



Oversight and Governance

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HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL

Wednesday 4 December 2024
2.00 pm
Warspite Room, Council House

Members:

Councillor Finn, Chair

Councillor Blight, Vice Chair

Councillors Allison, Cuddihee, Dingle, Goslin, Hendy, P.Nicholson, Poyser, Reilly and Stevens.

Members are invited to attend the above meeting to consider the items of business overleaf. This meeting will be webcast and available on-line after the meeting. By entering the Warspite Room, Councillors are consenting to being filmed during the meeting and to the use of the recording for the webcast.

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Tracey Lee
Chief Executive

Housing and Community Services Scrutiny Panel

1. Apologies

To receive apologies for non-attendance submitted by Councillors.

2. Declarations of Interest

Councillors will be asked to make any declarations of interest in respect of items on the agenda.

3. Minutes (Pages 1 - 6)

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 16 October 2024.

4. Chair's Urgent Business

To receive reports on business which in the opinion of the Chair, should be brought forward for urgent consideration.

5. Central Park Petition - Response Report: (Pages 7 - 18)

6. Household Waste and Recycling: (To Follow)

7. City Centre Car Parks: (Pages 19 - 24)

8. Homelessness Position 2024, including Families, Statutory Homeless Single People and those Rough Sleeping: (Pages 25 - 28)

9. Work Programme: (Pages 29 - 32)

10. Tracking Decisions: (Pages 33 - 34)

Housing and Community Services Scrutiny Panel

Wednesday 16 October 2024

PRESENT:

Councillor Finn, in the Chair.

Councillor Blight, Vice Chair.

Councillors Allison, Cuddihee, Dingle, Freeman, Goslin, Hendy, P.Nicholson, Poyser and Stevens.

Also in attendance: Councillor Briars-Delve (Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change), Councillor Coker (Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Transport), Councillor Haydon (Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Libraries, Events, Cemeteries and Crematoria), Andrew Binding (Senior Public Health Analyst), Rosie Brookshaw (Democratic Advisor), Ruth Harrell (Director of Public Health), Philip Robinson (Service Director for Street Services) and Gary Walbridge (Strategic Director for Adults, Health and Communities).

The meeting started at 2.02 pm and finished at 4.02pm.

Note: At a future meeting, the Panel 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.

10. **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were made.

11. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 July 2024 were agreed as an accurate record.

12. **Chair's Urgent Business**

There were no items of Chair's urgent business.

13. **Street Services Performance Update**

Councillor Briars-Delve (Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change) introduced the report and highlighted the following points:

- a) Street Services covered domestic and commercial waste, recycling, Green Estates and trees, street cleansing, graffiti, highways, pavements, street lighting, street signs (excluding road signs), traffic lights and zebra crossings;
- b) Three quarters of the total casework submitted was for Street Services;

- c) Capacity for team leaders in Street Services was a challenge due to the volume of casework submitted;
- d) Historically, due to Local Government austerity measures, there had been a 35% cut in grounds teams staffing budgets which had implications for front line delivery;
- e) Improved health and safety measures had been applied which improved safety when working near roads however, it resulted in slower work operationally;
- f) The Council had invested in fleet decarbonisation and had 70 electric vehicles;
- g) Since 2021, Street Services had seen a year-on-year reduction of public complaints;
- h) Only 0.1% of domestic bins in Plymouth were missed, and the vast majority of the missed bins were collected within 48 hours;
- i) Grass cutting on verges and playground sites had more than doubled;
- j) Environmental Planning had worked to create green community hubs to work with young people and had received national awards for work around the first Council owned Habitat Bank in the country, planting over 15,000 trees in the last three years.

In response to questions, it was explained:

- k) The works on Laira Bridge should be completed by November 2024, however this was weather dependant;
- l) An engagement process was undertaken with Councillors every year on grass cutting;
- m) Due to feedback from residents, there had been 70 changes to the grass cutting regime, taking into account the 60/40 framework;
- n) The 2021 Environment Act obliged Councils to be clear on what work they were doing on nature recovery;
- o) Anaerobic digestion was part of the focus of the food waste delivery the Council was working on;
- p) Food waste delivery would quickly boost the recycling rate;
- q) Recycling rates in the city were seasonal;
- r) Targets for recycling rates were outlined in the Net Zero Action Plan;

- s) The feedback around grass cutting was consistent, although there was a spike in feedback during 2021 when the 60/40 regime was introduced;
- t) In 2022 there were 169 cases of Councillor casework around weeds, 101 in 2023 and only 38 in 2024 to date;
- u) There had been a review of grit bins, and they had been mapped to ensure they were refilled. The Council ensured they would refill all grit bins in 2024;
- v) The grit bin review would be brought back to the Housing and Community Services Scrutiny Panel upon completion;
- w) Ward Councillors would be included in the grit bin review;
- x) Tree management was done on a case by case basis and was prioritised on the level of risk;
- y) The way Plymouth City Council (PCC) managed tree maintenance had changed to ensure whole streets were not pollarded and disruption was kept to a minimum;
- z) All grit bins had been inspected and refilled in preparation for the winter maintenance season;
- aa) During periods of austerity, PCC had a legal responsibility to invest in statutory services, and therefore departments such as Street Services did suffer due to lack of funding;
- bb) Weston Mill Recycling Centre would remain open 4 days a week;
- cc) The rights of property owners regarding tree management could be found on the PCC website.

The Committee agreed the following recommendations:

1. To note the report;
2. To thank the Cabinet Members and Service Director for their hard work;
3. To resolve to add the grit bin review to the work programme.

14. **Bereavement Services Update**

Councillor Haydon (Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Libraries, Events, Cemeteries and Crematoria) introduced the report and highlighted the following points:

- a) The new crematorium provided a calm and comforting space surrounded by nature, with a memorial area with grounds;

- b) The park had been open to the public for nine weeks and had delivered 302 cremations, and 51 functions at the café;
- c) The café was open to the general public for anybody to visit;
- d) Over a thousand members of the public attended the open day of the crematorium;
- e) The old crematoriums at Weston Mill and Efford were not disability friendly, nor energy efficient;
- f) The new crematorium offered bariatric cremations, which were not offered at Weston Mill or Efford.

In response to questions, it was explained:

- g) The lease at Drake Lodge would end in 2050 and it would be returned to PCC, however negotiations had been undertaken to ensure there was an entrance through Drake Lodge to the park;
- h) There would be wildflower meadows with paths mown through, and more manicured sites closer to the park. These would take a while to grow and develop;
- i) 83% of the public who attended funerals travelled by car;
- j) Taxi drivers had been invited to the park and given the opportunity to drive around and become familiar, which would create ease of transport for public attending funerals in the future;
- k) Meetings were taking place to discuss a possible bus service to the park;
- l) There was a tender out to add two bus routes via the crematorium;
- m) Loved ones at Weston Mill and Efford would continue to be looked after and the graves maintained to the highest standard;
- n) The cremators at Weston Mill and Efford had been removed due to being unfit for purpose;
- o) Both of the chapels at Weston Mill and Efford would be closed;
- p) The memorial books, toilets and water for flowers would still be available at Weston Mill and Efford crematoriums;
- q) The feedback from the open day of the new crematorium had been completely positive, and another open day would be held in Spring 2025;

- r) The café was open 8.30am to 4.00pm on weekdays, 10.00am to 2.00pm on weekends;
- s) 'Living Wakes' had been considered as an option for the crematorium to offer.

The Committee agreed to note the report.

15. **Work Programme**

The Committee agreed to note the Work Programme.

16. **Tracking Decisions**

The Committee agreed to note its tracking decisions document.

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Housing and Community Service Scrutiny Panel



Date of meeting:	04 December 2024
Title of Report:	Central Park Petition – Response Report
Lead Member:	Councillor Tom Briars-Delve (Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change)
Lead Strategic Director:	Karime Hassan (Interim Strategic Director for Growth)
Author:	Kat Deeney
Contact Email:	Kathryn.deeney@plymouth.gov.uk
Your Reference:	241204 Central Park Petition - Scrutiny Response Report FINAL
Key Decision:	No
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

The Ponds project has been the most recent project to come forward as part of the Central Park improvements. The project is the third phase of the original Central Park project. The business case for the project was approved on the 21st of January 2022. The Central Park Ponds Project aims to transform water from a problem into a resource. The project involves re-landscaping an area of the park to provide a nature-based solution to flooding by using a sustainable drainage system to manage surface water and provide a space for wildlife and people.

This report responds to the petition submitted to the Council which raised 4 key issues. The ePetition ran from 16/07/2024 to 31/08/2024.

Recommendations and Reasons

1. Note the report and its response to the petition.

Reason: The petition was started at a time when the project delivery had been stalled whereas the current situation is that the project delivery is underway, adhering to the approved entering the final stages of delivery.

Alternative options considered and rejected

1. Look to revise the plans. This has been discounted as the project is being delivered to the approved plans and is nearly complete.

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

Central Park is an allocation in the Joint Local Plan PLY19.

Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

No new implications as the project has an approved business plan and we are not proposing any changes to the delivery plans as a result of the petition.

Financial Risks

No new risks.

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

The projects is to deliver a Sustainable Urban Drainage system to help the city respond to the challenges of climate change, particularly increased rainfall, and improve the biodiversity value of this part of the park. The project will therefore have a positive impact on the environment.

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.*

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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	241203 Central Park Petition - Scrutiny							

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>						
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Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Karime Hassan

Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes

Date agreed: 26/11/2024

Cabinet Member approval: Councillor Briars-Delve, Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change

Date approved: 22/11/2024

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CONTEXT

The improvement programme for Central Park is important as it forms part of the growth of the City and aims to deliver significant health and well-being for communities. The Park improvements are specifically identified as part of the Joint Local Plan (PLY 19) to build a 'premier park for the people of Plymouth and outstanding venue of regional and national significance for active recreation and formal sport, culture, art and the natural environment.'

The overall ambition was originally identified in the Masterplan for Central Park that was adopted by the Council in March 2013 and approved by Cabinet on 12th March 2013. Assessments of the Park carried out as part of the Joint Local Plan did however acknowledge the current poor state of the park, stating that 'sports and recreational facilities within the park require upgrading to deal with issues such as drainage, and new facilities developed to ensure the sport and recreational offer in the park is outstanding. Other facilities will also be developed within the park to complement its purpose, such as cafes and play areas. Any new facilities will be in-keeping with the purpose of the park and sensitive to its natural and heritage features.'

The assessment work led to a Business Case being developed and approved in 2017 which set out an ambitious improvement programme that was designed to be delivered in phases. The Ponds project is the last phase to be delivered under the original Business Case. To date the project has delivered the new play area, skate park, café, community sports hub, tennis courts, playing pitch improvements, the events field, access infrastructure and biodiversity benefits across the Park.

The Ponds project has been the most recent project to come forward as part of the Park wide improvements. The project is the third phase of the original Central Park project. The business case for the project was approved on the 21st of January 2022 and signed off by Councillor Nicholson. The Central Park Ponds Project aims to

CENTRAL PARK PETITION – RESPONSE REPORT

transform water from a problem into a resource. The project involves re-landscaping an area of the park to provide a nature-based solution to flooding by using a sustainable drainage system to manage surface water and provide a space for wildlife and people.

The Barn Park corner of Central Park was often prone to flooding after sometimes only moderate rainfall. The project has expanded the previous inaccessible pond and created two others to form a natural, sustainable urban drainage system. The system contains a swale – a shallow channel to capture water run-off – to allow nature to help reduce the localised flooding that occurs in this part of the park.

A number of new trees will be planted this winter to help contribute to improved biodiversity as will the newly vegetated walls which are planted with wildflower seed mixes. All these interventions, when established, will create a space for residents to enjoy the new ponds, with opportunities for education and engagement to learn about water and wildlife.

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

This report responds to the petition submitted to the Council. The ePetition ran from 16/07/2024 to 31/08/2024. The petition sets out four areas:

1. “Understand why this project has left people dissatisfied.”
2. “Communicate with and listen to the park community to plan and agree something better.”
3. “Remove temporary fencing and reinstate access to public spaces.”
4. “Commission an independent review to facilitate improvements.”

This report will respond to each of the points in turn.

I. “Understand why this project has left people dissatisfied.”

At the time the petition signatures were collected it is fully understood why people were dissatisfied with the project and condition of the park. Works were halted on

CENTRAL PARK PETITION – RESPONSE REPORT

site due to the extreme rainfall during the winter of 2023 and had not recommenced. Therefore, the Park contained an unfinished project which is a position nobody wanted including the project team. The timeline for the project to date is as follows:

- 21/11/2022 – Ponds project commenced
- 21/12/2023 – Site works stopped after a major push to open Coronation Avenue and that area of the Park for the Christmas period. By this stage the ponds had been formed, and most of the drainage infrastructure was in place but not complete. This timing coincided with unseasonal amount of rainfall over a prolonged period which prevented progress due to the ground conditions. The construction team therefore left site to ensure costs were managed.
- 26/08/2024 – Work resumed to complete Coronation Avenue drainage, North Pond earthworks, North Pond Bank completed, and Bunds created. The commencement of this phase was delayed due to issues getting the contractors to return to site.
- 21/10/2024 – Work stopped on North Ponds due to deteriorating weather
- 11/11/2024 – Resurfacing works for Coronation Avenue completed.
- 11/11/2024 – Landscaping contractor team on site to complete works to South Pond including; stepping stones handrail, stepping stones wooden exit steps, reduction of wooden fencing on Mawsons Field, metal fencing, tree planting preparation (pits).

Since the recommencement of works on the site the feedback we have received is that people are happy with the works and looking forward to seeing the project finished. Appendix I includes some pictures which shows the current status on site. There is still work to do to complete the project including the tree planting and landscape works, completing the land drainage, levelling, and seeding of the fields.

Summary – In relation to the time the petition was started we understand the dissatisfaction with the project. However, once the project is complete and the

CENTRAL PARK PETITION – RESPONSE REPORT

landscaping has been given time to establish it is hoped that people will really value this part of the park and enjoy being able to use it at all times of year without the access routes being flooded.

2. “Communicate with and listen to the Park community to plan and agree something better.”

Since the inception of the project the proposed improvements to the park have been done with the engagement of the park community. As far back as 2007 during the development of the masterplan the then Central Park Community Forum was established and met regularly to shape the plans for the Park. Since then, the plans have been evolved and developed with more detailed projects being delivered.

The ponds project had a significant level of engagement and listening before the plans were finalised and a film was created to ensure people could see what the site would look like after the works. The film can be found on the project specific web page [Central Park Ponds Project | PLYMOUTH.GOV.UK](https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/central-park-ponds-project). There have been repeated attempts to use signs in the Park to provide some information on the project, but they have been subject to high levels of vandalism and removal. At the request of the residents, we included a FAQs section on the website to enable people to understand what was happening with the project.

The plans for the Ponds project went through the planning permission process which enabled further formal consultation on the plans. Planning permission for the project was initially approved in July 2020 but was revised in early 2022 with measures to further benefit wildlife and give the scheme a more natural aesthetic, while also addressing some comments received during the consultation for the first planning application. The approved plans are the ones being delivered in the Park.

Summary – The ponds project is in its final stages of delivery, and the project will be delivered in line with the plans as approved through the planning process. It is accepted that communication could have been better during the pause period. Since then, the team have been listening, including meeting on site the residents that

CENTRAL PARK PETITION – RESPONSE REPORT

organised the petition and taking on ideas. We also have members of the Green Communities project embedded within the park who are regularly out and about talking to residents and visitors about the project.

3. “Remove temporary fencing and reinstate access to public spaces.”

There is still work to do on the site as detailed above which will require areas of the Park to be partitioned off with temporary fencing. This is either due to there being works still required in that area therefore temporary fences are required for health and safety reasons. Other areas will also remain fenced until the landscaping has established as otherwise it risks being damaged and not delivering the wildlife and landscape benefits.

There are however plans to reduce the amount of land that is within the temporary fence zone. This work has been agreed with the landscape contractors and some areas have been actioned. For example, as the grasslands have established well on Mawson’s Field the temporary fence line has been pulled back to a much smaller area along the route of the swale where landscaping works still need time to grow. This action has enabled public access back to a wide area of the Park.

Summary – Where possible temporary fencing will be reduced to enable public access back on parts of the Park. The remaining temporary fencing will be removed when it is safe, and the landscaping is established in the other areas.

4. “Commission an independent review to facilitate improvements.”

Improvements are continuing in the Park in line with the approved plans. The difficulties earlier in the year with restarting works have been resolved and public enjoyment of this area of the Park seems to be increasing.

Summary – It is not deemed good value for money to commission an independent review of the project as the improvements are now progressing in line with the approved plans. The focus is now on completing the works.

APPENDIX I – Current Pictures of the Project



Pictures 1 and 2 - The North Pond



Picture 3 - South Pond – Showing new fencing position close to the pond.

Picture 4 - Swale – showing new fencing position tight to the swale.



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Housing and Community Service Scrutiny Panel



Date of meeting:	04 December 2024
Title of Report:	City Centre Car Parks
Lead Member:	Councillor Mark Coker (Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Transport)
Lead Strategic Director:	Karime Hassan (Interim Strategic Director for Growth)
Author:	Mike Artherton
Contact Email:	mike.artherton@plymouth.gov.uk
Your Reference:	PHCP221124
Key Decision:	No
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

This report is to provide Members an update on the Councils current City Centre Off Street parking, covering provision, use, challenges and the potential to support future City Centre housing developments.

Recommendations and Reasons

For the Committee to note this update report.

Alternative options considered and rejected

There are no options in this update report.

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

This update report relates to services linked to the delivery of strategies and policies that the Council has adopted and will be key in helping the city meet its Corporate Plan priorities, and growth agenda.

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

There are no implications

Financial Risks

There are no decisions or financial risks associated with this update report

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

There are no Environmental implications associated with this update report

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

Appendices

*Add rows as required to box below

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		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A	City Centre Car Parking November 2024							

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.

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Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Karime Hassan (Interim Strategic Director for Growth)											
Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes											
Date agreed: 22/11/2024											
Cabinet Member approval: Cllr Mark Coker (Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Transport)											
Date approved: 22/11/2024											

**BRIEFING PAPER
CITY CENTRE CAR PARKING NOVEMBER 2024**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. This report provides seeks to provide Scrutiny with an overview of the Councils current city centre Off Street car parking, looking at the availability and use, alongside opportunities to support new housing in the city centre. The report also sets out the current challenges with City Centre car parks and sets out the mitigation in response to these challenges.
- 1.2. This report focuses on the Councils Off Street car parks within the area of the City Centre, which includes Mutley Plain, Millbay and Bretonside.

2. PARKING PROVISION

- 2.1. The City Council has 19 public car parks within the city centre providing a total parking capacity of 3077 parking spaces (see appendix 1). There are 9 short stay car parks accounting for 397 parking spaces (13%) and 10 long stay car parks accounting for 2680 parking spaces (87%).
- 2.2. Most of the city centre car parking is provided across the five multi-storey car parks which account for 2365 parking spaces (or 77%) of all the Councils off street parking spaces.

3. PARKING UTILISATION

- 3.1. The utilisation of car parks varies, figure 1.2 sets out which car parks frequently experience parking demand greater than the availability of parking, which car parks may occasionally experience demand above availability and which car parks experience demand below the availability of parking.
- 3.2. It should be noted that there are very infrequent occasions whereby demand for parking is exceptionally high, such as when the city hosts the annual fireworks competition, where all car parks can achieve full occupancy. This period of exceptionally high demand does not represent 'normal' everyday levels of demand.

Figure 1.2 – Utilisation Summary

Utilisation	Car Parks
Demand regularly exceeds availability	Exchange Street, Guildhall and North Hill

Demand can exceed availability		Derry's Cross, Cornwall Street East, Cornwall Street West, and Mayflower House Court, Mutley Barracks
Demand lower than availability		Colin Campbell Court*, Courtney Street, Marks and Spencer, Mayflower East, Mayflower West, Napier Terrace, Plymouth City Market, Regent Street, St Andrews Street, Theatre Royal and Western Approach

4. CAR PARK CHALLENGES

- 4.1. The Council is committed to providing clean and safe parking, where motorists have a positive customer experience when visiting the city centre. The service faces some challenges with City Centre car parks, these include:

Quality and Investment

- 4.2. The Council maintains the safe operation of these car parks, with all car parks subject to inspections, planned and reactive maintenance. As with all buildings and structures works may be required to ensure such facilities can continue to operate for years to come. In 2023/24 works totalling £2M were completed across the multi-storey car parks, works which extended the life of the car parks for the next 15 to 20 years. Such works, whilst critically important to maintain the asset, are not always work that deliver cosmetic improvements more linked to raising customer experience. As such, there remain challenges around how we can deliver programmes of works specifically focused on raising quality and user experience.

Anti-Social Behaviour and Criminal Damage

- 4.3. A number of car parks have been subjected to levels of anti-social behaviour and criminal damage. Whilst these behaviours are because of a minority of individuals, the impact of such behaviours is significant, not just in terms of costs to effect repairs or cleansing, but reputationally if experienced by customers.

5. RESPONDING TO THE CHALLENGES

- 5.1. In response to these challenges the Council has a range of measures, these include:
- Options are being explored to consider works to further raise quality and user experience across city centre car parks.
 - A multi-agency approach is being taken in response to the anti-social and criminal damage, calling upon the collaborative efforts and expertise of key partners, including the police, Safer Plymouth, Community Connections, Plymouth Against Retail Crime, Streets Services Teams, and Youth Services.

- Work is being undertaken to explore opportunities to improve and upgrade the existing CCTV across the car parks, as part of this work CCTV systems are currently being updated within the popular Western Approach car park. These works will help reassure visitors of a safe and secure parking experience.
- Lighting has been upgraded across a number of car parks as part of measures to create a safe and secure parking experience.
- Payment systems have been updated across all the car parks, providing customers with a much greater choice of payment options.
- Additional cleansing services have been introduced across the city centre car parks to respond to increased demands and to ensure that car parks can continue to be maintained to standard our customers should expect.
- Over four hundred extra wide parking bays have been installed across the city centre car parks over the last year, making parking easier and improving customer experience.

6. LOOKING FORWARD – FUTURE CHANGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

- 6.1. Considering that demand for off street parking is consistently below the total availability off-street parking, there is clearly an opportunity to explore the use of car parks to support future housing developments. In doing so there are a number of considerations that present a basis for discussion and further work:

Future growth in parking demand

- 6.2. Modelling data derived from the Plymouth Highway Assignment Model (HAM3) projects future growth in journeys and demand for City Centre parking in Plymouth. This data and projections are to be reviewed in consideration to the latest growth models in helping to accurately determine the ability and extent to which City Centre car parks may be able to support future city centre housing development.

Car Dependency

- 6.3. Considering commitment to sustainable transport and climate change, it is reasonable to review the dependency of the car with some City Centre developments and opportunities for car free development.

Asset Life

- 6.4. Most of the City Centres parking capacity, and therein potential to support future housing developments, is within the City Centre multi-storey car parks. The recent £2M investment was focused on undertaking key works to maintain the operation of these car parks for the next 15-20 years. In the lifespan of housing this is a short timeline. As with any aging assets, there is the potential for the costs of maintaining such structures to increase and it is not possible to guarantee

that any, or all, of these car parks will be operation beyond the next 15 to 20 years.

7. SUMMARY

- 7.1. There is currently sufficient supply of off-street parking to meet current demand for parking in the city centre; however, modelling forecasts growth in journeys and demand for parking over time. Some further work is required to assess the level of support that parking can provide housing developments in the future, with consideration needed to ongoing use of the car and long-term viability of car parks to support developments.
- 7.2. Some of the City Centre car parks have been experiencing challenges with anti-social behaviour and criminal damage. Measures have been implemented, which includes supporting vulnerable persons, to support managing these challenges; positive impacts have already been achieved in reducing these challenges.

Appendix I – City Centre Car Parking

Car Park	Surface / Multi-Storey	Parking Provision	Long Stay / Short Stay
Bretonside B	Surface	5	Short stay
Bretonside C	Surface	16	Short stay
Colin Campbell Court*	Surface	155	Short stay
Cornwall Street East	Surface	52	Short stay
Cornwall Street West	Surface	13	Short stay
Courtney Street	Surface	30	Short stay
Derry's Cross	Surface	71	Long stay
Exchange Street	Surface	18	Short stay
Guildhall	Surface	42	Long stay
Marks and Spencer	Surface	19	Short stay
Mayflower East	Multi-storey	292	Long stay
Mayflower House Court	Surface	75	Long stay
Mayflower West	Surface	81	Long stay
Napier Terrace	Multi-storey	299	Long stay
Mutley Barracks	Surface	24	Short Stay
North Hill	Surface	35	Long stay
Plymouth City Market	Surface	65	Short stay
Regent Street	Multi-storey	268	Long stay
St Andrews Street	Surface	11	Long stay
Theatre Royal	Multi-storey	505	Long stay
Western Approach	Multi-storey	1001	Long stay
Total		3077	

* Includes reduction to support city centre developments

Housing and Community Service Scrutiny Panel



Date of meeting:	04 December 2024
Title of Report:	Homelessness Position 2024, including Families, Statutory Homeless Single People and those Rough Sleeping
Lead Member:	Councillor Chris Penberthy (Cabinet Member for Housing, Cooperative Development, and Communities)
Lead Strategic Director:	Gary Walbridge (Strategic Director for People)
Author:	Jackie Kings
Contact Email:	Jackie. Kings@plymouth.gov.uk
Your Reference:	
Key Decision:	No
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

Purpose of report:

To provide members with an update on the number of temporary accommodation units to be developed at the Royal Building, the number of households in temporary and emergency (B&B and holiday lets) accommodation and the winter arrangements for those rough sleeping. A full discussion with the Cabinet Member for Housing Co-operative Development and Communities, will take place at the February Housing and Community Service Scrutiny Panel Meeting.

Recommendations and Reasons

That the Housing and Community Service Scrutiny Panel notes the report and agrees to receive a full briefing in February.

Alternative options considered and rejected

n/a

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

Keep Young People, Children and Adults Protected/ Focus on Prevention and Early Intervention/ Reduced Health Inequalities and Helping People Feel Safe in Plymouth.

Implications for the Medium-Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications

The use of B&B and holiday lets to meet the Council's statutory homelessness duties continues to place financial pressure on revenue budgets. There are no financial implications as a result of this report.

Financial Risks

An increase in demand for temporary accommodation by statutory homeless households could increase the use of expensive nightly paid accommodation and financial pressure on revenue budgets. There are no financial implications as a result of this report.

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

None

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

Access to good quality and suitable temporary accommodation supports the health and wellbeing needs of homeless households and those rough sleeping

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 (below)							

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	n/a	Leg	n/a	Mon Off	n/a	HR	n/a	Assets	n/a	Strat Proc	n/a
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Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Gary Walbridge

Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes

Date agreed: 22/11/2024

Cabinet Member approval: Councillor Chris Penberthy (Cabinet Member for Housing, Cooperative Development, and Communities)

Date approved: 21/11/2024

1. Refurbishment of the Royal Building

The Royal Building was purchased in September 2024 and once refurbished will provide a minimum of 30 family supported temporary accommodation units.

2. Number of Homeless Households in temporary and emergency (B&B and holiday lets) accommodation

	No of households in B&B (including holiday lets)	No of households in temporary accommodation	Total No in B&B(including holiday lets) and temporary accommodation
Sept 2024	207	140	347

The table above shows that overall number of homeless households in temporary and B&B emergency accommodation in September 2024.

3. Rough Sleeping

Supporting Rough Sleepers

The Council’s Homelessness Service works closely with organisations delivering services to rough sleepers. Two dedicated Community Outreach Workers and the Rough Sleeper Team meet with rough sleepers in a range of locations and co-ordinate a multi-agency response.



An all-year Night Shelter called Sleep Safely based at Hamoaze is open and houses 12 individuals.

During very adverse weather where there is a yellow, amber or red weather warning, or/and three consecutive days of below zero degrees, PATH and PCC lead on the delivery of SWEP (Severe Weather Emergency Provision) with organisations working with rough sleepers. During periods of SWEP, the approach is to ensure that each rough sleeper has an offer of accommodation.

- Devonport House can accommodate an additional eight individuals and George House an additional ten individuals.

- SWEP light is also delivered where the weather may affect wellbeing but there has been no weather warning or low temperatures for three nights. There is work being progressed around involving faith groups in this response.

Housing and Community Services Scrutiny Panel

Work Programme 2024/25



Please note that the work programme is a 'live' document and subject to change at short notice. The information in this work programme is intended to be of strategic relevance.

For general enquiries relating to the Council's Scrutiny function, including this Committee's work programme, please contact Rosie Brookshaw (Democratic Advisor) on 01752 305155.

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Prioritisation Score	Reason for Consideration	Cabinet Member/Lead Officer
26 July 2024	Serious Violence Duty Action Plan & Funding Proposal	(3)	Deferred from the meeting on 21 February 2024.	Councillor Haydon/Tracey Naismith
	Plan for Public Toilets Review	(3)	Identified for consideration at a work programming meeting on 10 July 2024.	Councillor Penberthy/Ann Thorp
16 October 2024	Bereavement Services Update	(5)	Identified for Consideration at the 30 November 2022 meeting. A detailed report would be provided to scrutiny upon the transition to opening and the future of the Western Mill and Efford sites.	Councillor Haydon/Graham Smith
	General Update from Street Services Performance	(3)	Identified during a work programming session in July 2024.	Councillor Briars-Delve/Philip Robinson
4 December 2024	Housing and Homelessness (Verbal Update)	(4)	Identified at Work Programme meeting on 10 June 2024.	Councillor Penberthy/Matt Garrett/Jackie Kings
	City Centre Parking	TBC	Identified at Work Programme meeting on 10 June 2024.	Councillor Coker/Mike Artherton
	Household Waste and Recycling (to	TBC	Identified for consideration in 2022/23	Councillor Briars-Delve/Philip Robinson

	include Reuse and Food Waste)			
5 February 2025	Customer Services Strategy	(4)	Identified at Work Programme meeting on 10 June 2024.	Councillor Dann/TBC
	Housing and Homelessness	(4)	Identified at Work Programme meeting on 10 June 2024.	Councillor Penberthy/Matt Garrett/Jackie Kings
	Improved Public Connectivity with City Council	(5)	Motion on Notice from 20 November 2023 meeting of City Council.	Councillor Dann/Pete Honeywell
Items to be scheduled for 2024/25				
Before January 2025	Public Toilets Strategy Review	TBC	Motion on Notice from 29 January 2024 meeting of City Council.	Councillor Penberthy/Ann Thorp
2024/25	Child Poverty Plan	TBC	Identified at Work Programme meeting on 10 June 2024.	TBC
2024/25	Cost of Living Taskforce	TBC	Identified at Work Programme meeting on 10 June 2024.	TBC
2024/25	Public Sector Equalities Duty Compliance	TBC	Identified for consideration at the July 2024 meeting.	Councillor Penberthy/Kevin McKenzie
2024/25	Introduction from the Chief Operating Officer	N/A	Identified at a work programming meeting on 10 July 2024	TBC
2024/25	Grit Bin Policy Review	TBC	Identified for consideration at the October 2024 meeting.	Councillor Coker/Philip Robinson
Items to be scheduled for 2025/26				
Items Identified for Select Committee Reviews				

Scrutiny Prioritisation Tool (P-Score)

Criteria	Explanation	Yes (=1)	Evidence	
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P ublic Interest	Is it an issue of concern to partners, stakeholders and/or the community?			
A bility	Could Scrutiny have an influence?			
P erformance	Is this an area of underperformance?			
E xtent	Does the topic affect people living, working, or studying in more than one electoral ward of Plymouth?			
R eplication	Will this be the only opportunity for public scrutiny?			
	Is the topic due planned to be the subject of an Executive Decision?			
Total:			High/Medium/Low	

Priority	Score
High	5-6
Medium	3-4
Low	1-2

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Housing and Community Services Scrutiny Panel – Tracking Decisions 2024/25

Minute No.	Recommendation/Action	Target Date, Officer Responsible and Progress
Minute 7 Serious Violence Duty Action Plan & Funding Proposal 26 July 2024	The Panel would be provided with the Annual Strategic Crime Data which would detail the priorities for the Community Safety Partnership for the following 12 months.	Date Due: December 2024. Officer: Tracey Naismith/ Devon and Cornwall Police Progress: Formal request made, data due December 2024.
Minute 9 Work Programme 26 July 2024	Request from a Cabinet Member to hold a task and finish group in November 2024 to discuss changes to the Council Tax Relief Scheme, as Panel dates did not line up with the timeline for the changes. Democratic Support to confirm if it was in the remit of the Panel and if so, organise session.	Date Due: 16 August 2024 Officer: Rosie Brookshaw/Ross Jago Progress: Late July 2024, confirmed as under the remit of this panel.
Minute 9 Work Programme 26 July 2024	Request from Panel Members that the relevant Cabinet Members provide them with a list of projects that would be of interest to scrutiny for this municipal year.	Date Due: 14 August 2024 Officer: Rosie Brookshaw Progress: Formal request made 31 July 2024. Chased 04 September 2024.

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