



**Oversight and Governance**

Chief Executive's Department  
Plymouth City Council  
Ballard House  
Plymouth PL1 3BJ

Please ask for Ross Jago  
E Head of Governance, Performance and  
Risk

[democraticsupport@plymouth.gov.uk](mailto:democraticsupport@plymouth.gov.uk)

[www.plymouth.gov.uk](http://www.plymouth.gov.uk)

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## CITY COUNCIL

Monday 20 November 2023

2.00 pm

Council House, Plymouth

**Members:**

Councillor Shayer, Chair

Councillor Ms Watkin, Vice Chair

Councillors Allen, Aspinall, Mrs Beer, Bingley, Blight, Briars-Delve, Mrs Bridgeman, Carlyle, Coker, Dr Cree, Cresswell, Dann, Darcy, Dingle, Evans OBE, Finn, Gilmour, Goslin, Harrison, Haydon, Hendy, Holloway, Hulme, Krizanac, Laing, Loveridge, Lowry, Lugger, Dr Mahony, McLay, McNamara, Moore, Murphy, Nicholson, Noble, Partridge, Patel, Penberthy, Penrose, Poyser, Raynsford, Reilly, Rennie, Ricketts, Salmon, Smith, Sproston, Stephens, Stevens, Stoneman, Tippetts, Tofan, Tuffin, Tuohy and Wakeham.

Members are invited to attend the above meeting to consider the items of business overleaf.

You can watch any of our webcast meetings on [YouTube](#). For further information on attending Council meetings and how to engage in the democratic process please follow this link - [Get Involved](#)

**Tracey Lee**

Chief Executive

## City Council

### Agenda

**1. Apologies**

To receive apologies for absence submitted by councillors.

**2. Minutes**

**(Pages 1 - 24)**

To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 18 September 2023 as a correct record.

**3. Declarations of Interest:**

**4. Appointments to Committees, Outside Bodies etc**

The Assistant Chief Executive will submit a schedule of vacancies on committees, outside bodies etc and of changes notified to us.

**5. Questions by the Public**

To receive questions from and provide answers to the public in relation to matters which are about something the council is responsible for or something that directly affects people in the city, in accordance with Part B, paragraph 11 of the Constitution.

Questions, of no longer than 50 words, can be submitted to the Democratic Support Unit, Plymouth City Council, Ballard House, West Hoe Road, Plymouth, PL1 3BJ, or email to [democraticsupport@plymouth.gov.uk](mailto:democraticsupport@plymouth.gov.uk). Any questions must be received at least five complete working days before the meeting.

**6. Announcements**

- (a) To receive announcements from the Lord Mayor, Chief Executive, Service Director for Finance or Head of Legal Services;
- (b) To receive announcements from the Leader, Cabinet Members or Committee Chairs.

**7. Capital Monitoring Report**

**(To Follow)**

**8. Withdrawal from the Heart of the South West Joint Committee**

**(Pages 25 - 30)**

**9. Violence Against Women and Girls**

**(Pages 31 - 66)**

**10. Full Council Dates**

**(Pages 67 - 70)**

**11. Motions on notice**

To consider motions from councillors in accordance with Part B, paragraph 14 of the Constitution.

**12. Questions by Councillors**

Questions to the Leader, Cabinet Members and Committee Chairs covering aspects for their areas of responsibility or concern by councillors in accordance with Part B, paragraph 12 of the constitution.

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## City Council

**Monday 18 September 2023**

### **PRESENT:**

Councillor Shayer, in the Chair.

Councillor Ms Watkin, Vice Chair.

Councillors Allen, Aspinall, Mrs Beer, Blight, Briars-Delve, Mrs Bridgeman, Carlyle, Coker, Cresswell, Dann, Darcy, Dingle, Evans OBE, Gilmour, Goslin, Harrison, Haydon, Hendy, Holloway, Hulme, Krizanac, Laing, Lowry, Lugg, Dr Mahony, McLay, McNamara, Moore, Murphy, Nicholson, Noble, Partridge, Patel, Penberthy, Penrose, Poyser, Raynsford, Reilly, Rennie, Ricketts, Salmon, Smith, Sproston, Stephens, Stevens, Stoneman, Tippetts, Tuffin, Tuohy and Wakeham.

Apologies for absence: Councillors Bingley, Dr Cree, Finn, Loveridge and Tofan.

The meeting started at 2.04 pm and finished at 8.36 pm.

*Note: The full discussion can be viewed on the webcast of the City Council meeting at [www.plymouth.gov.uk](http://www.plymouth.gov.uk). At a future meeting, the Council will consider the accuracy of these draft minutes, so they may be subject to change. Please check the minutes of that meeting to confirm whether these minutes have been amended.*

#### 24. **Minutes**

Before this item the Lord Mayor welcomed Councillors Alison Raynsford and Stefan Krizanac to the Chamber.

The minutes of the meetings held on 19 June 2023 were agreed as a correct record.

#### 25. **Declarations of Interest**

The Lord Mayor announced that a General Dispensation had been granted by the Monitoring Officer to all Members, in relation to item 12 - Independent Remuneration Panel.

The following declarations of interest were made by councillors in accordance with the code of conduct in respect of items under consideration at the meeting -

<b>Name</b>	<b>Item Number</b>	<b>Reason</b>	<b>Interest</b>
Councillor Holloway	13D	Was employed by a company that provided software for online meetings.	Personal
Councillor Stoneman	11	Family employed by the Local Authority	Pecuniary
Councillor Reilly	11	Family employed by the Local Authority	Pecuniary

26. **Appointments to committees, outside bodies and Council Proportionality**

The Council agreed to note the appointments to Committees, Outside Bodies and Council Proportionality, as detailed within the report.

27. **Questions by the Public**

There were 5 questions from members of the public received in accordance with the Constitution:

The following question was submitted by George Wheeler -	
<b>Question:</b> The 2023-4 budget included provision for a further £20,000 to be made towards replacement of the public toilets in St Budeaux Square. Can you tell me when this work is to be undertaken, please?	<b>Answer:</b> You are right in identifying that a £20,000 provision was included in the Council budget for 2023/24. This is directly because of the Plymouth Labour amendment moved as a result of the lobbying by Councillor Haydon. This administration is committed to the provision of public toilets in the vicinity of St Budeaux Square and shops. Over the past few months, I have had conversations with Councillors Haydon and Dingle about the provision of these toilets. I am happy to support their campaign and want to hear from the people of St Budeaux. I have already announced that the Council will open a consultation of future provisions of St Budeaux toilets by the end of September. The consultation will run for two months. I will review the findings of the consultation in order to ensure that the new toilets we provide meet local needs and aspirations. I will then commission provision of toilets for St Budeaux.
The following question as submitted by Dave Curno -	
<b>Question:</b> PCC confirmed it would seek peer advice from another Council when considering the Armada Way TPO application and that it had approached another Council. PCC's reply to a FOI request FS-case-541381192 indicates this was not in fact done. Who made the decision not to request recommendations from another Council?	<b>Answer:</b> Thank you for your latest question on Armada Way. The previous FOI was answered factually when we responded: 'that Plymouth City Council did not request or receive any recommendation from another Local Authority in respect of the TPO request for Armada Way'. In response to a complaint to the Council's Monitoring Officer about a potential conflict of

	<p>interest between officers dealing with the Armada Way project and those assessing the TPO request, it was agreed by the Strategic Director for Place and the Monitoring Officer that the TPO should be subject to independent assessment. The Strategic Director for Place did contact a number of Local Authorities to discuss the process for conducting an independent TPO assessment. At no time did the Strategic Director request or receive their review or recommendation on the merits of the armada Way TPO case. The Strategic Director for Place delegated the decision making powers in respect of assessing the request for a TPO to the Head of Development Management. The Head of Development Management appointed an independent Tree Consultant - JK Tree Consultancy - to carry out the TPO assessment and make a recommendation for the consideration of the Head of Development Management. It is common practice for Council's to seek advice from independent and appropriately qualified chartered consultants. Therefore, no one made a decision not to request recommendations from other authorities.</p>
The following question was asked by Mr Ramage -	
<p><b>Question:</b> Christian Aid has moved away from using Barclays as its bank because of their record on fossil fuel financing and their lack of commitment to improve in this area. I have previously asked PCC to review its use of Barclays and received a dismissive reply. Cause for a re-think?</p>	<p><b>Answer:</b> We believe that the Christian Aid based their decision on the outcome of a competitive tendering process following a review of their banking arrangements. There are limited suppliers in the market providing banking services to local authorities (currently two) and the Council has to consider the risk of reputational damage due to all of the administrative changes required when moving to a different banking provider. The Council adopts the key recommendations of CIPFA's (Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy) Treasury Management (TM) in the Public Services: Code of Practice, with annual updates, the last</p>

	<p>update being in March 2023. When investing in banks and funds, the Council will 'prioritise banks that are signatories to the UN Principles for Responsible Banking and funds operated by managers that are signatories to the UN Principles for Responsible Investment, the Net Zero Asset Managers Alliance and/or the UK Stewardship Code.' Barclays are signatories to the UN Principles for Responsible Banking and the Net Zero Asset Managers Alliance. Please note, the Council does not undertake any active investment with Barclays Bank other than through their daily banking activity, as they are the Council's main provider of banking services.</p>
The following question was asked by Gin Farrow-Jones -	
<p><b>Question:</b> By vote abstaining on the 'meaningful community engagement', Labour effectively approved of the decision for it to be the response to the petition on the trees. Are you satisfied with how the overwhelming opposition to the Armada Way scheme was dealt within the document?</p>	<p>Thank you for your question. Plymouth Labour proposed and passed an amendment during that City Council meeting held on 30 January 2023 to reflect our concerns about the Armada Way scheme. We called for a meaningful community engagement process to take place quickly in February 2023 which prioritised the natural environment and climate resilience. The amendment also called for tree felling to be suspended. Plymouth Labour and Green councillors were dismayed at the summing up by Councillor Jonathan Drear on the substantive motion in response to the petition and, despite the nature of the debate itself, how he categorised the planned public engagement process. Labour Councillors therefore showed our frustration by supporting the Labour amendment but not voting in favour of the substantive motion - which was going to pass anyway because of the arithmetic of the City Council at that time. The way in which the consultation responses were reported on the previous Richard Bingley Armada Way scheme is the subject of on-going legal proceedings. Therefore, it would not be appropriate</p>

	for me to comment any further on these matters at this time. But what the City Council does know is that I have committed to undertake an independent review on various aspects of the Armada Way scheme in due course.
The following question was submitted by Lynn Sears -	
<b>Question:</b> Please will someone explain why public questions and their responses are not automatically made available during the meeting since the answers are pre prepared. Since the questions from the last meeting were not published until the minutes were done months later?	<b>Answer:</b> The current position is that the Lord Mayor will ask the questioner to ask their question. If the questioner is not present or an answer cannot be given on the day of the meeting, the question and response will be published as part of minutes. The Monitoring Officer will have a reply sent to the questioner within 10 working days. Councillors providing the answers sometimes change prepared responses, and as such responses may not be ready immediately. In order to ensure that questions and answers are more easily available for all residents, I have directed officers to publish the questions and answers on the council's website the day after the Council meeting.

## 28. Announcements

Councillor Tudor Evans OBE (The Leader of the Council) made the following announcements:

- a) There was a need to reflect that a year ago today, the then Prime Minister, Liz Truss, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, announced their policies of which the repercussions were still being felt today. This had resulted in the lowest Government Bond Yields in decades, with many Plymouthians left struggling with soaring rents and mortgages. There was yet to be an apology from the Prime Minister, and the Labour Party were calling for her Resignation Honours List to not be proceeded with, as was within the current Prime Minister's powers;
- b) On Friday, the Leader and Councillor Luggar had submitted Plymouth City Council's round 2 submission to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for the National Marine Park;
- c) The Plymouth Sound National Marine Park was an exciting project, and would become the UK's 16th National Park, and the first National Marine Park anywhere in

the UK. This was a significant moment for a maritime nation, equivalent to the creation of the first national park in the Peak District in 1952;

- d) The project was a £22m project, of which Plymouth City Council were asking the Lottery for £11.6m;
- e) Consultation had been undertaken with 10,000 people to develop the project, and an amazing partnership had been developed;
- f) The project was about celebrating Plymouth's Heritage, and would focus on restoring neglected buildings across the foreshore at Mountbatten, Tinside and Mount Edgcumbe;
- g) The project would see the opening of 2 Napoleonic forts on a daily basis first for the first time;
- h) The project would work intensively with 30 schools, with a National Marine Park champion appointed in every school in the City;
- i) There would be a Nature Boost programme restoring mudflats, sea grass and estuaries to bring back wrays, seahorses, rare birds, fish, and a range of endangered species;
- j) The largest ever engagement programme would be initiated, reaching into Plymouth's northern estates. This would enable people to get in on or under the water, as well as engage through the creation a digital park;
- k) People would be encouraged to explore jobs in the new Blue/Green economy, and the Council would work with partners to become Net Zero, as demonstrated through the recent announcement at Millbay;
- l) There was a ten year funded plan to ensure that the park was sustainable, and had proper governance;
- m) Funding had been ring-fenced, and the current project stage aimed to set out the detailed plans. All of the necessary permissions had been attained, and the match funding had been secured. Subject to the Lottery approving the plan, the next phase would begin in January, helping to place Plymouth on the map.

*A video was played at this point demonstrating the National Marine Park Bid.*

- n) The Leader thanked David Draffan (Service Director of Economic Development) for his leadership of the programme, as well as Elaine Hayes (CEO National Marine Park) Sharon Mercer (Head of Strategic Programmes), Kat Deeney (Head of Environmental Planning), Councillor Patel, Councillor Briars-Delve, and Councillor Dann for all of their hard work.

*Councillor Goslin joined the meeting at this time.*

Councillor Sarah Allen (Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee) made the following announcement:

- o) City Council had delegated to the Audit and Governance Oversight and Scrutiny Committee, oversight and approval of the design and implementation of the Electoral Cycle Review and Consultation. Before finalising the approach, and having taken into account the advice of officers at the July meeting of the Audit and Governance Committee, it was proposed that the consultation was brought back to committee, following discussions with Southampton Council who had recently undertaken a electoral review, and a review of their electoral cycle. This had approved unanimously by the Audit and Governance Committee, and further proposals would be heard at future meetings, with a subsequent report submitted to City Council to provide an update;

Councillor Sue Dann (Cabinet Member Customer Services, Sport, Leisure and HR & OD) made the following announcements:

- p) On 23 August, the Council had launched the Cost of Living Action Plan, which Labour had pledged to implement within their first 100 days of taking administration;
- q) The plan was City-wide, and workshops had been held with 70 different organisations. It had been remarkable how the City had pulled together to offer support to those in crisis;
- r) In August alone, 2,000 people had accessed the Cost of Living Hub, and there had been over 200,000 engagements during summer;
- s) It was requested that all Councillors share information regarding the Cost of Living Action Plan within their spheres to ensure maximum coverage;
- t) The Brickfields project was ongoing, and significant work had been undertaken over past few months. In September, an agreement had been signed committing the Council to contributing £2.75 MM, Plymouth Argyle Football Club contributing £11 MM, and Plymouth Argyle Community Trust contributing £7.25 MM. A Community Use Agreement was in place for the site, which would help transform one of the most deprived wards in the city, as well as raising the profile of sports, access and the Health and Wellbeing Hub;
- u) An open day would be held at the site on 26 September 2023, and all Councillors were encouraged to attend to experience the plans for one of the City's greatest sports assets, which would have a meaningful impact on citizens across Plymouth.

Councillor Tom Briars-Delve (Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change) made the following announcements:

- v) Alongside longstanding funding pressures, grass cutting had faced additional challenges this year. Extreme weather conditions, exacerbated by the realities of climate change, had caused high vegetation growth. There had also been a need to address the risks to staff working near highways, with additional staff training provided, as well as the

rethinking of the approach to several high risk areas, ensuring appropriate and safe traffic management. Additional Bank Holidays had also impacted front line capacity;

- w) Despite these challenges, the team had been working hard to improve the system inherited from the previous administration. This had included additional work opportunities for staff, a dedicated cemeteries team to improve standards, trialling regular cuts in play parks following feedback from residents, and investment in specialist equipment better suited to longer vegetation;
- x) Further improvements were being explored to improve the grass-cutting season for next year, and the administration wanted Councillors across all wards and parties to be at the heart of these improvements. Officers had been asked to organise an end of season consultation on grass cutting for councillors;
- y) A challenge was presented to all councillors to identify areas within their ward that were possibly better suited as wildflower meadows, when requesting areas within their ward to be added to the regular cutting programme. This was to ensure Plymouth retains its ambition of a 60-40 principle for biodiversity;
- z) Despite challenges faced by all authorities on this topic, Plymouth had received national recognition for its 60-40 approach. Last week, Plymouth City Council had been a finalist for 3 environmental awards, and had won an award for best Parks and Grounds Maintenance Service. Tributes were paid to the Grounds team for their hard work, as well as Councillor Sue Dann for her courage in this area;
- aa) Plymouth had also recently featured in the UK 100 Power in Place Nature Report, for its innovative concepts around financing biodiversity improvements such as a habitat banking vehicle, as well as the passing of the Motion on Marine Recovery and Citizenship. It was rewarding to see Plymouth Council gaining praise and national recognition for its efforts;
- bb) There were also many projects ongoing regarding Renewable Energy. Meeting its pledge made before the election, Labour had introduced rooftop solar panels in the city centre, with the top floor of the Theatre Royal Carpark now fitted with a solar array, which generated electricity to power the carpark, as well as supporting the decarbonisation of the site;
- cc) The successful Green Minds Partnership project had come to an end, with many positive legacies visible including the establishment of Green Community Hubs, employing Council and National Trust Rangers, as well as Natural Infrastructure Officers to work closely on green spaces, alongside community partners.

Councillor Sally Cresswell (Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Apprenticeships) made the following announcements:

- dd) The School's Attendance Campaign had started at the end of August, in partnership with schools to help support parents and carers; officer were working with children with serious attendance issues, while schools were focused on students with attendance less than 90%;

- i. ITV West Country had taken up the issue and ran an in depth item on Friday 8 September 2023 on issue of attendance, filmed at Plymstock School, and she thanked the school and students involved;
  - ii. There would be a second phase to this campaign, but urged everyone to share content on good school attendance in a positive and supportive manner;
- ee) Plymouth City Council had been proactive in communicating with school leaders regarding RAAC concrete and since 2018 surveys had been carried out on 14 local authority maintained schools, none of which were found to contain RAAC, Multi Academy Trusts were responsible for their own buildings and would have been contacted by the Department for Education on this issue, but Plymouth City Council had not been informed of any affected by the issue, but had reached out to Chief Executives and head teachers to confirm checks had taken place;
- ff) In 2010, the coalition government cut Building Schools for the Future, something Michael Gove had since admitted was a mistake, and Plymouth had been promised £70 million under this plan, but no money was ever received, and elsewhere in the country where the money was used to turn other disused buildings into schools, some had been reported as having RAAC.

Councillor Jemima Laing (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children's Social Care, Culture, Events and Communications) made the following announcements:

- gg) Last week, she had updated the Growth and Infrastructure Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the impact of culture in the City over the past 12 months and the reaction from the committee was positive;
- hh) As Elected members they had proactively all made the space for culture and cultural investment when many councils had cut this area. In Plymouth, it had always been seen as an investment in the city and its people and it was important to closely monitor the impact and where appropriate to celebrate success;
- ii) Gave an update on The Box:
- i. Had welcomed over 600,000 visitors to date;#
  - ii. In 2022/23 it had had 246,000 visitors, compared to an annual visitor number of 80,000 to the old museum;
  - iii. Over the school summer holidays 52,000 visitors had been welcomed and The Box had experienced its busiest day ever;
  - iv. Over 10,000 people had been involved in the family programme with 6,500 formal learning participants;
  - v. Since opening The Box had hosted over 22,000 school visits;
  - vi. £2.25m had been raised across earned income and fundraising;
  - vii. The Box had generated £5m advertising value on press coverage over the past 12 months;
  - viii. Autumn shows included works by Sir John Akomfrah, Kedisha Coakley along with Dutch Flowers from the National Gallery;
- jj) Touching on the wider cultural sector many organisations were still recovering from the effects of the COVID19 pandemic and adjusting to new audience behaviours but it had still been an impressive year for cultural impact:
- i. A combined cultural audience across all venues, projects and events of 850,000;
  - ii. Activity across 132 cultural venues with 50% of events being free to attend;

- iii. There were 365 cultural enterprises in the City with a cultural economic output rise from £98m in 2020 to £150m in 2022/23;
  - iv. The cultural sector directory employs 3350 jobs and created 2000 new opportunities last year;
  - v. Over £12m NPO funding had been secured for Plymouth's largest organisations from the Arts Council;
  - vi. £1.5m grant project funding had been secured from 28 different sources;
- kk) Bonfire Night would return to the Hoe for 2023 as the centrepiece of a free fun campaign, which would be a major part of the Cost of Living Action Plan because one of the first things that families had to give up during a financial squeeze was little extras that made life worth living as many families were having to make the choice between eating and heating. Bonfire night engaged with communities and had an attendance of 25,000 people and had been made possible by generous sponsorship from the Plymouth Waterfront Partnership and the success of the Plymouth City Council Events team exceeding their income targets.

Councillor Chris Penberthy (Cabinet Member for Housing, Cooperative Development and Communities) made the following announcements:

- ll) Two of the stalled sites for the Plan for Homes were back on track, having been delayed by Brexit, the COVID19 pandemic and the economic turmoil of 2022;
    - i. He thanked partners in Westward Housing and Classic Builders;
    - ii. Moses Close would be a mix of 1 bedroom flats, family homes and a bungalow available for social rent;
    - iii. St Peters Close in Plympton had 5 bungalow developments, including one that would be fully accessible to meet housing needs of people on waiting lists;
- mm) Broadland Gardens was in its final construction stage and Lang Town & Country had been appointed as the and for the site, which was available for viewing with 10 eco-friendly homes, the first direct delivery of homes from Plymouth City Council in 40 years.

Councillor Zoe Reilly (VAWG Representative) made the following announcements:

- nn) In light of news relating to Russel Brand, and the concerns raised by residents, Plymouth City Council had made huge efforts to make the city a beacon for tackling violence against women and girls and had obtained a Purple flag accreditation extension, and was working towards a VAWG charter;
- oo) The Council had employed a strategic lead for Violence Against Women and Girls that worked tirelessly;
- pp) The first MAN culture conference had been held successfully on 6 September 2023;
- qq) She called on Plymouth Pavilions to reflect on whether Russell Brand's planned show there should take place in light of the news.

## 29. **Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023/24 - 2027/28**

The report was introduced by Councillor Mark Lowry (Cabinet Member for Finance) and seconded by Councillor Ian Darcy (Chair of the Performance, Finance and Customer Service Overview and Scrutiny Committee).

Following contributions from Councillors Allen and Penberthy the Council agreed to:

I. Approve the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023/24 – 2027/28.

For (48)

Councillors Allen, Aspinall, Blight, Briars-Delve, Mrs Bridgeman, Carlyle, Coker, Cresswell, Dann, Darcy, Dingle, Evans OBE, Gilmour, Goslin, Harrison, Haydon, Hendy, Holloway, Hulme, Krizanac, Laing, Lowry, Lugger, Dr Mahony, McLay, McNamara, Moore, Murphy, Noble, Patel, Penberthy, Penrose, Poyser, Raynsford, Reilly, Rennie, Salmon, Shayer, Smith, Sproston, Stephens, Stevens, Stoneman, Tippetts, Tuffin, Tuohy, Wakeham and Ms Watkin.

Abstain (4)

Councillor Mrs Beer, Nicholson, Partridge and Ricketts.

Against (0)

Absent/Did Not Vote (0)

30. **Capital Monitoring Report**

Councillor Mark Lowry (Cabinet Member for Finance) introduced the report, which was seconded by Councillor Chris Penberthy (Cabinet Member for Housing, Cooperative Development and Communities).

Following a discussion with contributions from Councillors Briars-Delve and Sproston, Council agreed:

- I. The amended Capital Budget 2023-2028 was revised to £556.722m as shown in Table I within the report.

For (49)

Councillors Allen, Aspinall, Mrs Beer, Blight, Briars-Delve, Mrs Bridgeman, Carlyle, Coker, Cresswell, Dann, Darcy, Dingle, Evans OBE, Gilmour, Goslin, Harrison, Haydon, Hendy, Holloway, Hulme, Krizanac, Laing, Lowry, Lugger, Dr Mahony, McLay, McNamara, Moore, Murphy, Nicholson, Noble, Patel, Penberthy, Penrose, Poyser, Raynsford, Reilly, Rennie, Salmon, Smith, Sproston, Stephens, Stevens, Stoneman, Tippetts, Tuffin, Tuohy, Wakeham and Ms Watkin.

Abstain (2)

Councillors Partridge and Ricketts.

Against (0)

Absent/Did Not Vote (1)

Councillor Shayer.

31. **Treasury Management Annual Report 2022/23**

Councillor Mark Lowry (Cabinet Member for Finance) introduced the report, which was seconded by Councillor Sarah Allen (Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee).

Following a contribution from Councillor Darcy, Council agreed:

- I. To approve the Treasury Management Annual Report 2022/23.

For (50)

Councillors Allen, Aspinall, Mrs Beer, Blight, Briars-Delve, Mrs Bridgeman, Carlyle, Coker, Cresswell, Dann, Darcy, Dingle, Evans OBE, Gilmour, Goslin, Harrison, Haydon, Hendy, Holloway, Hulme, Krizanac, Laing, Lowry, Lugger, Dr Mahony, McLay, McNamara, Moore, Murphy, Nicholson, Noble, Partridge, Patel, Penberthy, Penrose, Poyser, Raynsford, Reilly, Rennie, Salmon, Smith, Sproston, Stephens, Stevens, Stoneman, Tippetts, Tuffin, Tuohy, Wakeham and Ms Watkin.

Abstain (1)

Councillor Ricketts.

Against (0)

Absent/Did Not Vote (1)

Councillor Shayer.

32. **Recommendations from Audit and Governance Committee on Stage One Constitutional changes**

The report was introduced by Councillor Sarah Allen (Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee) and seconded by Councillor Dr Mahony.

Councillor Ian Poyser proposed an amendment which was seconded by Councillor Lauren McLay.

*The meeting was adjourned for 10 minutes to allow members time to consider the amendment.*

Following contributions from Councillors Patrick Nicholson, Mrs Terri Beer, Bill Stevens, Council agreed to:

Contributions from Nicholson, Beer, Stevens the Council agreed to:

- I. Approve the amendments to Part A, Part B of the Constitution;
2. Refer the Petition Scheme Guidance back to the Audit and Governance Committee.

For: Councillors Apinall, Haydon Coker, Dann, Evans OBE, Hendy, Lowry, Murphy, Penberthy, Rennie, Stevens, Tuffin, Tuohy, Mrs Beer, Darcy, Stoneman, Goslin, Dr Mahony, Nicholson, Smith, Mrs Bridgeman, Laing, Allen, Ms Watkin, Wakeham, Cresswell, Partridge, Salmon, Hulme, Harrison, Patel, Carlyle, Raynsford, Holloway, Briars-Delve, Tippetts, Reilly, Lugger, Poyser, Noble, McLay, Blight, Dingle, Gilmour, Moore, Penrose, Sproston, Stephens, McNamara and Krizanac (50)

Abstain: Councillor Ricketts (1)

Against: (0)

Absent/did not vote: Councillors Mrs Loveridge, Shayer, Dr Cree, Bingley, Tofan and Finn (6)

33. **Updated Pay Policy Statement**

*(Council agreed to suspend standing orders to allow Tracey Lee (Chief Executive) to speak on the item which was proposed by the Lord Mayor and seconded by Councillor Dann).*

Councillor Sue Dann introduced the report which was seconded by Councillor Tudor Evans OBE.

Following a contribution from Councillor Hulme, Council agreed to:

- I. Approve the amended Pay Policy Statement for 2023/24

For: Councillors Apinall, Haydon Coker, Dann, Evans OBE, Hendy, Lowry, Murphy, Penberthy, Rennie, Stevens, Tuffin, Tuohy, Mrs Beer, Darcy, Goslin, Nicholson, Smith, Mrs Bridgeman, Laing, Allen, Ms Watkin, Wakeham, Cresswell, Partridge, Salmon, Hulme, Harrison, Patel, Carlyle, Raynsford, Holloway, Briars-Delve, Tippetts, Lugger, Poyser, Noble, McLay, Blight, Dingle, Gilmour, Moore, Penrose, Sproston, Stephens, McNamara, Ricketts and Kriznanac. (48)

Abstain: (0)

Against: (0)

Absent/did not vote: Councillors Mrs Loveridge, Dr Mahony, Shayer, Dr Cree, Bingley, Tofan, Stoneman, Reilly and Finn (9)

34. **Councillor Allowance Scheme - Recommendations from the Independent Remuneration Panel**

*Councillors Lowry and Reilly left the meeting at the beginning of this item.*

*Council agreed to suspend standing orders to enable Mr Duncan Currall (independent member of the remuneration panel which was proposed by the Lord Mayor and seconded by the Deputy Lord Mayor)*

*Councillors Lowry, Reilly, Stoneman returned the meeting following the vote.*

The Lord Mayor proposed the report which was seconded by the Deputy Lord Mayor.

Following a contribution from Councillor Nicholson the Council agreed to approve the following amendments to the allowance scheme that:

- I. There are no changes to the Basic Councillors' Allowance and that this will continue to rise in line with staff pay awards. As pay awards currently being negotiated refer to a single consolidated addition to NJC pay points, the Panel recommends that basic

allowances should increase in line with the equivalent percentage increase to the mid-point of the pay spine (pay point 22).

2. Excluding payments to Other Minority Group Leaders (recommendation 6 below), there are no changes to the Special Responsibility Allowances (SRAs) which will increase in line with staff pay awards (as above).
3. The travel allowance for Councillors should remain the same as the locally agreed rates payable to Council staff, and that they be changed as and when the staff rates are changed.
4. The list of approved duties is applicable to both Travel and Subsistence Allowance and Dependent Carers Allowances and Councillors undertaking approved duties may claim Travel, Subsistence and Dependent carers allowance unless remuneration and/or expenses are provided by the body to which the approved duty relates
5. An annual stipend of £1500 is provided to Co-opted Members on Committees convened under the Local Government Act 1972.
6. SRAs for Other Minority Group Leaders (excluding the largest opposition group) will be payable based on the number of members in the group. For groups of less than five members, the Leader of the group will receive an annual SRA of £1000, increasing by £1000 for every five additional Councillors.
7. Facilities (group rooms etc) are offered to all Councillors. Groups with less than 5 members will share facilities with similar sized groups and non-aligned independent Councillors.
8. An expenses fund not exceeding £2000 be established in the Lord Mayor's office to cover necessary out of pocket expenses incurred by the Deputy Lord Mayor in the event that they are in receipt of a SRAs for another role and are therefore unable to claim the Deputy Lord Mayor's allowance. Any claims from the fund will be made on receipt.

For: Councillors Aspinall, Haydon Coker, Dann, Evans OBE, Lowry, Hendy, Murphy, Penberthy, Rennie, Stevens, Tuffin, Tuohy, Mrs Beer, Darcy, Stoneman, Goslin, Nicholson, Smith, Mrs Bridgeman, Laing, Allen, Ms Watkin, Wakeham, Cresswell, Salmon, Hulme, Harrison, Patel, Carlyle, Raynsford, Holloway, Briars-Delve, Reilly Tippetts, Lugger, Poyser, Noble, McLay, Blight, Dingle, Gilmour, Moore, Penrose, Sproston, Stephens, McNamara, Dr Mahony and Kriznanac. (49)

Abstain: Councillors Partridge and Ricketts (2)

Against: (0)

Absent/did not vote: Councillors Mrs Loveridge, Shayer, Dr Cree, Bingley, Tofan, and Finn (6)

35. **Motions on notice**  
36. **Motor neurone disease (MND)**

A video was shown to members before the break from Steven Wharton.

*(Following the video, Council took a break for 30 minutes)  
Councillor Hulme did not return to the meeting.*

The motion was introduced by Councillor Jon Dingle and seconded by Councillor Sally Haydon.

Following a discussion with contributions from Councillors Dann, Harrison, Bridgeman, Shayer Council agreed to:

1. Ask the Leader to write to the Minister for Science, Research and Innovation and the Minister for Health and Secondary Care to request increased funding for MND research and to support the raising of awareness for this condition.
2. Ask the Leader to write to the Minister for Disabled People, Health and Work to implement more targeted energy support for households affected by MND.
3. To request Plymouth City Council to review its policy regarding how people who are housebound are able to access the council's democratic processes.
4. To make Steve Wharton the Plymouth City Council Champion for those living with MND so he can work with the council to help raise awareness of this condition.

For: Councillors Aspinall, Haydon, Coker, Evans OBE, Hendy, Lowry, Murphy, Penberthy, Rennie, Stevens, Tuffin, Tuohy, Mrs Beer, Darcy, Stoneman, Goslin, Dr Mahony, Nicholson, Smith, Mrs Bridgeman, Laing Allen, Ms Watkin, Wakeham, Cresswell, Partridge, Salmon, Harrison, Patel, Carlyle, Raynsford, Holloway, Briars-Delve, Reilly, Tippetts, Lugger, Poyser, Noble, McLay, Blight, Dingle, Gilmour, Moore, Penrose, Ricketts, Sproston, Stephens, McNamara and Krizanac (50)

Abstain: (0)

Absent/Did not vote: Councillors Mrs Loveridge, Shayer, Hulme, Dr Cree, Bingley, Tofan, Finn (7)

37. **Impact of Vaping on Young People**

Councillor Mrs Beer proposed as amended the Motion and was seconded by Councillor Patrick Nicholson.

Councillor Aspinall proposed an amendment which was seconded by Councillor Sally Haydo, which Council passed.

Following contributions from Councillors Harrison, McLay and Gilmour Council agreed to:

1. To note that the Health and Wellbeing Board has established a Working Group to produce a joint response with partners on the issues around vaping and young people.
2. To write to Neil O'Brien MP Minister for Primary Care and Public Health to ask for the rapid publication of the review and consultation into Youth Vaping, with urgent implementation of the recommended measures, especially those aimed at reducing the appeal of vapes to children and young people.
3. To request that the Government ban single use Vapes, that are attractive to young people and that are causing littering and environmental concerns, lobby our 3 local MPs to take this message to government.
4. To encourage the City Council's Public Protection Department and trading standards to continue to undertake random test purchases across Plymouth, to catch those who do sell to young people under the age of 18 years.
5. To continue to encourage schools to engage with children and young people, and parents to ensure they know the risks that vaping has on young people and the developing mind.
6. To request all schools within Plymouth to ban vapes within their premises.

For: Councillors Aspinall, Haydon, Coker, Dann, Evans OBE, Hendy, Lowry, Murphy, Penberthy, Rennie, Stevens, Tuffin, Tuohy, Mrs Beer, Darcy, Stoneman, Goslin, Dr Mahony, Nicholson, Smith, Mrs Bridgeman, Laing, Ms Watkin, Wakeham, Cresswell, Partridge, Salmon, Harrison, Patel, Carlyle, Raynsford, Holloway, Briars-Delve, Reilly, Lugger, Poyser, Noble, McLay, Blight, Dingle, Gilmour, Moore, Penrose, Sproston, McNamara and Krizanac (46)

Abstain: (0)

Absent/Did not vote: Councillors Allen, Mrs Loveridge, Shayer, Hulme, Dr Cree, Bingley, Ricketts, Stephens, Tofan, Tippetts and Finn (11)

38. **Nursery Provision**

Councillor Sally Cresswell introduced the motion on Nursery Provision, which was seconded by Councillor John Stephens.

Following a discussion with contributions from Councillors Harrison, Goslin and Mrs Beer, Council agreed to:

1. Note that the financial pressures on our nurseries had been increasing, which had become even more apparent with the cost of living crisis and inflation;
2. Ask The Leader to write to the new Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Minister for Children, Families and Wellbeing) David Johnston OBE MP to make him aware of the situation and its potential impact on Plymouth Families and Households with children. As well as the impact on Plymouth's local economy and the economic pressures being placed on nursery providers.

For (47)

Councillors Allen, Aspinall, Mrs Beer, Blight, Briars-Delve, Mrs Bridgeman, Carlyle, Coker, Cresswell, Dann, Darcy, Dingle, Evans OBE, Gilmour, Goslin, Harrison, Haydon, Hendy, Holloway, Krizanac, Laing, Lowry, Dr Mahony, McLay, McNamara, Moore, Murphy, Noble, Partridge, Patel, Penberthy, Penrose, Poyser, Raynsford, Reilly, Rennie, Ricketts, Salmon, Smith, Sproston, Stephens, Stevens, Stoneman, Tuffin, Tuohy, Wakeham and Ms Watkin.

Abstain (1)

Councillor Luggar.

Against (0)

Absent/Did Not Vote (4)

Councillors Hulme, Nicholson, Shayer and Tippetts.

### 39. **Online Meetings**

Councillor Eddie Rennie introduced the motion on Online Meetings, which was seconded by Councillor Bill Stevens.

Following a discussion with contributions from Councillors Mrs Bridgeman, Mrs Beer, Penberthy, Stoneman, Penberthy and Nicholson, Council agreed to:

1. Support the petition launched by the Association of Democratic Services Officers / Lawyers in Local Government with regard to remote and hybrid meetings;
2. To request The Leader write to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities calling on the Government to respond to the call for evidence which closed two years ago and change the law to allow councils the flexibility to hold such meetings when they deem appropriate within agreed rules and procedures.

For (41)

Councillors Allen, Aspinall, Mrs Beer, Blight, Briars-Delve, Mrs Bridgeman, Carlyle, Coker, Cresswell, Dann, Dingle, Evans OBE, Gilmour, Goslin, Harrison, Haydon, Hendy, Krizanac, Laing, Lowry, Luggar, McLay, McNamara, Moore, Murphy, Nicholson, Noble, Partridge, Penberthy, Penrose, Poyser, Raynsford, Reilly, Rennie, Salmon, Sproston, Stephens, Stevens, Tuffin, Tuohy, and Wakeham.

Abstain (6)

Councillors Darcy, Dr Mahony, Patel, Smith, Stoneman and Ms Watkin.

Against (1)

Councillor Ricketts.

Absent/Did Not Vote (4)

Councillors Holloway, Hulme, Shayer and Tippetts.

40. **The formation of a Strategic Working Group to progress the re-opening of Plymouth Airport**

Councillor Andy Lugger introduced the motion on the formation of a Strategic Working Group to progress the re-opening of Plymouth Airport, which was seconded by Councillor Bill Wakeham.

Councillor Tudor Evans OBE proposed an amendment, which was seconded by Councillor Lowry.

*The meeting was adjourned for 10 minutes to allow members to consider the amendment.*

Following contributions from Councillors Lugger and Mrs Bridgeman, Council agreed to accept the amendment.

For (47)

Councillors Allen, Aspinall, Mrs Beer, Blight, Briars-Delve, Mrs Bridgeman, Carlyle, Coker, Cresswell, Dann, Darcy, Dingle, Evans OBE, Gilmour, Goslin, Harrison, Haydon, Hendy, Holloway, Krizanac, Laing, Lowry, Lugger, Dr Mahony, McNamara, Moore, Murphy, Nicholson, Noble, Partridge, Patel, Penberthy, Penrose, Raynsford, Reilly, Rennie, Ricketts, Salmon, Smith, Sproston, Stephens, Stevens, Stoneman, Tuffin, Tuohy, Wakeham and Ms Watkin.

Abstain (2)

Councillors Poyser and McLay.

Against (0)

Absent/Did Not Vote (3)

Councillors Hulme, Shayer and Tippetts.

Following further contributions from Councillors Poyser and Nicholson, Council agreed to recommend to Cabinet:

- I. To form a cross-party Strategic Working Group to further the re-opening of the site for aviation, subject to the successful acquisition of the land.

For (47)

Councillors Allen, Aspinall, Mrs Beer, Blight, Briars-Delve, Mrs Bridgeman, Carlyle, Coker, Cresswell, Dann, Darcy, Dingle, Evans OBE, Gilmour, Goslin, Harrison, Haydon, Hendy, Holloway, Krizanac, Laing, Lowry, Lugger, Dr Mahony, McNamara, Moore, Murphy, Nicholson, Noble, Partridge, Patel, Penberthy, Penrose, Raynsford, Reilly, Rennie, Ricketts, Salmon, Smith, Sproston, Stephens, Stevens, Stoneman, Tuffin, Tuohy, Wakeham and Ms Watkin.

Abstain (0)

Against (2)  
Councillors Poyser and McLay.

Absent/Did Not Vote (3)  
Councillors Hulme, Shayer and Tippetts.

41. **Recognizing the Importance of Outdoor Play in Child Development and the Need for a City-Wide Play Strategy**

Councillor Lauren McLay introduced the motion on recognising the important of outdoor play in child development and the need for a city-wide play strategy, which was seconded by Councillor Poyser.

Following contributions from Councillors Dann, Briars-Delve, Noble, Harrison, Smith and Coker, Council agreed to:

1. Note that:
  - a. A central aim of our current Corporate Plan is ‘to make Plymouth a great place to grow up and grow old’;
  - b. Outdoor play is crucial for children's overall development, fostering physical fitness, cognitive abilities, social skills, and emotional well-being. It promotes creativity, problem solving, and resilience, while also encouraging a healthy and active lifestyle;
  - c. Plymouth currently benefits from over 125 play parks, which cater to diverse age groups and offer various types of play equipment. These play areas are an essential community asset, contributing to the well-being of children and families across the city;
  - d. There is a need to build upon legacy schemes (Improving Plymouth Play and Improving Outdoor Play Programme) to ensure that we continue to improve and expand outdoor play opportunities for all children in Plymouth;
2. Note that by reviewing the city-wide play strategy:
  - a. Plymouth City Council would reaffirm its commitment to prioritise outdoor play as a key component of child development and well-being. And;
  - b. It would restate how having a comprehensive and well-considered city-wide play strategy, the Council can continue to attract external funding from various sources, maximizing the potential for investment in new and existing play facilities;
3. Resolved that the opportunity was taken to use the Plymouth Plan Review taking place in 2024 to ensure that play was embedded into the plan and that it then set a framework for a play delivery plan with targeted interventions. This action was to be included in the work programme of the relevant scrutiny committee.

For (43)  
Councillors Allen, Aspinall, Blight, Briars-Delve, Carlyle, Coker, Cresswell, Dann, Darcy, Dingle, Evans OBE, Gilmour, Goslin, Harrison, Haydon, Hendy, Holloway, Laing, Lowry, Lugg, Dr Mahony, McLay, McNamara, Moore, Murphy, Noble, Patel, Penberthy, Penrose, Poyser, Raynsford, Rennie, Ricketts, Salmon, Smith, Sproston, Stephens, Stevens, Stoneman, Tuffin, Tuohy, Wakeham and Ms Watkin.

Abstain (0)

Against (0)

Absent/Did Not Vote (9)

Councillors Mrs Beer, Mrs Bridgeman, Hulme, Krizanac, Nicholson, Partridge, Reilly, Shayer and Tippetts.

#### 42. **Council Tax Exemption for Foster Carers**

Councillor Charlotte Carlyle introduced the motion on Council Tax exemption for foster carers, which was seconded by Councillor Ian Darcy.

Councillor Jemima Laing proposed that the matter was referred to the Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Following a discussion with contributions from Councillors Laing, Lowry and Smith, Council agreed to:

- I. To refer the motion to the Education and Children's' Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee, to enable scrutiny of the detail of the proposal including which Foster Carers would be covered and the financial impact upon the Council.

For (41)

Councillors Allen, Aspinall, Blight, Briars-Delve, Carlyle, Coker, Cresswell, Dann, Darcy, Dingle, Evans OBE, Gilmour, Goslin, Harrison, Haydon, Hendy, Holloway, Laing, Lowry, Lugger, Dr Mahony, McLay, McNamara, Moore, Murphy, Noble, Patel, Penberthy, Poyser, Raynsford, Rennie, Ricketts, Salmon, Smith, Sproston, Stephens, Stoneman, Tuffin, Tuohy, Wakeham and Ms Watkin.

Abstain (0)

Against (0)

Absent/Did Not Vote (9)

Councillors Mrs Beer, Mrs Bridgeman, Hulme, Krizanac, Nicholson, Partridge, Penrose, Reilly, Shayer, Stevens, and Tippetts.

#### 43. **Questions by Councillors**

	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>Subject</b>
1	Councillor Allen	Councillor Laing	Had anyone moved into the new supported accommodation for care experienced young people and how was the project going?
			Response: 2 young people had moved in so far. Move-ins were being fazed to allow the young people to settle and have the best support from staff.
2	Councillor Patel	Councillor Coker	Where the improvements to St Budeaux square under TCF funding going to take place?
			Response: Alderman Wheeler had also been asking this question. The plans

	for the mobility hubs at the square were in progress, and he was hoping to sign them off in the coming weeks, and a bus shelter was included in that. He was happy to update Councillors Patel, Dingle and Haydon on any progress.		
3	Councillor Lugger	Councillor Allen	At the meeting of the Audit and Governance Committee held on 5 September 2022, the Committee agreed to consult the people of Plymouth on moving elections from 'by thirds' to 'all out elections', and on 21 November 2022, he had presented a report to Council and a consultation was agreed to take place between June and August 2023. He had also chaired a group who designed the questions and consultees. What had happened to this work.
	Response: She referred Councillor Lugger to her announcement earlier in the meeting regarding the electoral review.		
	Supplementary: Had it been an attempt to delay and stall the consultation?		
	Response: No.		
4	Councillor Stoneman	Councillor Briars-Delve	Did Councillor Briars-Delve agree that residents shouldn't be forced to walk on the road instead of the pavement?
	Response: He fully supported and encouraged active travel, including walking, so he welcomed that point of view.		
	Supplementary: What was Councillor Briars-Delve doing to instruct teams to clear vegetation from pavements across the city, following him and several colleagues sending in many examples where vegetation had forced residents to walk in the road?		
	Response: Casework on the issue was ongoing. There was going to be a proactive winter vegetation cut back starting in November 2023. It was important to get the timeline right to ensure that teams were managing priorities across the city.		
5	Councillor Dr Mahony	Councillor Coker	A number of his residents had enquired about what was happening at the North Road East Junction, as it had been remodelled, but following completion of works, it seemed not much had been done, other than a new left turn. Did Councillor Coker think that the delays, congestion and inconvenience had been worth it?
	Response: No one had expressed that opinion to him yet. He would be happy to discuss the matter in issue with officers and other ward councillor to get constructive feedback on the operation.		
	Supplementary: What was the cost of the project? Was it value for money?		
	Response: He did not have the information to hand but would provide the cost when they met to discuss the scheme.		
6	Councillor Wakeham	Councillor Briars-Delve	On 16 July, he had emailed Councillor Briars-Delve regarding rubbish in Thurlstone Walk and the surrounding area, with reports of rats, and asked to be informed when the rubbish had been cleared, but had not received a response.
	Response: He would look into it and get a response.		

7	Councillor Harrison	Councillor Briars-Delve	What was happening with regards to long grass after it had been cut, as large mounds of grass had been left? Was there a plan to collect it as it would prevent the grass underneath growing, and would eventually enter and block drains.
	Response: Regular grass cutting was ongoing. He asked for Councillors to photograph of individual cases and to report them.		
8	Councillor Poyser	Councillor Coker	He had taken a ride on a Beryl bike for £12.50, but a day rider bus ticket was just £5.50. Were there plans to make the Beryl bikes more affordable?
	Response: During car free day, there was going to be an incentive to get people onto Beryl bikes. They were competitively priced. The team would review usage after 6-8 months and then look at other incentives to promote sustainable transport.		
9	Councillor McLay	Councillor Briars-Delve	Chaddlewood playing fields and play equipment were not listed as a formal park on the Council website. Could it be made into a park?
	Response: He had had looked at this with officers and Chaddlewood open space was designated and maintained as a play space.		
10	Councillor Raynsford	Councillor Penberthy	What plans were in place when the Labour administration had come into power for improvements on the Firestone Bay pools?
	Response: Councillor Dann had introduced a £40,000 repair budget in the last Labour administrations; this was changed during the Conservative administrations and not spent on the pool. Therefore, there was a bigger problem to solve, as he had inherited poor quality plans for it.		
	Supplementary: Were there any plans in place to improve them?		
	Response: He had asked for specification to be drawn up for renovation and the staircase. The initial estimate had been promising and a decision would be made in the following weeks. He assured her that under the Labour administration in power, Firestone Bay tidal pool would be fixed.		
11	Councillor Smith	Councillor Lowry	What was happening with the wellbeing hub in Plymstock?
	Response: He would find out and get back to her with a response.		
	Supplementary: Would he put it as a priority to find out and to meet with her?		
	Response: Yes.		
12	Councillor Dr Mahony	Councillor Laing	A resident had receive different replies to the same question from multiple departments, was that acceptable? Both responses had said the issue would be resolved, but it hadn't been.
	Response: If he sent her the details, she would look into it.		
13	Councillor Wakeham	Councillor Briars-Delve	SUDS project in Central Park was supposed to be completed in July 2023. When would the project be complete? How much extra would it cost?
	Response: It was included in the capital programme and had been reviewed that day in terms of cost and officers would continue to provide updates. It was important to get it right in order to look after nature.		

	Supplementary: What would the additional cost be?		
	Response: That had been covered within documents seen by Council at the meeting.		
14	Councillor Patel	Councillor Coker	Beryl bikes had been installed in Barne Barton and were well used. When would they be rolled out across the city?
	Response: The remaining sites had been presented to him last week and he had signed 90% off, with one site needing more information before approval. All sites were scheduled to finish on time and would be running by the end of the year.		
	Supplementary: Could they be fitted outside of St Budeaux Library?		
	Response: There was always an ability to review sites. He suggest Councillor Patel contacted the relevant officers.		

*Please note that questions, answers, supplementary questions and supplementary answers have been summarised.*

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# City Council



Date of meeting:	20 November 2023
Title of Report:	<b>Withdrawal from the Heart of the South West Joint Committee</b>
Lead Member:	Councillor Tudor Evans OBE (Leader)
Lead Strategic Director:	Giles Perritt (Assistant Chief Executive)
Author:	Caroline Marr, Senior Policy Advisor
Contact Email:	Caroline.marr@plymouth.gov.uk
Your Reference:	20.11.23 HotSWJC
Key Decision:	No
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

**Purpose of Report:**

To present the case and seek approval to serve notice for the withdrawal of Plymouth City Council as a constituent member of the Heart of the South West Joint Committee (HotSW JC). As a results of serving this notice, and following similar decisions made by Devon County Council, Somerset Council and Torbay Council, the Joint Committee would be dissolved.

The proposal in this report specifically relates to the HotSW Joint Committee's governance arrangements only, and do not cover the HotSW Local Enterprise Partnership or the associated HotSW Joint Scrutiny Committee.

**Recommendations and Reasons:**

Recommendation: That Council agrees to serve notice for its withdrawal from the HotSW Joint Committee and endorses the dissolution of the Committee.

*Reason: Changes in Government policy and the forthcoming integration of functions and assets of the HotSW Local Enterprise Partnership into the relevant upper tier local authorities, means that the purpose of the HotSW JC has largely been superseded, and other partnership arrangements between the Constituent Authorities will deliver its aims.*

**Alternative options considered and rejected:**

To not serve notice of withdrawal. This option has been rejected – other constituent authorities are expected to bring forward a proposal to withdraw. The Committee's governance arrangements determine that "where a majority of the Constituent Authorities at any time agree (via formal resolutions) that the Joint Committee should be dissolved or terminated on a specified date then the Joint Committee shall cease to exist from that date."

**Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan:**

Regional governance and leadership arrangements will continue to fulfil the Council's commitment to 'being a strong voice for Plymouth'.

**Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:**

There are no implications rising directly from this decision.

The Joint Committee is completely reliant on the Constituent Authorities for its resources, budget and running costs. Joint Committee members' costs and expenses are funded and administered by each respective Constituent Authority.

**Financial Risks:**

There are no financial risks arising directly from this decision.

The Administering Authority (Somerset Council) holds the balance of contributions from the Constituent Authorities. The current unallocated balance is £ 43,009. If the Joint Committee is dissolved, then any outstanding balance would be returned proportionally to each of the Constituent Authorities on the same percentage basis that they made contributions.

**Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:**

There are no direct implications arising from this decision, other than a requirement for in-person attendance at Joint Committee meetings with associated travel implications.

**Other Implications: e.g. Health and Safety, Risk Management, Child Poverty:**

*\* When considering these proposals members have a responsibility to ensure they give due regard to the Council's duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between people who share protected characteristics under the Equalities Act and those who do not.*

Subject to the outcome of this decision the Constitution will be amended to remove reference to the Joint Committee.

**Appendices:**

*\*Add rows as required to box below*

Ref.	Title of Appendix	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) <i>If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</i>						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A	Heart of the South West Joint Committee - Proposal to withdraw							

**Background papers:**

*\*Add rows as required to box below*

*Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below. Background papers are unpublished works, relied on to a material extent in preparing the report, which disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the work is based.*

Title of any background paper(s)	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) <i>If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</i>						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

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Sign off:

Fin	<b>CH 08.11 .23 1706</b>	Leg	<b>LS/2 631/J P/09 1123</b>	Mon Off	<b>MO/ 2631 /JP/0 9112 3</b>	HR	Click here to enter text.	Asset s	Click here to enter text.	Strat Proc	Click here to enter text.
Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Giles Perritt, Assistant Chief Executive											
Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes Date agreed: 10/11/2023											
Cabinet Member approval: Approved verbally. Date approved: 10/11/2023											

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# HEART OF THE SOUTH WEST JOINT COMMITTEE – PROPOSAL TO WITHDRAW

Council - 20 November 2023



## 1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1. The Heart of the South West Joint Committee (HotSW JC) was formed in March 2018. The Joint Committee was created to replace a less formal partnership arrangement, providing a single forum for local authority engagement with the Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership (HotSW LEP) and Government.
- 1.2. The HotSW JC is a Joint Committee of the local authorities listed in 1.3 below that comprise the HotSW area and was established under Sections 101 to 103 of the Local Government Act 1972 and all other enabling legislation.
- 1.3. The current Joint Committee members include Devon County Council and Devon Districts, Exeter City Council, Plymouth City Council, Somerset Council and Dartmoor and Exmoor National Park Authorities. The HotSW Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and the NHS are co-opted members.
- 1.4. The specific objectives of the HotSW Joint Committee are to:
  - Improve the economy and the prospects for the region by bringing together the public, private and education sectors.
  - Increase the understanding of the economy and what needs to be done to make it stronger.
  - Improve the efficiency and productivity of the public sector.
  - Identify and remove barriers to progress and maximise the opportunities / benefits available to the area from current and future government policy.
- 1.5. The establishment of the Joint Committee in 2018 coincided with the publication and adoption of the HotSW Productivity Strategy. Owning and overseeing the delivery of this Strategy was identified as the primary role of the new Joint Committee, working together with the LEP.
- 1.6. The HotSW JC is run and managed via an inter-authority agreement and formal terms of reference. It has a meeting cycle of two formal meetings a year and it is directly supported and administered by Somerset Council.

## 2. LEP INTEGRATION AND CASE FOR CHANGE

- 2.2 The Spring Budget Announcement in March 2023 included a clear statement from Government that they were “minded” to withdraw the funding provided to LEPs from April 2024. Following a period of consultation, this decision was made final and communicated in a letter to LEP Chairs and Local Authority Leaders on 04 August 2023.
- 2.3 The decision to withdraw funding was made following a review that was undertaken by the Government between early 2021 and the publication of the February 2022 Levelling Up white paper. The Levelling Up white paper set out the proposition that the LEP functions would be folded into a new devolved arrangement – this has been further clarified, and for areas which do not have, or are not pursuing a devolution deal, the LEP functions will be integrated into the relevant upper tier authorities.
- 2.4 This change in Government policy and the move towards greater devolution means that the purpose of the HotSW JC to oversee the delivery of the Productivity Strategy by the LEP has largely been superseded and therefore this function is no longer needed. Other partnership

arrangements have been put in place between the Constituent Authorities to collaborate around regional issues.

- 2.5 A further decision will be taken by Council in due course in relation to the LEP integration plans and the impact for Plymouth City Council as one of the upper tier authorities. Integration Plans are the mechanism set out to support the transition, and within the guidance [provided to LEPs] the scope of functions to be transferred includes economic analysis and evidence base, growth hub, inward investment and trade, local Skills Advisory Panels, Careers Hubs, Digital Skills Partnerships, investment programmes (local growth fund, getting building fund etc.)

### **3. PROPOSAL TO WITHDRAW**

- 3.1 Given the rationale set out in section 2 above, it is proposed that Plymouth City Council serves notice to withdraw as a constituent member of the HotSW JC. In relation to withdrawal from/dissolution of the HotSW JC, the inter-authority agreement that was drawn up as part of the arrangement for the creation of the HotSW JC states that:
- a. A Constituent Authority wishing to withdraw from the Joint Committee shall give a minimum of 6 months' notice in writing to the other Constituent Authority via the Administering Authority. The Constituent Authorities shall co-operate with any such request.
  - b. If two or more Constituent Authorities give notice of withdrawal from membership of the Joint Committee in the same Financial Year, the Joint Committee shall consider and make recommendations to the remaining Constituent Authorities as to the future operation of the Joint Committee and, if appropriate, recommend any necessary amendments required to the Joint Committee's functions and operating arrangements.
  - c. Where a majority of the Constituent Authorities at any time agree (via formal resolutions) that the Joint Committee should be dissolved or terminated on a specified date then the Joint Committee shall cease to exist from that date.
- 3.2 At a meeting of the HotSW LEP held on 27 October 2023, the Constituent Authorities were invited to note the intention of the partners (Devon County Council, Plymouth City Council, Torbay Council and Somerset Council) to seek approval to serve notice and propose that the Joint Committee is dissolved.
- 3.3 It is expected that under the terms of the inter-authority agreement 3.1.c above, the proposal to withdraw will be brought forward to the partners and as such, the Constituent Authorities will jointly agree to give notice and propose that the HotSW Joint Committee be dissolved.
- 3.4 The proposition is that the Joint Committee use its meeting scheduled for 26 January 2024 to receive the proposed notices and determine its response. All future meetings from that point would be cancelled.

# City Council



Date of meeting:	20 November 2023
Title of Report:	<b>VAWG DASV Strategy and Action Plan 2023-26</b>
Lead Member:	Councillor Sally Haydon (Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Libraries, Cemeteries & Crematoria)
Lead Strategic Director:	Gary Walbridge (Interim Strategic Director for People)
Author:	Meghan Field, VAWG DASV Strategic Lead
Contact Email:	<a href="mailto:Meghan.field@plymouth.gov.uk">Meghan.field@plymouth.gov.uk</a>
Your Reference:	Click here to enter text.
Key Decision:	No
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

## Purpose of Report

This report:

- provides background information regarding the development of the City-wide VAWG DASV Strategy and Action Plan;
- includes a summary of our strategic priorities and urgent activities and statutory responsibilities for delivery against this agenda;
- advises Council of the formal launch of the Strategy and Plan during 16 Days of Activism; and
- seeks continued cross-party endorsement and support of City-wide work to address VAWG and DASV.

## Recommendations and Reasons

That Council agrees to endorse the City-wide Strategy and Action Plan

## Alternative options considered and rejected

- 1.1. The alternative was that the DASV Board does not have a Strategy and Action Plan and continues to operate more like a forum, but this would not be in line with the statutory duties and responsibilities of a Board under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.
- 1.2. There is reputational and operational risk in not delivering on the Strategy and Plan, which represents Plymouth's coordinated and consolidated partnership activities to address VAWG and DASV. The Strategy and Plan provides a clear structure for the City to deliver on its commitments and statutory responsibilities around this agenda. It is clear, concise and consistent with the needs of those with lived experience of VAWG DASV and will support Plymouth to strengthen its response and reduce risk and increase safety for people in the City.

**Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan**

This work is relevant to the Health and Well-being Strategy and the Safer Plymouth Partnership Plan.

**Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:**

N/A

**Financial Risks**

N/A

**Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:**

N/A

**Other Implications: e.g. Health and Safety, Risk Management, Child Poverty:**

*\* When considering these proposals members have a responsibility to ensure they give due regard to the Council's duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between people who share protected characteristics under the Equalities Act and those who do not.*

Responding to domestic abuse, supports the Council's duty to promote equality of opportunity and promote healthy relationships, including for those who have protected characteristics under the Equalities Act.

**Appendices**

*\*Add rows as required to box below*

Ref.	Title of Appendix	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) <i>If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</i>						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A	Briefing report title							
B	Equalities Impact Assessment (if applicable)							
C	Climate Impact Assessment (if applicable)							

**Background papers:**

*\*Add rows as required to box below*

*Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below. Background papers are unpublished works, relied on to a material extent in preparing the report, which disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the work is based.*

Title of any background paper(s)	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) <i>If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</i>						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

**Sign off:**

Fin	<b>DJN. 23.24 .152</b>	Leg	LS/0 0002 268/ 2/AC /10/1 1/23	Mon Off	Click here to enter text.	HR	Click here to enter text.	Asset s	Click here to enter text.	Strat Proc	Click here to enter text.
Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Gary Walbridge, Director of People											
Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes Date agreed: 10/11/2023											
Cabinet Member approval: Councillor Haydon Date approved: 10/11/2023											

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# PLYMOUTH'S VAWG DASV STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN 2023-26

VAWG DASV Strategic Lead: Safer Plymouth/DASV Partnership Board



## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. From April to August 2023, the Plymouth DASV (Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence) Statutory Partnership completed a review of its mission, vision, values and ambitions. The review was done in collaboration with partners from the statutory, voluntary and community sectors and consolidates work to date, including the VAWG (Violence Against Women and Girls) Commission, work in progress and future plans to tackle VAWG and DASV across the City.
- 1.2. This report provides background information about the new VAWG DASV 2023-26 Strategy and Action Plan and requests cross-party support for its delivery ahead of an intended launch on 7 December, during 16 Days of Activism to end Gender-based violence<sup>1</sup>.

## 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. For over a decade, Plymouth has had a multi-agency partnership committed to preventing and addressing Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence – the DASV Board. This multi-agency partnership brings together partners from police, local authority, specialist voluntary sector organisations, housing and health. Historically, this group has met as a sub-group of Safer Plymouth – Plymouth's Community Safety Partnership.
- 2.2. As part of the implementation of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, the DASV group agreed to fulfil the statutory duties of a Local Partnership Board under the Act. Whilst the DA Act 2021 necessitates certain partners to be a member of the partnership board, the DASV Partnership Board in Plymouth has a broader membership of partners reflecting the strength of the local commitment to a coordinated community response.
- 2.3. The Plymouth VAWG Commission in 2022 strengthened commitment in the city to prevent and address VAWGDASV, including the call to action of creating positive culture change that stops male violence against women and girls. The VAWG Commission concluded by producing a report and a set of recommendations which Safer Plymouth and the DASV Board have responsibility for implementing.
- 2.4. The DASV Board's compact had not been reviewed since 2019 and a considerable amount of change has occurred over the last 4 years, including the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, the Covid-19 pandemic, the VAWG Commission and the introduction of the Serious Violence Duty.
- 2.5. Therefore, from April to August 2023, the DASV Board, chaired by Lyn Gooding (CEO, First Light) and Hannah Shead (CEO, Trevi) and coordinated by Verity Meeson (DASV Technical Lead), conducted a review of its compact (Vision, Mission and Values) and ambitions through a series of in-person and online facilitated workshops. The review process also took into consideration recent and current work to address VAWG DASV, local research and data collection, lived experience consultation, community engagement activities, DA systems leadership work and the findings and recommendations of the VAWG Commission. The review supported the Board to respond to local, regional and national developments and

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<sup>1</sup> [UNITE to End Violence against Women Campaign | UN Women – Headquarters](#)

implement its statutory duties under the DA Act 2021. The review culminated in the 2023-26 Strategy and Action Plan for the City.

2.6. The DASV Board's new compact is:

**A Partnership Board to...**provide system-based community leadership for preventing and ending Violence Against Women and Girls, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence in Plymouth.

**By the means of...** working collaboratively and innovatively to change culture, attitudes and behaviour and centring the voices of those with lived experience.

**To achieve...** an end to inequality and harm for everyone in Plymouth via a successful system-wide trauma informed and person-centred response to Domestic Abuse, Sexual Violence and VAWG.

**In the belief that...**we can support people to live free from fear and abuse and those who harm will change their behaviour.

2.7. The Board will take a public health, trauma-informed, coordinated community response<sup>2</sup> to all of its work, which will be delivered around 8 strategic aims and monitored through its action plan:

- Increase system wide responsibility for VAWGDASV
- Promote positive culture change
- Deliver support for survivors
- Develop a systemic approach to people who harm
- Improve the City-wide response to justice
- Coordinate communications
- Improve intelligence, learning and impact
- Influence the wider system beyond Plymouth

2.8. The resulting Strategy and Plan provides a clear structure for the City to deliver on its commitments and statutory responsibilities around this agenda. It is clear, concise and consistent with the needs of those with lived experience of VAWG DASV and will support Plymouth to strengthen its response and reduce risk and increase safety for people in the City.

2.9. The Action Plan includes delivery of Plymouth City Council's **statutory responsibilities**:

- 2.9.1. Under Part 4, Section 57 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, every local authority area must regularly re-assess the need for domestic abuse safe accommodation and monitor the effectiveness of local delivery. To this end, the City has a Safe Accommodation Working Group, which reviews the DA Housing Response in Plymouth. The DASV Board is currently refreshing Plymouth's Safe Accommodation Needs Assessment, which will be finalised in April 2024. Additionally, in October 2023, the local authority initiated the re-commissioning of core DA services, including refuge and dispersed accommodation, following significant market engagement and consultation with people with lived experience. The expanded service will launch in May 2024.
- 2.9.2. Under Part 4, Section 58 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, every local authority area must convene a partnership board with representatives from the Council, specialist voluntary sector organisations, children's services, health, police and criminal justice

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<sup>2</sup> [What is a CCR? — Standing Together](#)

sector and other relevant agencies. To this end, the Council administrates and coordinates the DASV Board and ensures appropriate and effective representation and buy-in across the City to ensure delivery of the strategy and action plan.

- 2.9.3. Under Section 9, Part 1 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 (and further updated by Section 2 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021), every local authority area must convene a Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) in the case of homicide or suicide in the context of domestic abuse. To this end, the local authority coordinates the commissioning and convening of each DHR via Safer Plymouth and ensures that each review follows national guidance and provides learning to prevent future deaths. Plymouth currently have 4 ongoing DHRs and will commission 3 additional reviews in November 2023.
- 2.10. Additional priorities in the Action Plan include:
- 2.10.1. All outstanding recommendations from the VAWG Commission. For example: Expanding Plymouth's Whole Schools Approach to Healthy Relationships education; Roll-out of the online harm campaign launched by NSPCC in October 2023; Release of a VAWG Charter for the City in early 2024, supported by Plymouth-specific Bystander training; Creating safer places and spaces for women and girls throughout the City, including the refurbished Safe Bus; Supporting the work of M.A.N. Culture to challenge toxic masculinity and men's harmful attitudes to women.
- 2.10.2. Becoming the first area in the UK to achieve Coordinated Community Response Accreditation by March 2025.
- 2.10.3. Updating and launching PCC's VAWG e-learning and Domestic Abuse Policy including a roll-out of training and support for HR, managers and well-being champions (November 2023-April 2024).
- 2.10.4. Supporting wider workforce development by launching a rolling monthly training programme to increase City-wide VAWG DASV confidence, knowledge and skills.
- 2.10.5. Increasing our focus on addressing the root causes of domestic abuse, including misogyny and intersecting inequalities, and expanding our response to tackle people causing harm.
- 2.10.6. Centering the voices of those with lived experience, including via the Changing Futures Programme, and ensuring that appreciative enquiry runs through the delivery of the Action Plan.
- 2.10.7. Supporting colleagues from Children's Services to continue to respond effectively to Ofsted's concerns and working towards the introduction of the Safe and Together<sup>3</sup> model in Plymouth.
- 2.10.8. Coordinating communications and awareness raising activities across the City via a VAWG Communications Group, starting with the 16 Days of Activism from 25 November 2023.

### 3. GOVERNANCE

- 3.1. The Strategy and Plan were signed off by the DASV Board in October 2023.
- 3.2. The DASV Board reports to the Community Safety Partnership, Safer Plymouth, which signed off this Strategy and Action Plan on 7 November.

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<sup>3</sup> [About the Safe & Together™ Model | Safe & Together Institute \(safeandtogetherinstitute.com\)](https://safeandtogetherinstitute.com)

**4. LAUNCH OF STRATEGY**

- 4.1. The Strategy and Action Plan will be launched at a City-wide Online Event on 7<sup>th</sup> December, 12pm as part of 16 Days of Activism.

**5. APPENDICES**

- 1) VAWG DASV Strategy
- 2) VAWG DASV Action Plan

# **PLYMOUTH VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS, DOMESTIC ABUSE AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE STRATEGY 2023-2026**



## FOREWORD

Whether it happens at home, at work, online or out in our public spaces, the impact of violence against women and girls, domestic abuse and sexual violence has and continues to have a devastating impact on the lives of all those affected.

The city of Plymouth has endured more than its fair share of so many people's lives cruelly cut short. The tragic cases of Bobbi Anne McLeod, Kerry Power and the five victims of the Keyham shooting, provide stark evidence of the need to take urgent action now.

For all those who have been murdered, it is incumbent upon us all to ensure they did not die in vain, instead their deaths must be the catalyst that galvanize a movement to bring about positive change, creating a community where women and girls can enjoy life without the need to change their behaviour across every aspect of their lives because of the threat of VAWG and where family and friends no longer have to grieve for a life lost because of the use of violence.

In an effort to develop a meaningful and comprehensive strategy, we have taken the accounts of over 150 people with lived experience, as well as the knowledge and experience of agencies and organisations who work in the field of domestic abuse and sexual violence, to develop a strategy that details how we will challenge the attitudes and behaviours that perpetuate violence and abuse, setting out a wide range of actions that aims to deliver real and lasting change, creating safer city for us all, and as a partnership we will work hard to make sure it happens.

**Lyn Gooding,**  
Chair of DASV Partnership Board,  
CEO of First Light

**Hannah Shead**  
Vice Chair of DASV Partnership Board,  
CEO of Trevi



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## Plymouth Multi-Partnership Commitment to Preventing Violence Against Women and Girls, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence

In Plymouth we recognise that tackling violence against women and girls, domestic abuse and sexual violence is everyone's business. This strategic plan brings together four statutory partnership boards in Plymouth with responsibility for community safety and safeguarding adults and children to deliver a shared vision and action plan to end violence against women and girls, domestic abuse and sexual violence. The DASV partnership board leads on the development of strategic priorities and overseeing the implementation of the action plan. All the statutory partnerships boards are committed to the strategic aims and to working together to implement the action plan.

### Safer Plymouth

**Safer Plymouth**, our Community Safety Partnership, helps agencies to work together to improve the safety of our residents. We are made up of six statutory organisations, working alongside a wide range of other agencies, to protect our local community from crime and to help people feel safer.

### Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership

**The Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership Board** provides system-based community leadership for preventing and ending Violence Against Women and Girls, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWG/DASV) in Plymouth.

### Plymouth Safeguarding Adults Partnership

**Plymouth Safeguarding Adults Partnership (PSAP)** is committed to ensuring improvements in the safeguarding of adults at risk of abuse, neglect or exploitation by Assurance, Challenge, Support and Learning.

### Plymouth Safeguarding Children Partnership

**The Plymouth Safeguarding Children Partnership (PSCP)** brings together partners to ensure the right support is available and accessible, at the earliest opportunity, to ensure children & young people in Plymouth are safe and feel safe in their families and communities.

## Definitions

We use the phrase **Violence Against Women and Girls, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWGDA SV)** to refer to all forms of gender-based violence, domestic abuse and sexual violence. We recognise that anyone can experience and be affected by violence and abuse and at the same time, evidence shows us that women and girls are disproportionately affected by violence and abuse and men disproportionately are responsible for causing harm.

### Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)

The term, Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) refers to acts of violence or abuse that we know disproportionality affect women and girls. Crimes and behaviour covered by this term include rape and other sexual offences, domestic abuse, stalking and harassment, so called 'honour-based' abuse, (including female genital mutilation, forced or early marriage), drink spiking, misogyny, sexism and pornography.

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) is both a cause and a consequence of gender inequality.

This definition is based on the Home Office Violence Against Women and Girls definition. However it also includes drink spiking, sexism, misogyny and pornography which were added by the Plymouth VAWG Commission.

### Gender-Based Violence definition

Gender-based violence (GBV) is often used interchangeably with Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and refers to harmful acts directed at an individual or a group of individuals based on their gender. It is rooted in gender inequality, the abuse of power and harmful norms.

This is taken from the United Nations definition of Gender Based Violence.

### Statement on men, boys and gender diversity

We know that men, boys and gender diverse people are also victims/survivors of violence, abuse and affected by harmful gender norms. Our plans and partnership work seek to prevent and address all forms of gender based abuse, domestic abuse and sexual violence and make Plymouth a community where all can feel safe and secure.

## BACKGROUND/HISTORY

Since 2009, Plymouth has worked to address DASV via a multi-agency, coordinated community response. The City recognises that many of its residents will be impacted by violence against women and girls, domestic abuse and sexual violence (VAWG/DASV) and is committed to coming together to address these issues in the most effective way.

In 2009 multi-agency partners came together in a sub group of Safer Plymouth (The local Community Safety Partnership) to form the DASV forum. This multi-agency partnership brought together partners from police, local authority, specialist voluntary sector organisations, housing and health.

In 2018, Plymouth partners began to reimagine our city's response to domestic abuse and in 2019, the DASV Forum conducted a DA-systems leadership exercise to reconsider the outcomes and value we might add for people in Plymouth at risk of or experiencing domestic abuse.

In April-May 2021 the DASV Forum completed an audit of partnership working in Plymouth using Standing Together's 'In Search of Excellence' as a guide. It identified both our strengths as a partnership and areas for development.

As part of the implementation of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 the DASV group agreed to fulfil the statutory duties of a Local Partnership Board under the Act. Whilst the DA Act 2021 necessitates certain partners to be a member of the partnership board, the partnership board in Plymouth has a broader membership of partners reflecting the strength of the local commitment to a coordinated community response. All members of the partnership have equal value and status.

Plymouth applied successfully in 2021 to be part of the Department for Housing, Levelling Up and Communities (DHLUC) and National Lottery Changing Futures programme. The purpose of the programme is to enhance partnerships between local organisations to better support those who experience multiple disadvantages including homelessness, substance misuse, mental health issues, domestic abuse and contact with the criminal justice system.

In late 2021, the City came together in the wake of the Keyham and Bobbi-Anne McLeod tragedies to form the Men's Violence Against Women and Girls Commission, with a report and recommendations published in May 2022.

The DASV Statutory Partnership Board continues both the work of the VAWG Commission and the legacy of partnership working around DASV in the City. The board meets every six weeks and is currently chaired by two CEOs of specialist Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence services in Plymouth.

This strategy and the work of the Board is set within the wider context of the National Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2021; the National Strategic Direction for Sexual Assault and Abuse Services; and the National Domestic Abuse Plan. It is legislatively underpinned by the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, the Serious Violence Duty 2022 and the Victims Bill.

## WHAT PEOPLE WITH LIVED EXPERIENCE TELL US

In 2019 the Plymouth Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (DASV) partnership listened to over 150 stories from people with lived experience, children and young people, people displaying harmful behaviours and staff working in services. This was called the Domestic Abuse Systems Leadership.

As part of this work we:

- held informal non-structured conversations
- some groups; some one-to-one
- developed stories and personas
- carried out extensive story telling circles
- sat with the discomfort and uncomfortable truths

In February and March 2022 the Plymouth VAWG Commission listened to the experience and feedback of a wide range of local people including survivors of sexual violence and domestic abuse and from organisations and experts. A survey was commissioned to understand how violence affects women and girls and to seek views about how it should be prevented and addressed.

In February 2023 we held a community conversation to revisit the systems leadership work as part of the Plymouth City Council procurement process for a new Domestic Abuse service for Plymouth.



## WHAT WE HEARD...

People told us they didn't feel listened to or believed. They were afraid to tell their friends and family and then when they had contact with services they didn't feel heard.

People told us they were frightened. Frightened that professionals would take their children, that they would lose their homes, frightened that their family and friends would reject them. Ultimately they were afraid that their partner would kill them.

People told us they felt isolated. They had often lost contact with their family and friends. Their support networks had been stripped away.

**"I had lost all my friends and had no confidence before engaging with services"**

Staff told us that they were fearful in their work around domestic abuse and feel like they are operating in a blame culture. That the system does not always work in a collaborative way, leaving them feeling isolated and unsupported.

Staff told us that the system does not always allow them to work in the best interests of the people they are trying to help.

**"It was hard to be believed as I didn't have scars and bruises"**

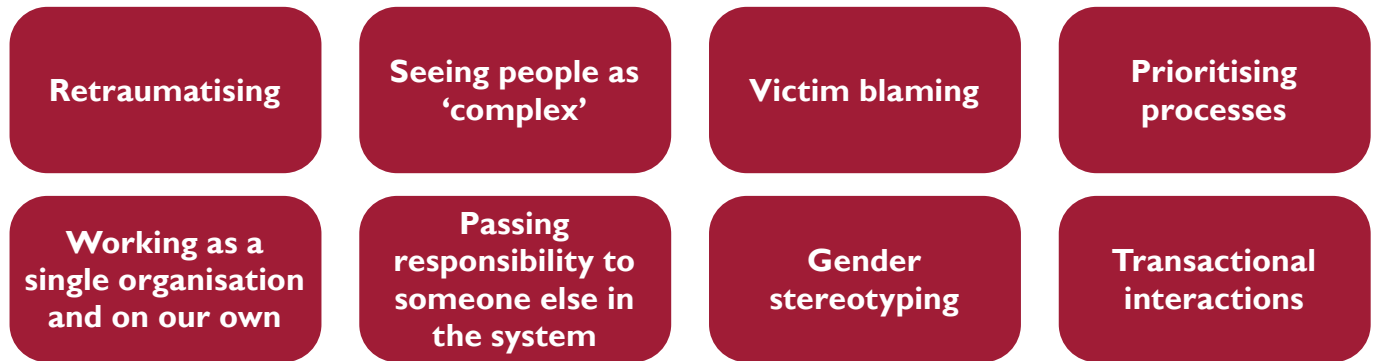
### People who have carried out acts of domestic abuse told us:

**"No one knows me, no one cares or is interested. This is the first time anyone has bothered to really listen"**

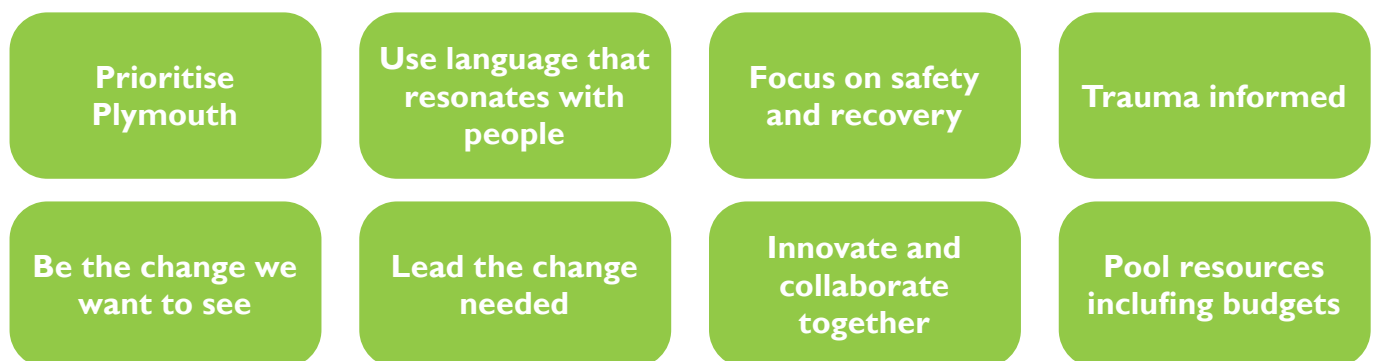
**"I tried to get help when I realised I had a problem but when I rang the DA service they were rude and told me to just google it"**

# WHAT WE LEARNT ABOUT OUR WORK AS A SYSTEM

## How we have been working and want to change:



## Work more like this:



## Staff can expect us to provide:



## Our ideal system design principles are:



## PLYMOUTH VAWG COMMISSION SURVEY

- 89% agreed that violence against women and girls is a problem in Plymouth
- 49% had experienced some level of harm/abuse and/or inappropriate behaviour whilst at home
- 60% felt violence against women and girls in Plymouth happens more often compared to 5 years ago
- 64% felt safe when out during the day
- 78% felt unsafe when out after dark
- Nearly 40% had experienced inappropriate comments or messages that offended them or made them feel uncomfortable on social network websites e.g. online dating
- Nearly 40% had experienced unwanted sexually explicit online comments, emails, messages or images

### What should our priorities be for addressing VAWG?

- 80% said working with schools to encourage healthy behaviour/relationships
- 58% said provide training to people so they can safely intervene if they witness violence against women and girls
- 54% said increasing understanding about the importance of healthy and respectful relationships




## DATA AND PREVALENCE

### Recorded crime statistics show that between April 2021 March 2022 there were:


- 4,884 domestic abuse crimes in Plymouth. This accounts for 21.7% of all crimes recorded in that year. In addition to recorded crimes there were 2,212 domestic abuse incidents – enquiries and reports that did not result in a crime being recorded. 73.6% of victims were women and 26.4% were men. 88% of people causing harm were men.
- 1,318 sexual offences (rape and other sexual offences) – this is a 25% increase from the previous year. Of these 447 (33.8%) were for rape and 874 (66.2%) were for other sexual offences. The rate of sexual offences is the third highest (out of 15) of the Most Similar Groups – those areas with similar demographic, economic and social characteristics. The data for sexual assault crimes indicates that 84.3% of victims were women and 97.7% of people committing these crimes were men.
- Domestic abuse is the third most common reason for homelessness in the city over the last 12 months with approximately 450 approaches in the last 365 days.
- In 2022 for adults who meet the Care Act definition and have been triaged as requiring a safeguarding response there were 92 domestic abuse cases, of which 74 were female and 18 were male.
- From 2020-2023, Plymouth received 10 referrals for domestic homicides and suspected suicides associated with domestic abuse Reviews – 8 progressed to Domestic Homicide Reviews
- In 2022/23 1,307 children and young people assessed by Plymouth City Council's Children's Social Care service were considered to have current violence-related factors in their environment and this was most likely to be concerns about domestic abuse.
- In the 2022 Plymouth Health Visitor Caseload Survey of 8,296 families with children under-5, violence in the family was noted in 5.8% (483 families).
- In the 2022 Plymouth Children and Young People's Health and Wellbeing Survey 10% of the 3,720 pupils responding said that there had been violence (e.g., hitting, punching, slapping) at home at least once or twice in the last month.

# THE PLYMOUTH DASV STATUTORY PARTNERSHIP BOARD

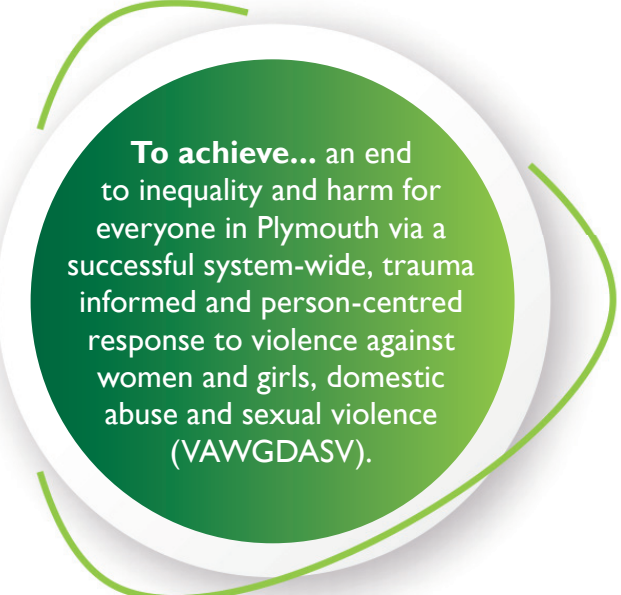
## Our Vision and Mission




**A Partnership Board**  
**to...** provide system-based community leadership for preventing and ending violence against women and girls, domestic abuse and sexual violence (VAWGDAV) in Plymouth.



**By the means of...** working collaboratively and innovatively to change culture, attitudes and behaviour and centring the voices of those with lived experience.



**To achieve...** an end to inequality and harm for everyone in Plymouth via a successful system-wide, trauma informed and person-centred response to violence against women and girls, domestic abuse and sexual violence (VAWGDAV).



**In the belief that...** we can support people to live free from fear and abuse and those who harm will change their behaviour.

## OUR VALUES AND COMMITMENTS

### Values:

- **Evidence-based** – using best available evidence to direct what we do
- **Intelligence-led** – interpreting a range of data sources to understand the issues
- **Centring the voice of lived experience** – working with communities and people with lived experience to ensure that they are involved in conversations, co-design and delivery
- **Accountable** – ensuring transparency and appropriate governance
- **Inclusive** – engaging with a range of people and organisations
- **Passionate** – making a real difference for the people of Plymouth
- **Trauma-informed** – employing trauma informed/responsive approaches to promote safe and respectful places and spaces
- **Ambitious** – always striving for continuous learning and improvement
- **Resourceful / efficient** – making best use of resources
- **Courageous and Innovative** – being brave and not afraid to test, learn and develop new ways of working

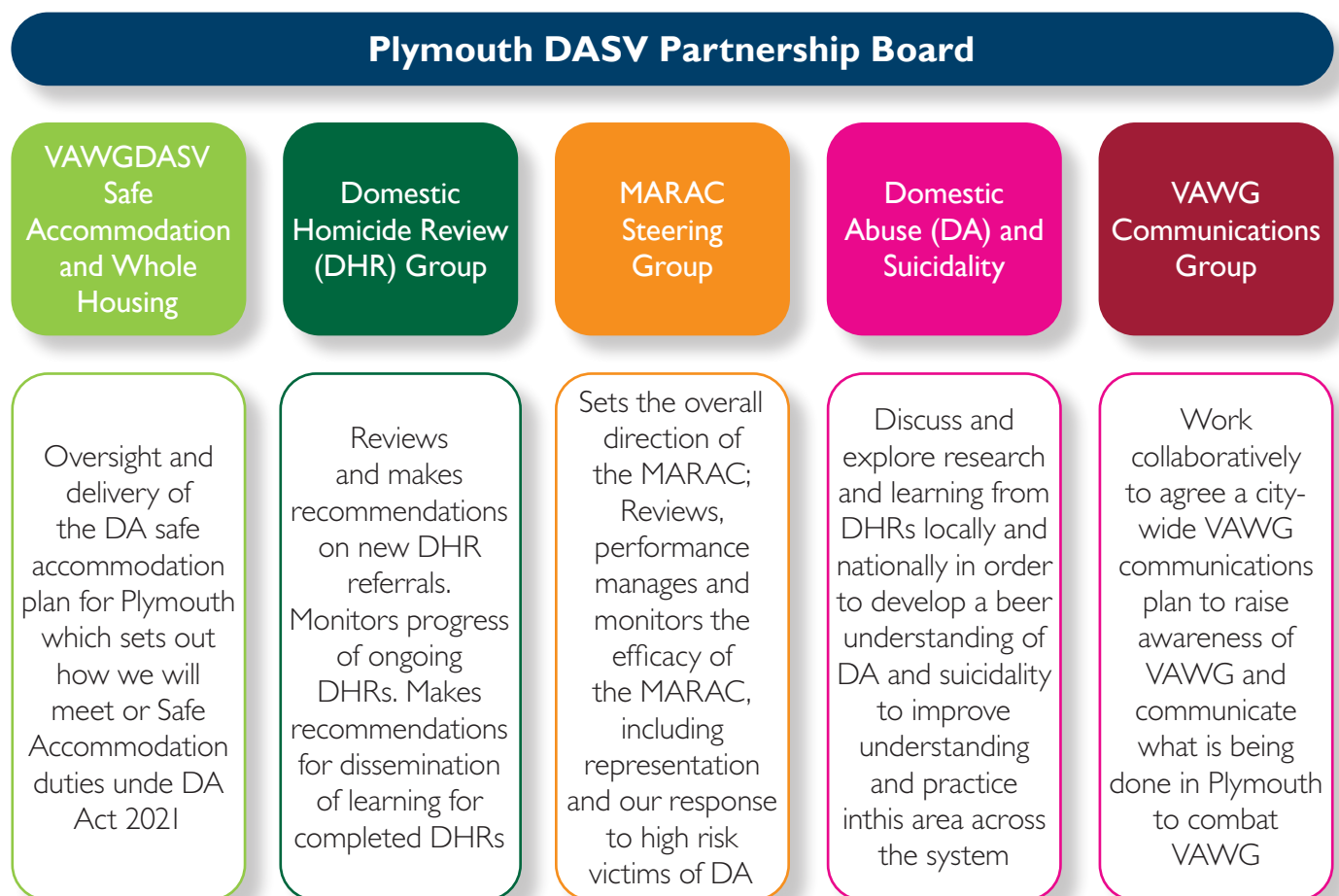
### Commitments:

- Individually and collectively demonstrate leadership to lead a system-wide response to DASV and VAWG
- Be active participants to achieve results
- Embrace, discuss and seek to solve even the most difficult problems
- Offer both support and challenge
- Enthusiastically take on activities outside of the meeting
- Contribute to a friendly, collegiate and values-based culture
- Talk about DASV and VAWG issues with our colleagues, friends and associates
- Take a coordinated community response / whole system approach; linking in with other networks locally and nationally

# STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE

The Plymouth DASV Board reports into the Community Safety Partnership - Safer Plymouth

Alongside the main board meeting there are sub-groups and test and learn groups which have specific focus areas. They report into the main board.



## OUR APPROACH TO PREVENTING VAWGDASV

In Plymouth our approach to preventing violence against women and girls, domestic abuse and sexual violence is underpinned by the following three approaches:



# COORDINATED COMMUNITY RESPONSE (CCR)

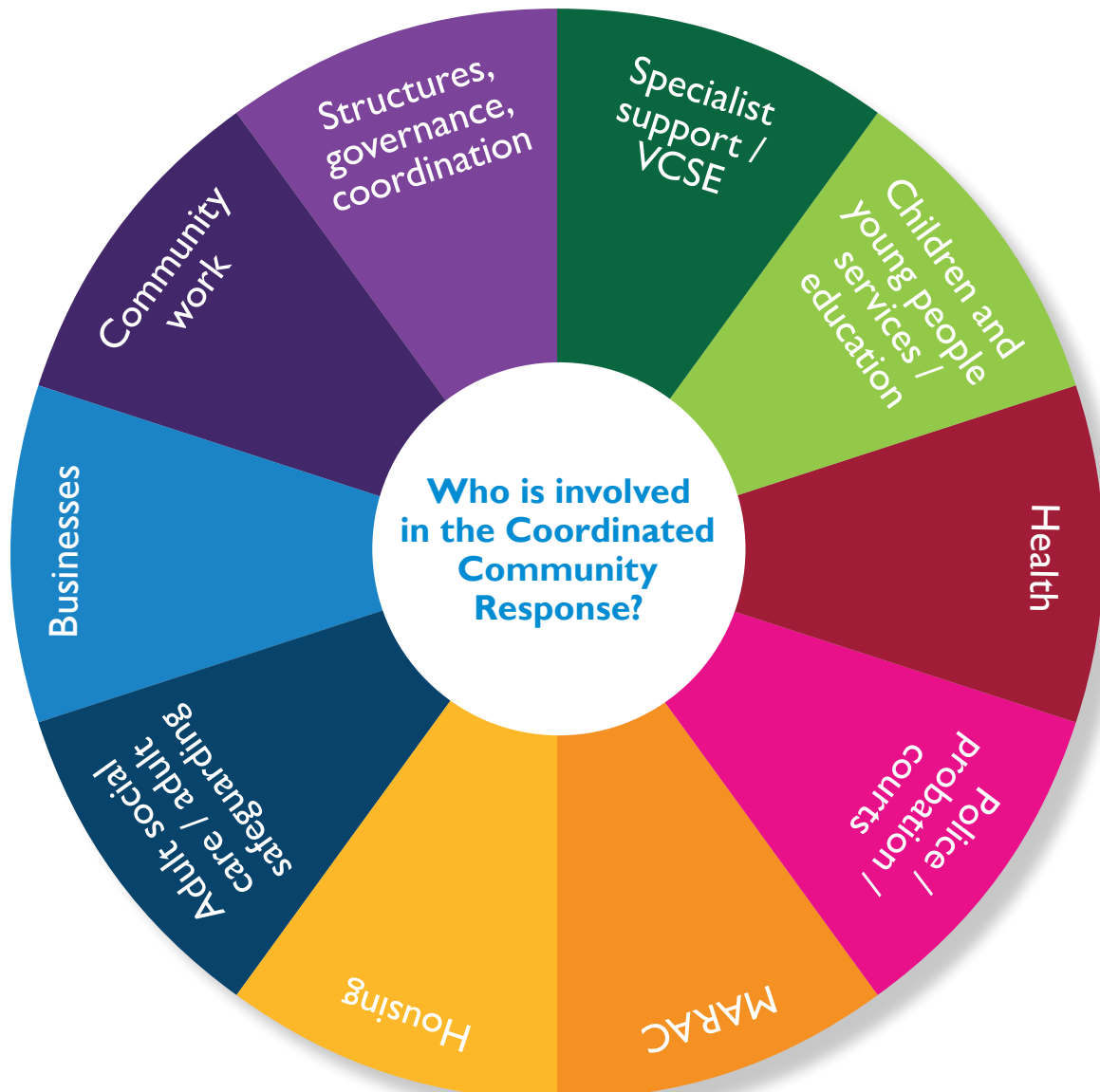
## What is the Coordinated Community Response?

A local whole system approach to violence against women and girls, domestic abuse and sexual violence

Every agency who has responsibility for dealing with victims of violence, their children and or people who harm, must work effectively within their own agency and with all other agencies to secure the safety of the victim and their children and hold people who harm to account. The process by which this work is integrated and managed is known as the CCR

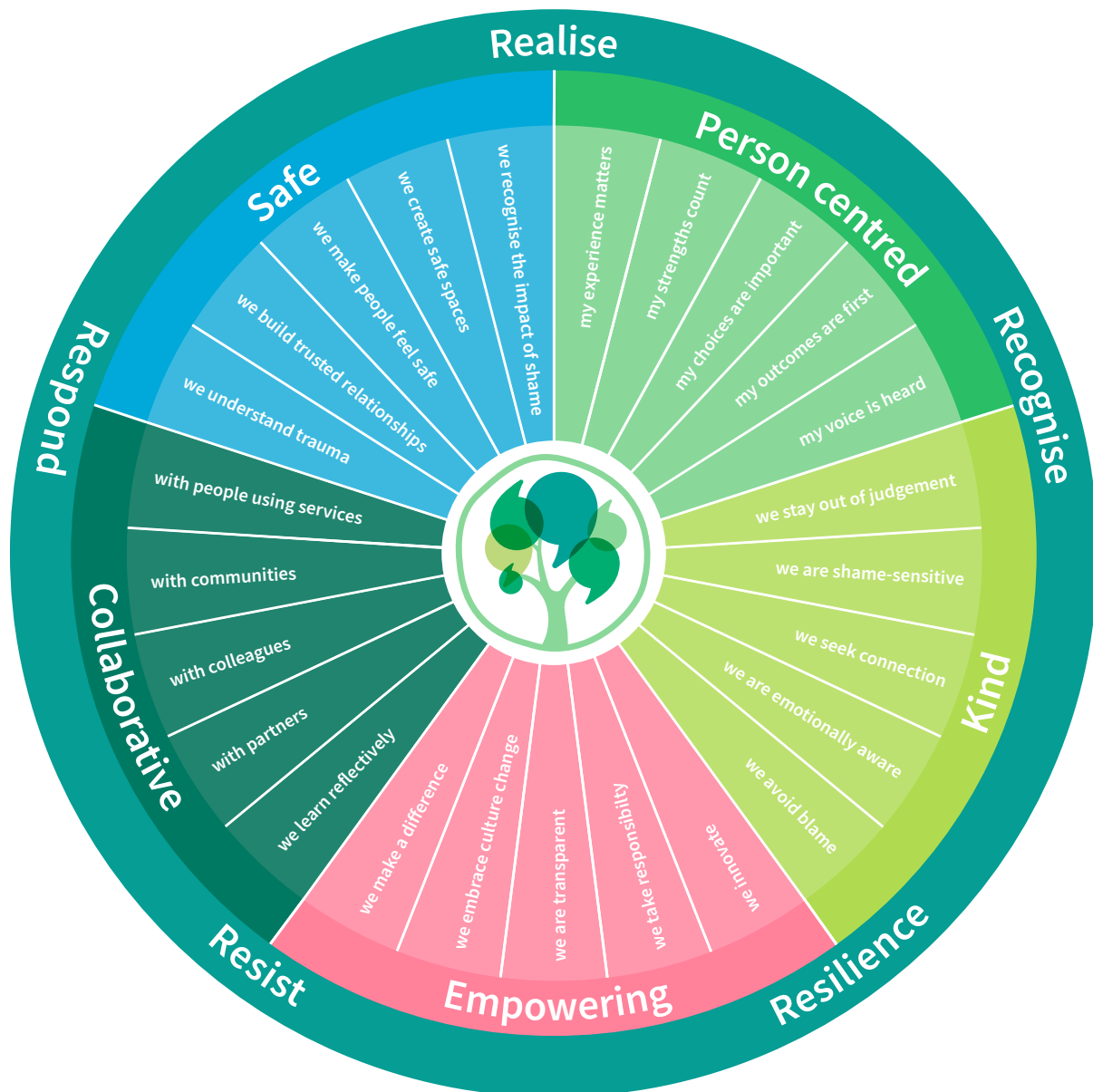
Encompasses broadest response to VAWGDASV addressing risk and need:

- Prevention
- Early Intervention
- Dealing with Crisis and Risk Fluctuation
- Long Term Recovery and Safety



# TRAUMA INFORMED APPROACH

The Plymouth approach to trauma informed practice is one which 'envision[s] a transformative approach that enables its people, its communities and its services to come together, to innovate and create a truly compassionate city.' (Trauma Informed Plymouth Network (TIPN)). The Plymouth Trauma Lens (below) and the 'Envisioning Plymouth as a Trauma Informed City' (TIPN) and 'Kindness Charter' (TIPN) sets out the definition of trauma, vision and values of the Plymouth Approach.



## Trauma Informed Lens

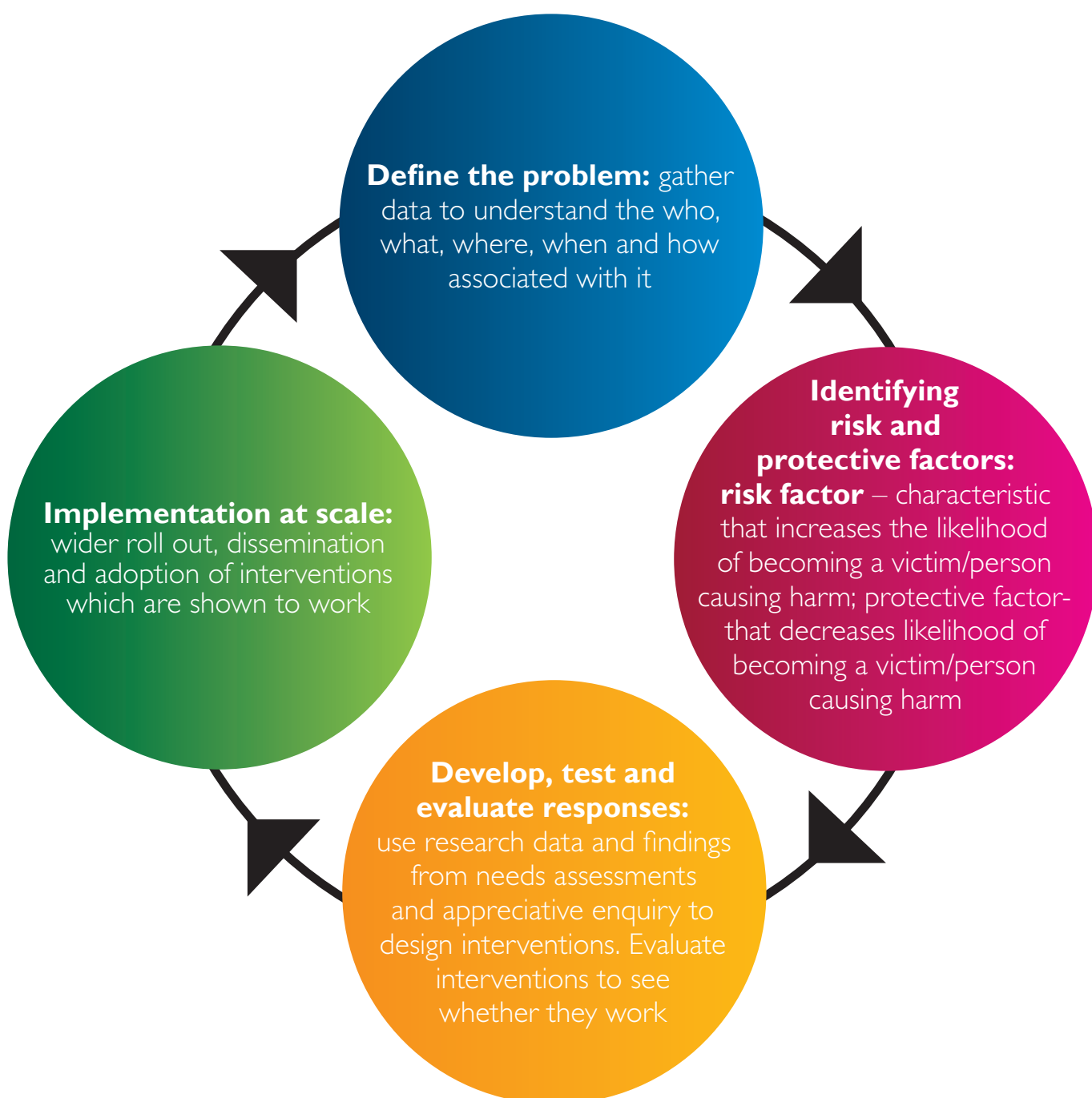
Hardwick, Moss and Shaw for Trauma Informed Plymouth Network CIC

# PUBLIC HEALTH APPROACH

We are committed to using a public health approach to violence prevention using the WHO definition below:

The public health approach to violence prevention seeks to improve the health and safety of all individuals by addressing underlying risk factors that increase the likelihood that an individual will become a victim/survivor or a person who causes harm.

The approach consists of four steps:



## OUR STRATEGIC AIMS

**Increase system and community-wide responsibility for violence against women and girls, domestic abuse and sexual violence (VAWGDASV)**

**Promote positive culture change around VAWGDASV**

**Deliver effective support to survivors**

**Develop a systemic response to people who harm**

**Improve our city-wide response to justice**

**Coordinate communications**

**Improve intelligence, learning and impact**

**Influence the wider system beyond Plymouth**

## Increase system and community-wide responsibility for violence against women and girls, domestic abuse and sexual violence (VAWG DASV)

We will use every opportunity to influence wider policy and programme structures to ensure that prevention of violence against women and girls, domestic abuse and sexual violence (VAWG DASV) is a priority across the system (holding the system accountable); We will be bold and ambitious to evolve the way we collectively prevent and address VAWG DASV.

### **We will achieve this by:**

- Engaging the leadership, authority and influence of every member of the VAWG DASV Partnership at every possible interaction, meeting, place in the system. We are ambassadors of this work across the city
- Advocating for issues relating to violence against women and girls, domestic abuse and sexual violence to be embedded in wider policy and system structures
- Strengthening our coordinated community response to violence against women and girls, domestic abuse and sexual violence (VAWG DASV)
- Developing a whole life course approach/framework to VAWG DASV in collaboration with the DASV board, Plymouth Safeguarding Children's Partnership (PSCP) and the Plymouth Safeguarding Adults Partnership (PSAP)
- Delivering our Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Plan
- Ensuring all opportunities for investment in VAWG DASV initiatives are realised to support the sustainable delivery of prevention and support of VAWG DASV
- Developing and implementing a VAWG Charter Mark scheme, VAWG Champions Network and Safe Spaces Network across the city
- Reviewing and strengthening our workforce development offer across the city
- Developing and implementing a citywide Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) prevention strategy in partnership with the DASV board and Plymouth Child Safeguarding Board
- Developing a Whole Family Approach to domestic abuse in collaboration with the Plymouth Safeguarding Children's Partnership
- Reviewing and strengthening our health response to VAWG DASV
- Increasing the influence of the voice of lived experience on the system

## Promote positive culture change around VAWGDASV

We will identify and challenge intersectional inequalities, harmful perceptions, and behaviours.

### We will achieve this by:

- Better understanding and responding to the needs of communities in Plymouth:
  - Lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer; intersex and asexual people
  - Reducing stigma around male victims of child sexual abuse and domestic abuse
  - Women involved in prostitution
  - Refugees and asylum seekers
  - People displaying Harmful sexual behaviours
  - Older people (aged 60+)
  - People with care and support needs
  - Disabled people
  - Younger victims
  - Minoritised communities
- VAWG anti-racism work and links with anti-racism allyship network
- Delivering of VAWG Commission recommendations
- Developing our understanding and approach to so called 'Honour-based' abuse
- Mainstreaming and Sustaining our Bystander Training Programme
- Developing a male allyship programme; Men/boys work
- Coordinating and Delivering a Whole school approach to cover respectful behaviour, healthy relationships and gender equality



## Deliver effective support to survivors

We will commission and provide person centred and trauma informed support and services to victims, including children, of VAWGDASV

### **We will achieve this by:**

- Ensuring throughout system that victim/survivors get needs-based support at the right time in the right place and only have to tell their story once
- Commissioning a new Domestic Abuse Service for the city drawing on our learning from those with lived experience and ensuring that we meet our statutory duties.
- Improving responses in Primary Care through the Interpersonal Trauma Response Service
- Conducting review/needs assessment and delivery of child survivor-specific services
- Improving our responses to prostituted women including developing clear exit pathways building on our work as a partnership and learning from the Sparks Project.
- Delivering the NHS England Sexual Violence Pathfinder project
- Re-commissioning of the Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) service for Plymouth
- Commissioning sexual violence therapeutic services for Plymouth

## Develop a systemic response to people who harm

We will develop a coherent response people displaying harmful behaviours.

### **We will achieve this by:**

- Developing a public health approach focussing on prevention, early intervention and behaviour change programmes looking at evidence of best practice and what works and where there are gaps in evidence taking a bold approach to developing test and learn pilots.
- Actively targeting people who harm across the system
- Delivering a robust response to those that pose High Risk, and cause High Harm.
- Developing our understanding and approach to child to parent abuse (CPA)
- Developing our understanding and approach to people who may sexually harm children
- Actively seeking and pursuing funding opportunities sustain our behaviour change work with people who harm and expand our interventions focussing on primary and secondary prevention

## Improve our city-wide response to justice

We will improve our justice responses to Violence Against Women and Girls Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence.

### **We will achieve this by:**

- Defining what we mean by justice in co-production with those with lived experience – victims/survivors and bereaved families
- Ensuring victims/survivors can report their experiences to anyone in system and are responded to
- Developing understanding and awareness of coercive control within the criminal justice system and the community
- Strengthening CJS Leadership: Op Moonstone (DA) Op Gemstone (SV) and neighbourhood policing
- Improving justice in schools for young women and girls i.e. misconduct processes and ways in which schools responds to reports of harassment and sexual violence
- Understanding and improving the experience of survivors in the family court process
- Reviewing and improving the Specialist Domestic Abuse Court in Plymouth

## Co-ordinate communications

- We will develop a collective approach to communicating about our work as a partnership and increasing awareness of Violence Against Women and Girls Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence across the community

### **We will achieve this by:**

- Coordinating a dedicated communications group gathering together communications professionals from across the partnership to lead on this work - VAWG Communications Group
- Developing the DASV Partnership Board online presence within upcoming Safer Plymouth Website to update the community on what work is being done across the city as well as provide information about VAWGDASV and local services
- Developing a learning hub for open access resources and learning about VAWGDASV.

## Improve intelligence, learning and impact

We will use an evidence informed approach to planning and delivery and will embrace a continuous learning approach to testing and evaluation.

### We will achieve this by:

- Developing a data dashboard so we know where we are making progress, where we need to consider different approaches to improving outcomes and so we understand emerging trends and issues
- Domestic Abuse and Suicidality test and learn group will consider research, best practice and information from domestic homicide reviews (DHRs) locally and nationally to improve understanding and practice in this area.
- Embedding Appreciative Enquiry and learning from those with lived experience (including Changing Futures Peer Researchers) across the Partnership
- Supporting the work of the VAWG Knowledge Exchange Group
- Ensuring the learning from DHRs and other enquires is used to inform system change
- Reviewing MARAC will consider best approaches to preventing serious harm
- Refreshing our Domestic Abuse needs assessment and update it yearly to support us to understand what is going on in Plymouth, identify gaps, support funding applications and track our progress.
- Developing a framework to evaluate our approach/strategy implementation to measure impact

## Influence the wider system beyond Plymouth

We will use every opportunity to influence wider regional and national practice, policy and legislation to advocate for policy reform and increased resources to effectively prevent and address Violence Against Women and Girls, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence.

### We will achieve this by:

- Working across Peninsula and linking to regional and national groups and programmes to share best practice, learning and achieve economies of scale.
- Influencing national research, policy and practice by contributing to policy consultations, research projects.
- Sharing local practice in regional and national forums
- Amplifying the Voice of lived experience on a regional and national level
- Co-developing the Coordinated Community Response accreditation framework with national 2<sup>nd</sup> tier charity Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse and aiming to be the first Local Partnership to achieve accreditation nationally



# GLOSSARY

## Types of abuse and what they mean

### Conversion Practices

Also known as 'conversion therapy'. This means any practice which tries to change or suppress who an LGBT+ person is (sexual orientation or gender identity). This may be committed by family members, community members or groups, religious leaders or organisations, health workers, counsellors/therapists or other practitioners within the 'well-being sector'.

### Domestic Abuse

Domestic abuse is any incident or pattern of incidents of economic, psychological or emotional abuse, controlling or coercive, threatening, degrading or violent behaviour, including sexual abuse and physical abuse between those aged 16 and over. In the majority of cases by a partner or ex-partner, but also includes abuse by other family members including extended family. It is very common. In the vast majority of cases it is experienced by women and men are the ones causing harm.

### Child Sexual Abuse

Child sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example, rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse. Sexual abuse can take place online, and technology can be used to facilitate offline abuse. Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.

### Early and forced marriage

A forced marriage is where one or both people do not (or in cases of people with learning disabilities or reduced capacity, cannot) consent to the marriage as they are pressurised, or abuse is used, to force them to do so. In the UK the legal age of marriage is 18.

### Exploitation

Exploitation is where someone takes unfair advantage of others to gain something for themselves or the benefit of others. It occurs when a person is persuaded to do things in exchange for something that they need or want (coercion), or threatened or forced to do things by people with more power than them. This can be someone of a similar age to the child or young adult being exploited, as well as an adult. Adults with learning disabilities and other vulnerabilities are also particularly at risk of exploitation. It can include being made to provide sexual acts (sexual exploitation) and/or to commit crimes such as dealing, carrying or growing drugs, theft and fraud (criminal exploitation).

### Faith-based abuse

This is when someone uses religion or faith to justify the abuse of another person, usually a child or adult with vulnerabilities. It is not caused by religion or faith.

### Female genital mutilation (FGM)

A procedure where the female genitals are deliberately cut, injured or changed, but there's no medical reason for this to be done. It's very painful and can seriously harm the health of women and girls. It can also cause long-term problems with sex, childbirth and mental health.

### Forced prostitution and sexual exploitation

Where someone is being coerced or forced into selling sex or performing sex acts. Sometimes this may be in exchange for food or a place to stay. Victim/survivors may be trafficked internally within the UK or externally into or out of the UK into prostitution. Children, young people and adults with vulnerabilities may also be sexually exploited and coerced into receiving or performing sexual acts. Abuse of children and adults can include sharing pornographic images and the use of technology.

### Harassment

This is a pattern of persistent and unwanted attention or behaviour that makes someone feel scared, distressed or threatened. Harassment may include: bullying at school or in the workplace; cyber stalking (using the internet to harass someone); antisocial

behaviour; sending abusive text messages; sending unwanted gifts and or unwanted phone calls, letters, emails or visits

### **So called 'honour' based abuse**

Honour-based abuse is a crime or incident committed to protect or defend the 'honour' of a family or community. If your family or community think you've shamed or embarrassed them by behaving in a certain way, they may punish you for breaking their 'honour' code. Honour based abuse can take many forms, including 'honour' killings, child marriage, virginity testing, enforced abortion, forced marriage, female genital mutilation, as well as physical, sexual and economic abuse and coercive control.

### **Intimate image abuse**

Intimate Image Abuse, also referred to as 'Revenge Porn', is the act of sharing intimate images or videos of someone, either on or offline, without their consent with the intention of causing distress. This is against the law in the UK.

### **Modern slavery**

Modern Slavery is the exploitation of people who have been forced, deceived, or coerced into a life of labour and servitude. It is a crime hidden from society where victims are subjected to abuse, inhumane and degrading treatment. Examples of enslavement include: a person who is forced to work or serve (domestic servitude) ; dehumanised, treated as a commodity or bought and sold as 'property' (human trafficking) ; physically constrained or has restrictions placed on his/her freedom of movement; forced or coerced into sexual exploitation or criminal exploitation. Modern slavery is linked to human trafficking, but not all victims of modern slavery have necessarily been trafficked.

### **Rape and sexual violence**

Sexual violence is any kind of sexual activity or act (including online) that was unwanted or involved one or more of the following: pressure; manipulation; bullying; intimidation; threats; deception and or force. In other words, any kind of sexual activity or act that took place without consent. There are lots of different types of sexual violence, including child sexual abuse, rape and sexual assault.

### **Sexual harassment**

Sexual harassment is any unwanted sexual behaviour that makes someone feel upset, scared, offended or humiliated, or is meant to make them feel that way.

### **Stalking**

A pattern of fixated and obsessive behaviour which is repeated, persistent, intrusive and causes fear of violence or engenders alarm and distress in the victim.

## **Key terms**

### **Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)**

A MARAC is a meeting where information is shared on the highest risk domestic abuse cases between representatives of local police, health, child protection, housing practitioners, Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs), probation and other specialists from the statutory and voluntary sectors.

The primary focus of a MARAC is to reduce risk of harm and homicide and to increase the safety of victims of domestic abuse (age 16+) and their children.

### **Domestic Homicide Review (DHR)**

Domestic homicide reviews are done when the death of a person aged 16 or over has, or appears to have resulted from violence, abuse or neglect by either: a relative; a spouse, partner or ex-partner; a member of the same household.

This includes death by suicide and suspected suicide.

The purpose of a DHR is to: help identify lessons we can learn from the death; prevent further domestic abuse; improve services for victim/survivors of domestic abuse; improve responses to people who cause harm

VAWGDA SV Strategy  
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**CONTACT**

Plymouth City Council  
Plymouth PL1 3BJ  
01752 668000  
[plymouth.gov.uk](http://plymouth.gov.uk)



# City Council



Date of meeting: 20 November 2023  
Title of Report: **City Council meeting dates 2024/25**  
Lead Member: Councillor Tudor Evans OBE  
Lead Strategic Director: Giles Perritt (Assistant Chief Executive)  
Author: Ross Jago, Head of Governance, Performance and Risk  
Contact Email: ross.jago@plymouth.gov.uk  
Your Reference: RJ24/25  
Key Decision: No  
Confidentiality: Part I - Official

## Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide the City Council meeting dates for 2024/25 municipal year. Consideration has been given to avoiding the schedule of main political party conferences, the Local Government Association conference, and other key clashes in proposing these dates.

## Recommendations and Reasons

That Council notes the following dates for meetings to be held in 2024 and 2025 –

- 17 May 2024 (AGM)
- 24 June 2024
- 16 September 2024
- 18 November 2024
- 27 Jan 2025
- 24 Feb 2025
- 17 March 2025
- 16 May 2025 (AGM)

## Alternative options considered and rejected

The Council's Annual calendar of meetings is agreed at its January meeting. This report gives advanced notification of proposed dates to aid Councillors' in their diary planning.

## Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

The meetings of Council are a central element of the Democratic process of the Council which supports the Democratic values of the Corporate Plan

## Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

None identified.

## Financial Risks:

None identified.

**Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:**

There are no direct implications.

**Other Implications: e.g. Health and Safety, Risk Management, Child Poverty:**

*\* When considering these proposals members have a responsibility to ensure they give due regard to the Council's duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between people who share protected characteristics under the Equalities Act and those who do not.*

None identified.

**Appendices**

*\*Add rows as required to box below*

Ref.	Title of Appendix	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) <i>If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</i>						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7

**Background papers:**

*\*Add rows as required to box below*

Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below. Background papers are unpublished works, relied on to a material extent in preparing the report, which disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the work is based.

Title of any background paper(s)	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) <i>If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</i>						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

**Sign off:**

Fin		Leg	LS/00 00226 8/1/AC /10/11/ 23	Mon Off		HR		Assets		Strat Proc	
Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Giles Perritt (Assistant Chief Executive)											
Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes											
Date agreed: 10/11/2023											
Cabinet Member approval: Councillor Tudor Evans OBE											
Date approved: 10/11/2023											



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