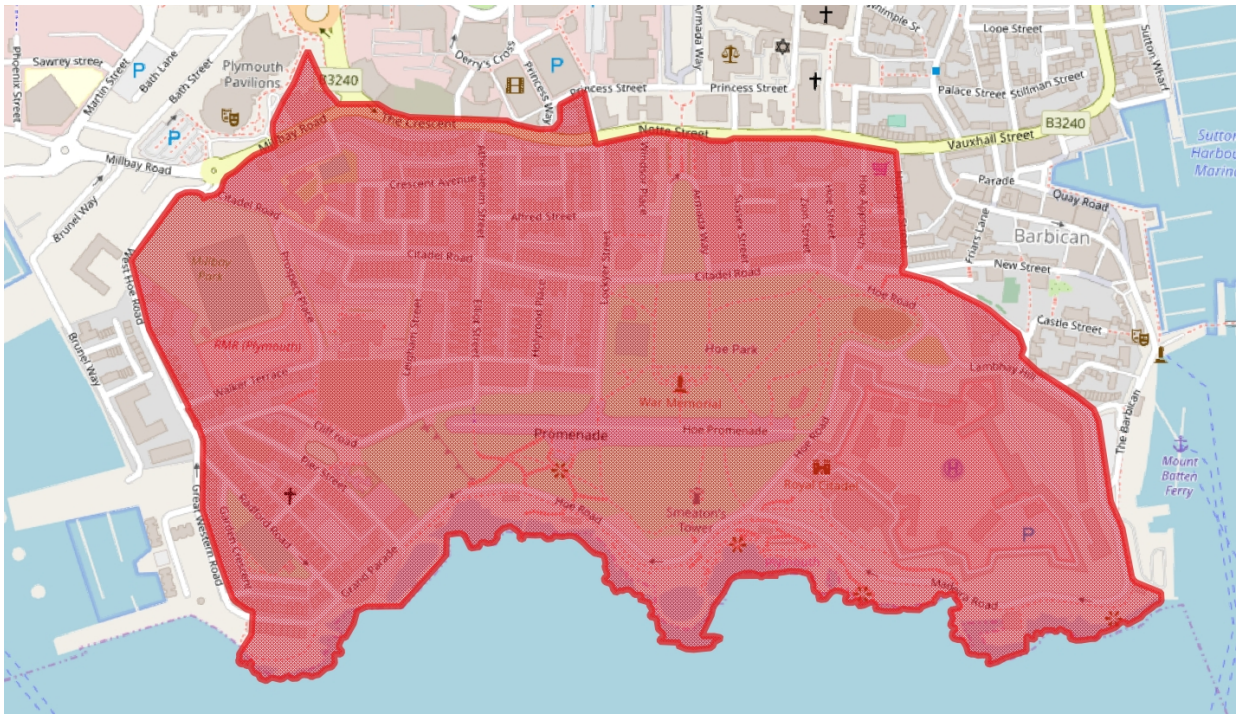


Figure 1: Hoe Neighbourhood Area Boundaries

2.5 The Hoe Neighbourhood Development Plan contains policies relating to the development and use of land within the Hoe Neighbourhood Area and has been prepared in accordance with the statutory requirements and processes set out in the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011) and the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.

2.6 The Hoe Neighbourhood Development Plan states that the period it relates to is from 2024 until 2034. The period has been chosen to tie in with the adopted Plymouth and South West Devon Joint Local Plan, which covers the areas of Plymouth City Council, South Hams District Council and West Devon Borough Council.

3. Preparing the Hoe Neighbourhood Development Plan

3.1 The Hoe Neighbourhood Development Plan provides a vision for the Hoe Neighbourhood Area and sets out clear planning policies to realise this vision, as well as a collection of community aspirations, which are not designed as planning policies but which will be used by the community to inform decisions on where to put resources and refocus priorities for the area.

3.2 The plan's policies and community aspirations are divided into different themes:

- Heritage and design
- Blue and green environment
- Pedestrians and transport
- Housing
- Infrastructure
- Culture, tourism and economy

3.3 The local community has shaped the Plan as described below, and its policies and priorities respond to the issues and aspirations they have raised.

3.4 The Hoe Neighbourhood Forum is a non-political community group, formed in 2017 by residents and supported by local councillors who came together to enable the Hoe area to have a greater say in planning decisions. (See Appendix 1: Hoe Neighbourhood Forum Constitution.)

3.5 The Hoe Neighbourhood Forum and the Hoe Neighbourhood Area boundary was approved on 10 July 2017 and designated by Plymouth City Council after a public consultation that ran from 24 April 2017 to 5 June 2017. After five years, an application to re-designate the Forum was approved on 14 July 2022 following a 6-week consultation from 14 April to 1 June 2022. A copy of the decision reports and accompanying documents can be viewed on Plymouth City Council's website (https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/hoe-neighbourhood-plan).

3.6 Since its formation, the Hoe Neighbourhood Forum has met regularly on the final Wednesday of each month at 7pm at the Hoe Bowling Club (or online throughout Covid-19 lockdowns). Meetings are open to all who live or work in the area. They are advertised to a membership mailing list of over 200 local people and on the Hoe Neighbourhood Forum website and Facebook pages. The meeting agenda includes a standing item on the Neighbourhood Plan to update on progress and invite participation at the various stages of its development.

3.7 Since the establishment of the Hoe Neighbourhood Forum, there has been ongoing consultation with local residents, businesses, community groups, and other key stakeholders in the Hoe Neighbourhood Area to shape and write the Hoe Neighbourhood Development Plan.

Early Engagement 2017-18 and Community Engagement Report April 2018

3.8 Following the designation of the Forum, a six-month period of engagement with the local community and communities of interest commenced to ground the Hoe Neighbourhood Plan in local views and ideas from the very beginning. This was also an opportunity to promote the Forum and encourage people to join and participate. The full Community Engagement Report is provided in Appendix 2.

3.9 In summary, the early engagement included the following activities:

- 1800 leaflets were distributed across the area and more widely
- 30 posters went up around the neighbourhood
- 104 business contacts were emailed three newsletters
- Over 500 people engaged with the Forum on Facebook and Instagram
- 6 boxes were put in businesses in the community to collect comments
- Open events were held in venues that included two pubs, a café, and a park
- Walk-and-talk events were held around the area
- The Hoe Neighbourhood Forum website (https://www.hoeforum.org.uk/the-hoe-neighbourhood-plan/) was set-up with key information
- Hoe Neighbourhood Forum members were regularly updated at meetings
- Specific organisations and groups were approached to join in, including St Andrews Primary School, sea swimmers, West Hoe Doctors Surgery, and the Plymouth Waterfront Partnership
- Statutory consultees like the Ministry of Defence and Historic England were informed

AECOM Visits and Design Guide Report June 2018

3.10 With support from Locality, AECOM were commissioned to provide the Hoe Neighbourhood Forum with support to assess the character of the Hoe Neighbourhood Area and to establish design principles for the area. Members of the Forum met with AECOM in November 2017 to discuss their knowledge and experience of the history and character of the area, as well as aspirations for its future. The group also accompanied AECOM on a site visit to conduct a Built Heritage Assessment in January 2018 which informed AECOM's *Plymouth Hoe Design Guide*.

Visioning

3.11 The next stage of planning was defining a vision for the future of the Hoe, which included the findings of the early engagement, as well as a workshop (see Appendix 3 on page 12) that identified key themes, areas of interest, and a headline vision for how the Hoe Neighbourhood Area might develop over the plan period. This stage led to the formation of four sub-groups and their baseline understanding of local priorities and future vision. These groups were tasked with drafting sections of the plan in each of the following themes:

- Heritage and design
- Blue and green environment
- Pedestrians and transport
- Culture, tourism and economy

The scope of the sub-groups established through the initial workshop in March 2019 is shown in Figure 2.

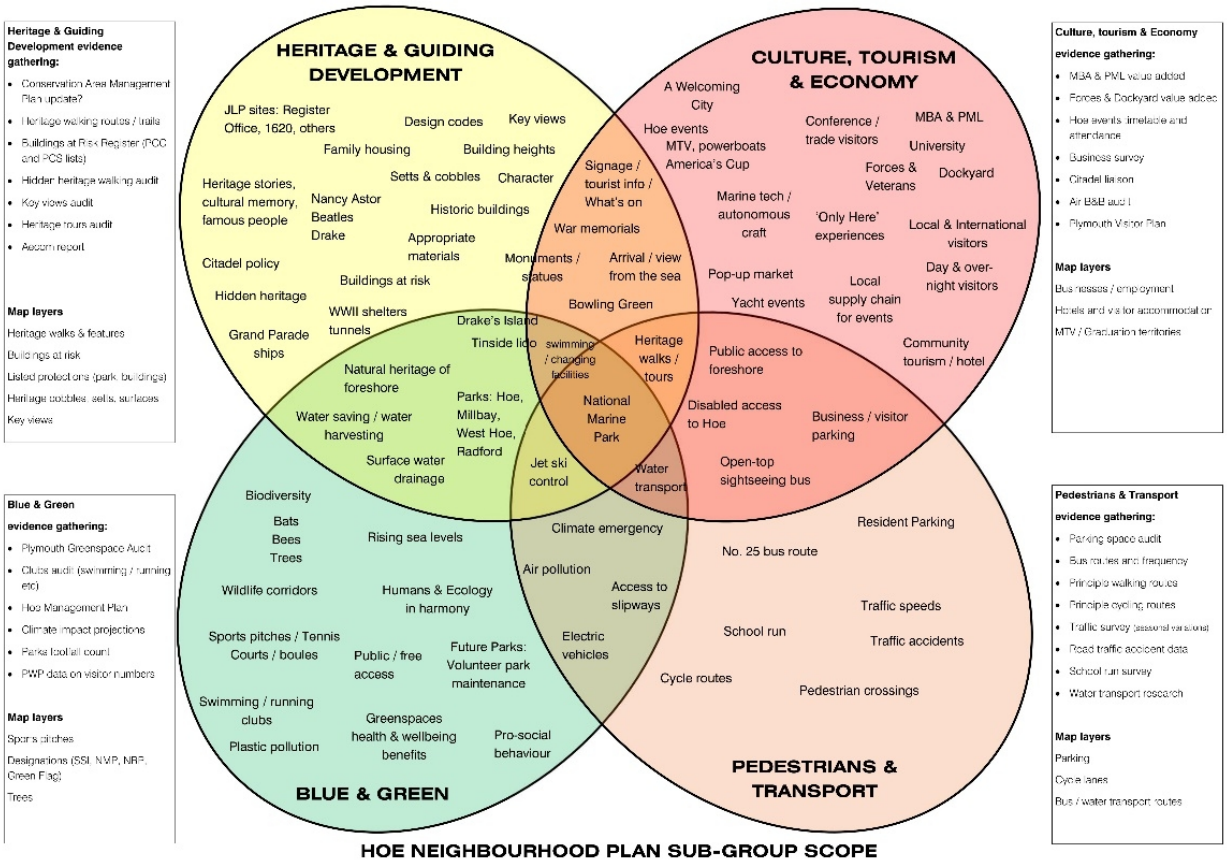


Figure 2:The scope of the Hoe Neighbourhood Forum sub-groups

3.12 Over the following years (2019 to 2024) plan-making proceeded through visioning followed by a cycle of five steps (research, policy drafting, policy testing, policy review, engagement and consultation) leading to the Regulation 14 Draft Neighbourhood Development Plan.

The Plan-Making Process

3.13 In preparing the plan, and specifically to draft robust planning policy, members of the sub-groups followed an iterative process (illustrated in Figure 3).

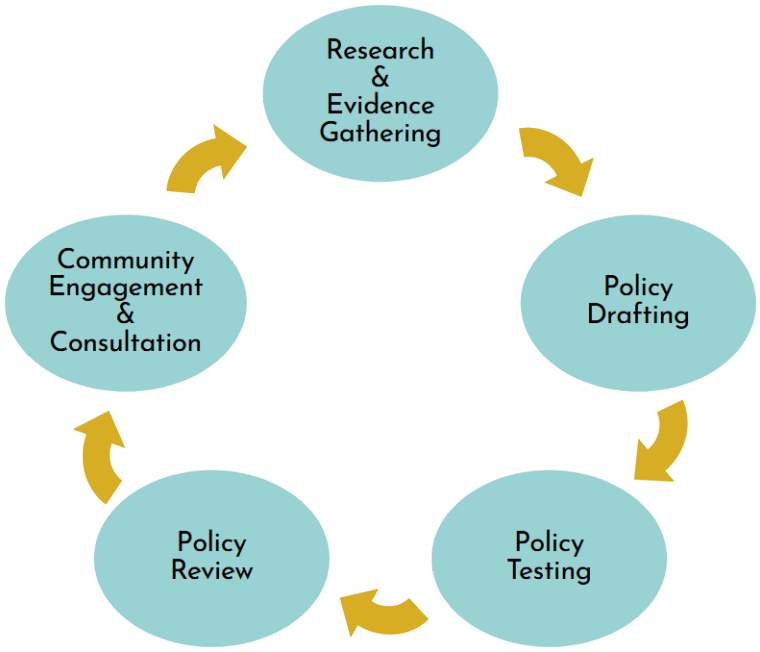


Figure 3: Plan-Making – An Iterative Process

i. Research and Evidence Gathering

Within the sub-groups, members sourced and analysed an extensive library of evidence base documents including the *Plymouth and South West Devon Joint Local Plan*, documents from the Joint Local Plan evidence base, local business strategy, green space management plans, and documents commissioned for the purposes of the plan itself. (See the Evidence Base for the Hoe Neighbourhood Plan)

Sub-group members also undertook detailed on-the-ground surveys including:

- Assembling a list of local non-designated heritage and community assets
- Recording the rich variety of leisure and sports activities in local green spaces
- Documenting key views from and towards valued local places
- Reported incidents of traffic and noise
- Identification of stakeholders and businesses and targeted surveys

This research informed the vision and objectives of the plan, and subsequent policy drafts.

ii. Policy Drafting

Sub-group members met approximately every six weeks to draft policies informed by the existing evidence base, research findings, and views from engagement and consultation.

iii. Policy Testing

The drafted policies were tested in four ways:

- Within the Forum at workshops where sub-groups shared their proposals with each other for refinement before completing the policy drafts
- With Plymouth City Council's allocated Neighbourhood Planning Officer (PCC's preliminary feedback on policies is in Appendix 4)
- With AECOM, who provided an evidence base and policy development review in May 2021 (Appendix 5)
- With the wider public via surveys published on the Forum's website and social media channels and at Hoe Neighbourhood Forum meetings. The online survey results are in Appendix 6.

iv. Policy Review

- Comments from both Plymouth City Council and AECOM were assimilated into a first round of policy revisions between September 2021 and again in June 2023.
- Hoe Neighbourhood Forum received additional facilitation support from AECOM during June to September 2022 to resolve conflicting feedback between the two evidence sources.
- Hoe Neighbourhood Forum also received additional support from planning consultancy Plan-Et in January to March 2023 to help further shape the draft plan.
- A second review of the draft Hoe Neighbourhood Plan in June 2023 by Plymouth City Council. The draft was used as the basis for Plymouth City Council's Strategic Environmental Assessment/Habitats Regulation Assessment screening opinion (Appendix 7). Plymouth City Council's second round of Planning Department feedback dated September 2023 can be found in Appendix 8.

v. Consultation and Engagement

In addition to public surveys published on the Forum's website and social media channels and consultation events at Hoe Neighbourhood Forum meetings, a site-specific consultation on the Register Office site was undertaken in August-September 2020 (Appendix 9) and a business survey was sent to every business in the Hoe Neighbourhood Area in February 2021 (Appendix 10).

Covid-19 Delays and Communication

3.14 There were inevitable delays and interruptions to the plan-making during the Covid-19 pandemic when the Hoe Neighbourhood Forum turned its attention to mutual support in the Hoe Neighbourhood Area. Communication with residents was maintained throughout the period of the pandemic through the distribution of 1,800 leaflets to all homes in the Hoe Neighbourhood Area (see Appendix 11). The leaflet included an update on progress and an invitation to participate.

Regulation 14 Consultation

3.15 The draft Hoe Neighbourhood Development Plan was approved by the Hoe Neighbourhood Forum Steering Committee on 12 November 2024 to be publicised and made available for consultation in accordance with Regulation 14, Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.

3.16 A public consultation will be held from 18 November 2024 to 6 January 2025. The Hoe Neighbourhood Development Plan and supporting documents will be made available on the Hoe Neighbourhood Forum website with a facility for making comments and giving feedback online via the website. Hard copies of the draft plan will be available to view at Plymouth's Central Library, the West Hoe Pub, and the Gipsy Moth pub.

3.17 The consultation bodies prescribed in Paragraph 1 of Schedule 1 of the Regulation 14, Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 will be consulted along with other relevant local groups and organisations. Please see Appendix 12 for a list of those bodies and organisations who will be consulted.

3.18 From 18 to 22 November 2024, volunteers from the Forum will deliver 2000 leaflets to all homes and businesses in the Hoe Neighbourhood Area, and the consultation will be advertised on the local internet radio station, local newspapers, in Plymouth Library, and on social media.

3.19 During the consultation eight public events will be held at different venues across the Hoe Neighbourhood Area and over Zoom. These events will be advertised online and via posters and leaflets. For an example of the poster advertising the events please see Appendix 13. As part of these events, a Frequently Asked Questions document has been produced explaining what neighbourhood planning is and the steps after the consultation. See Appendix 14 for a copy of this document.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Hoe Neighbourhood Forum Constitution

Appendix 2: Community Engagement Report April 2018

Appendix 3: Notes from the Vision Workshop in March 2019
Items 5 and 6 in the HNF minutes of 27 March 2019
Items 1 to 4 in the HNF minutes of 22 May 2019

Appendix 4: Plymouth City Council Feedback on Draft Policies

Appendix 5: AECOM Evidence Base and Policy Development Review

Appendix 6: Online Survey Consultation Results

Appendix 7: Plymouth City Council SEA/HRA Screening Opinion

Appendix 8: Plymouth City Council Feedback on Draft Hoe Neighbourhood Plan

Appendix 9: Results and Analysis of Consultation on the Register Office Site

Appendix 10: Results and Analysis of the Business Survey

Appendix 11: Covid-19 Communication Leaflet April 2020

Appendix 12: List of Bodies and Organisations to Be Consulted at Regulation 14 Stage

Appendix 13: Poster Advertising Regulation 14 Consultation Events

Appendix 14: Frequently Asked Questions