

Cabinet

Monday 9 June 2025

PRESENT:

Councillor Evans OBE, in the Chair.

Councillor Laing, Vice Chair.

Councillors Aspinnall, Briars-Delve, Haydon, Lowry, Penberthy, Cresswell and Stephens.

Apologies for absence: Councillor Dann.

Also in attendance:

Liz Bryant (Services Director for Legal Services), Glenn Caplin-Grey (Strategic Director for Growth), David Draffan (Service Director for Economic Development), Matt Garrett (Service Director for Community Connections), Jens Gemmel (Interim Chief Operating Officer) (via Microsoft Teams), David Haley (Director of Children's Services), Martin Ivatt (Regeneration and Placemaking Manager), Tracey Lee (Chief Executive), Tracey Naismith (Head of Community Safety), Ian Trisk-Grove (Service Director for Finance), Matt Ward (Head of Regeneration and Growth), Gary Walbridge (Strategic Director for Adults, Health and Communities) Elliot Wearne-Gould (Democratic Advisor) and Victoria Whitman (Head of Service for Strategic Int and Planning)

The meeting started at 2.05 pm and finished at 4.37 pm.

Note: The full discussion can be viewed on the webcast of the City Council meeting at 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.

147. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest made by members.

148. **Minutes**

Cabinet agreed the minutes of 12 May 2025 as a correct record.

149. **Questions from the Public**

There was one public question received in accordance with the Constitution.

The following question was asked by Pamela Huson:	
Question: Does the Council oversee the procedures concerning the safe removal and disposal of asbestos, and were these procedures followed in the demolition of the Snooker Hall in	Prior Approval Ref 20/01833/11 was required and granted for the demolition of existing 3-storey, steel-framed, brick and concrete building and garage at Victoria Snooker Centre Victoria Road Plymouth PL5 1RS on 07th June 2021.

Victoria Road St Budeaux? The land stands derelict and overgrown. Rumour has it asbestos is buried there hence the land remains derelict.	The Prior Approval was granted on condition that the approved works shall be carried out in strict accordance with specified approved documents including a 'Construction Phase Plan' (Condition 2) to comply with the Construction Design and Management (CDM) Regulations 2015. The approved Construction Phase Plan details that 'a refurbishment/demolition survey will be carried out prior to any work commencing. Should any additional asbestos be found or suspected during the course of our works it will be tested to determine what it is. If any asbestos found is licensable then this will be removed by a specialist licenced contractor. If licensable work is carried out, a certificate of cleanliness will be obtained from the asbestos contractor to state the site has been cleared of asbestos materials. This certificate will be retained on site and will be provided as part of the handover information file. Non-licensable asbestos will be removed by ADSW following Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012 guidelines and a certificate of cleanliness will be provided.' The Local Planning Authority would not oversee the carrying out of works under the Construction Phase Plan. That remains the responsibility of the Principal Contractor. However, the Local Planning Authority could consider enforcement against the condition if it was in receipt of evidence to suggest that the contractor was in breach of the condition. The LPA has not received such a complaint. There are however a range of other legislative powers in respect to the control and disposal of asbestos, namely the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012. Enforcement against the
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	regulations in this respect falls to the HSE. When planning permission is submitted for any new development, the site is assessed to ensure it does not present any contamination risk for the new use. A land quality assessment would be required as part of the planning application, which dependent on the circumstances on the site, may require remediation to make the site suitable for its future use. This would all be identified at the planning application stage and appropriate conditions applied to the permission, if it was granted.
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150. **Chair's Urgent Business**

There were no items of Chair's Urgent Business.

151. **Cabinet Appointments 2025/26**

Councillor Tudor Evans OBE introduced the Cabinet Appointments 2025/26 report and discussed:

- a) The purpose of the report was to approve the appointments to Joint Committees, Advisory Groups of Cabinet, and external appointment for the 2025/26 municipal year;
- b) Nominations from the Independent Group had been received following publication of the report. The additional details were:
 - i. Mount Edgcumbe – Councillor Sally Nicholson
 - ii. Child Poverty Working Group – Councillor Carol Ney
 - iii. The Corporate Parenting Board remained an Independent Group vacancy

Cabinet agreed the Cabinet Appointments for 2025/26 as amended.

152. **Integrating Primary Prevention of Violence Against Women and Girls in Plymouth City Council Policies**

Councillor Sally Haydon (Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Events, Libraries, Cemeteries and Crematoria), supported by Matt Garrett (Service Director for Community Connections) and Tracey Naismith (Head of Community Safety) presented the item to Cabinet and highlighted the following key points:

- a. Plymouth had a strong process of tackling violence against women and girls (VAWG);
- b. Since the VAWG strategy was launched three years ago the council had seen;
- c. Funding had been obtained for the safe bus for the evening and nighttime economy and had ensured women and girls felt safe in the evening;
- d. The Community Fund money had been split with half going to grassroot community funders;
- e. The VAWG team had launched a citywide strategy;
- f. 1,500 professionals had been trained to better respond to abuse and violence;
- g. The city had safe nights which utilised the safe bus;
- h. Plymouth had retained its purple flag status for improving the safety of the night time economy;
- i. The council had helped thousands of people through the domestic support service and expanded safe housing and targeted support for young people;
- j. A new pilot had been underway to address repeat offenders;
- k. There was a new strategy and toolkit launched to support children as survivors The citywide campaigns of 'Enough', 'Challenging Harmful Behaviours' and 'Man Culture' provided workshops and raised awareness;
- l. The Council was the first organisation to hold a conference addressing 'man culture';
- m. Councillor Alison Raynsford would be Plymouth's new champion for VAWG;

In response to questions raised it was reported that:

- n. The communications around the VAWG campaign would be increased;
- o. VAWG was not a women's problem and was something that women were the subject of and Cabinet expressed thanks and recognition of the hard work that had been done to address male perpetrators and encourage the Man Culture campaign;
- p. MATAC was in place which targeted perpetrators of domestic abuse and serial perpetrators who had domestically abused multiple victims and/or survivors;
- q. Perpetrator work was still in the 'research stage and the council were working on preventative measures to stop potential serial perpetrators.

Cabinet agreed to:

l. Include the primary prevention of Violence against Women and Girls when agreeing new and updated policies and strategies across all council departments alongside responses to gender-based violence through the report and decision processes, supported by a checklist and officer guidance.

153. **Development and Regeneration Update**

Councillor Tudor Evans OBE introduced the item to Cabinet and highlighted the following key points:

- a) Plymouth City Council had over 80 projects linked to the council's economic plan;
- b) The Economic team delivered a £1bn pipeline of development over a decade and had secured a further £1bn for the future decade;
- c) The Economic Development department's capital programme in 2025 was £155m, supported by over £100m in grants secured by the team;
- d) In Economic Development they enabled projects, funded projects, invested in projects and directly delivered projects. Those projects transformed the city and made money through rents, council tax and business rates;
- e) Thanked Matthew Ward (Head of Regeneration and Growth) for all his contributions to the city.

Matthew Ward (Head of Regeneration and Growth) gave a presentation to Cabinet and highlighted the following key points:

- f) Plymouth City Council contributed £19 million to the Derriford District Centre, which had provided over 100 new jobs;
- g) The Foulson park project was making a difference to the local community and the foundations for a new 3G football pitch had been laid. The steel frame for a new pavilion building had also been constructed. Plymouth City Council invested £3 million into the project which was matched by £20 million of funding from Plymouth Argyle and Plymouth Argyle Trust. Plymouth Community Leisure Ltd would take over the stewardship for the community;
- h) The Community Diagnostics Centre was under construction and was scheduled to open in 2026. The site was designed to help the NHS co-ordinate their non-acute services offsite and would drive footfall into the city centre. 91,000 tests per year were expected to be scheduled at the site when operational;
- i) The Guildhall modernisation and refurbishment, scheduled for completed in late 2025, aimed to improve acoustics in the great hall and provide better facilities for the public;
- j) The Civic Centre refurbishment had begun and was scheduled for completion in autumn 2029. The project aimed to provide 144 new homes and 2,000 new students educated in blue and green skills;

- k) Bath street would see up to 136 new homes in addition to commercial space. The new homes would be 100% affordable and phase one of the project would commence by the end of 2025 subject to funding agreements;
- l) Oceansgate phases one and two had been delivered, creating 2,600 square metres of office and industrial space and 113 new jobs. Phase three would be starting by the end of 2025 and would see the creation of a further 1,310 square metres of space over eight units;
- m) Tinside Lido would see a £4.5 million renovation and creation of a multi-use facility, including a new youth facility. The new facilities would encourage youth engagement, community engagement and new commercial opportunities;
- n) The Mountbatten Water Sports Centre would have over £4 million in redevelopment with new accessible facilities. The Council was undertaking a tender opportunity for improvements to the pontoons;
- o) Renovations to the Mount Edgumbe Garden Battery would start in 2026;
- p) Within the Freeport project at the Langage site there was 4,615m² of sustainable, high quality employment accommodation targeting high quality and high environmental standards. The build which had started in 2024 was set for completion in Autumn 2025;
- q) Barrack Court was completed and was almost completely let with the remaining units under offer creating over 50 jobs on that site;
- r) Through government funding and the Brownfield Land Release Fund, the former museum annex and social club at Tavistock Place had been demolished and the next phase of the project was being progressed and come back to Cabinet as the plans evolved;
- s) A strategic partnership with homes England shared a vision for 10,000 homes in the city centre which would see the creation of 7,000 new construction jobs on priority sites at the Civic centre, West End, Armada north and the Railway station. The council continued to work closely with Homes England, MHCLG, Babcock and the MOD to drive forward plans for housing in the city centre;

In response to questions raised it was reported that:

- t) There was £250 million worth of schemes on site that the council were directly involved with or leading on;
- u) The investments would see Plymouth building its rental income, asset base and rates base. As the debt was paid off, Plymouth would be in a strong place and would be setup for the future;

- v) Plymouth had a strong vision for where it wanted to go and was in the risk business where the private sector wouldn't go. There was an appetite for the developments which was shown by units being let before they were finished;
- w) Flavourfest proved to be a successful event in 2025 and was as a result of the work that was undertaken on Old Town Street and New George Street;
- x) The Armada Way development was on time and within budget and an additional 10 trees were being included in the first element of the plans.

Martin Ivatt (Regeneration and Placemaking Manager) gave a presentation to Cabinet which highlighted the following key points:

- y) Zone 1A was nearing its completion and would be open by August 2025;
- z) Mayflower street had been reopened with key infrastructural works completed under the road for that important crossing;
- aa) High quality granite had been laid and there was no concrete in the scheme above ground;
- bb) The cycle path running from North Cross down to Royal Parade was under construction;
- cc) There was 91 people on site working on the project;
- dd) The first section of wildflower turf was completed with 1,000 square metres in the first zone alone;
- ee) The rill would recirculate water, watering the trees as well as providing more aesthetic and ornamental quality;
- ff) Work had commenced on the eastern side of Armada Way with tree soil being delivered to allow for the next trees to be planted;
- gg) The Elms that were being planted were resistant to Dutch Elm disease in an effort to restore the elm population;
- hh) The first parts of the play equipment had arrived and would be installed;
- ii) Bridges connected the businesses and residential premises to not interrupt the operation of shops at all.

In response to questions raised it was reported that:

- jj) The team in place had learned from previous developments and were working at pace, on time and to budget, whilst maintaining good relationships;
- kk) It was the intention to open and use the amphitheatre space from day one and discussions had taken place with the City Centre company to progress those plans;

- ll) The 10 additional trees were welcomed for phase one of the project following feedback;
- mm) The Wildflower turf would have a continuous turf mix of 85-90% flowers which would bloom from April to October and only require one cut before they came back stronger in the season. There were around 15,000 perennial herbaceous plants going into Armada Way;
- nn) The team were thanked for their monthly updates through newsletters and site visit invitations to understand the various intricacies of the project;
- oo) It was advised that the system being installed in Armada Way would be a complete continuous system and as the phases opened it would seem as though it was not working. This would not be the case, and the system would work after all the phases were completed. Until the phases were completed, all the trees would continue to be manually watered;
- pp) Since Old Town Street and New George Street works were completed, there had been a change in how people were responding to the scheme to one in which was positive.

The Cabinet agreed to note the update.

154. **Volunteer Programme**

Councillor Chris Penberthy, Cabinet Member for Housing, Cooperative Development and Communities presented the report and highlighted the following key points:

- a) The 41st National Volunteers week provided an opportunity to recognise, celebrate and thank all the incredible volunteers that Plymouth had;
- b) Data indicated that that 38% of Plymouth residents volunteered and a further 18% of residents helped their neighbours out on a regular basis and was reported as being much better than comparators;
- c) The Council facilitated the Plymouth Volunteers Coordinators Network (PVNC) which supported 67 volunteering organisations in the city promoting partnership working, good practice and mutual support;
- d) The councils own volunteering programme worked with a range of organisations to develop best practice for volunteering opportunities in the city;
- e) On Course Southwest provided training and induction sessions to new volunteers in the city and in 2024, 114 people participated in those courses;
- f) The Council had ran workshops for organisations in areas such as safeguarding, recruitment and engagement of 'minoritised' communities as well as supporting asylum seekers and refugees;

- g) Volunteering was a key pillar of the councils community empowerment programme, supporting the delivery of community services, whilst enhancing personal wellbeing and creating a sense of belonging cohesion and building skills;
- h) Staff were encouraged to volunteer and were able to take a day off every year to do that;
- i) 700 people had volunteered for the Council to help deliver things that the council couldn't otherwise deliver.

Zoe Sydenham (Community Empowerment and Operational Lead) added:

- j) Volunteering supported the recognition of everyone as valuable community members;
- k) It enhanced personal wellbeing whilst offering a wide range of skills, life experiences and fresh perspectives to complement the councils services and staff skills;
- l) The council developed and supported high quality volunteering opportunities and had 680 active volunteers helping across a range of initiatives;
- m) The good neighbour volunteer support scheme helped reduce loneliness in the community whilst also helping individuals;
- n) The Community Digital Volunteer scheme was a volunteer network that helped digitally excluded individuals;
- o) The Changing Futures Volunteer programme was in place to help people through lived experiences;
- p) The Ocean City Event programme saw volunteers help with high profile events such as the fireworks championships;
- q) It was crucial that the council continued to build volunteering opportunities;

Cabinet agreed to note the report.

155. **OFSTED Inspection at Downham House**

Councillor Jemima Laing (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children's Social Care, Culture and Communications) introduced the report to Cabinet and highlighted the following key points:

- a) Downham house was a bedroom council owned home that provided short breaks for families and children across the city. The home had received a good Ofsted inspection in March 2025. Although there had been a historically unsettled leadership team, the home demonstrated an improved progression with stable and positive foundations, providing a solid future for new children's homes in the city.

- b) The work undertaken in the home was thoughtful, inclusive and welcoming with feedback from parents/carers describing their excitement for the home;

Victoria Whitman (Head of Service for Strategy, Intelligence and Planning) and David Haley (Director of Children's Services) added:

- a) The Ofsted inspection result was something to be proud of and was consistently good for eight years;
- b) There were challenges in the sector but staff at Downham House delivered better outcomes for disadvantaged children and kept them out of Care;
- c) All parents spoken to during the inspection were equally effusive and positive and had reflected that the opportunity to have overnight breaks allowed them the opportunity to stay together as a family and for their children to prosper;
- d) The outcome provided the council with a solid foundation in managing its own children's homes;
- e) The Council was finding it difficult to find and purchase its first couple of homes but it would continue to work through those challenges, but was the reason for the delay in work within that space;
- f) There were 68 children in residential children's homes with the majority of those living at a distance from Plymouth. The council wanted to get the best for those children and bring them closer to home.

156. **Leader's Announcements**

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

- a) Due to attending UK REIT, it was anticipated that Plymouth would have an influx from the developer community. The event made it clear that there was an appetite from private sector companies for what Plymouth was offering in terms of an entrepreneurial planning department and entrepreneurial economic development and property department at a time when people were nervous;
- b) Announcements from Government and Babcock around future submarines being built meant that they would be maintained in Devonport into the future;
- c) There would be massive investment from central government over a ten year period which gave Plymouth a stable footing with development companies;
- d) Councillor Evans OBE attended a civic engagement meeting at Ballard House which was attended by the University of Plymouth, Babcock, Plymouth City Council and the NHS, regarding meaningful partnership around procurement and social value. It was the first in the UK to have a range of anchor institutions sign in such a deal.

Councillor Tudor Evans OBE (Leader of the Council) provided the following update for Local Government re-organisation:

- e) The Council's within the principle areas where the Local Government Re-organisation (LGR) were taking place were awaiting a letter in response to their expressions of interest;
- f) A meeting took place with Devon County Council and the District Council's where it was discussed how Plymouth City Council would proceed up until November 2025;
- g) It was the expectation from Government that a consolidated submission would be given that would take into account the impact on neighbours of the proposals;
- h) Central government had provided a modest sum of money to help prepare the case for the area of Devon which was split into 11 parts for all the Council's within that area;
- i) Plymouth City Council was engaged in building key community connections with the different Parish Council's affected by the LGR.

157. **Cabinet Member Updates**

Councillor Stephens (Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Transport) highlighted the following:

- a) Gave thanks to all staff and Councillors who had supported him in his new role as a Cabinet Member;
- b) A38 Manadon interchange scheme consultation:
 - i. Currently within the 6 week period of the consultation;
 - ii. Gave thanks to staff involved for the way they had worked with stakeholders;
- c) The campaign for better transport bus day was 17 June 2025 with an event for ribbon cutting for the new electric buses and would be attended by public and representatives from the Department for Transport;
- d) A transport marketplace would also be set up to demonstrate all the new sustainable transport opportunities in Plymouth;
- e) Stoke 20mph zones and the improved road crossings would begin to come into effect that week and was expected to extend within two years;
 - i. Stuart Road primary school to provide street art that was road safety orientated in the scheme area;
 - ii. The winner of the best art piece would receive a prize;

- f) The Big Wheel Challenge takes place every March in Plymouth schools and it encourages children to walk, cycle or scoot to school and there had been a significant increase in schools taking part in the challenge;
 - i. Winning schools would receive a BMX Stunt Show;
 - ii. Encouraging children to walk, cycle or scoot to school, encourages parents to find other ways to get around;
 - iii. Thanked the staff involved who facilitated this.

Councillor Haydon (Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Libraries, Evens, Cemeteries and Crematoria) gave the following updates:

- g) Summer Sessions were due to take place that week:
 - i. Plymouth City Council (PCC) and Live Nation had organised an educational walk-around for students in the events industry around the Summer Sessions site on the Hoe with a question and answer session;
 - ii. Live Nation provided complimentary tickets to foster carers;
 - iii. They had provided grassroots slots for local artists;
 - iv. Local crew had been recruited to set up and 'break down' the staging;
 - v. Two local caterers had been booked to trade on the site;
- h) Armed Forces Day flag raising would take place on Monday 23 June 2025 at Plymouth Guildhall and the beginning of Armed Forces Week;
- i) Strength of the spirit games would take place on Thursday 26 June 2025, including 24 schools due to take part in the rowing challenge;
- j) Armed Forces weekend would have the Merlin helicopter, a display from the Black Cat helicopters, a field gun show, poppy display, dive tank and climbing wall;
 - i. Gave thanks to the Devon County Royal British Legion Branch, for their support and generous sponsorship and Councillor Murphy in her support in securing this;
- k) Plymouth Libraries had grown significantly in attendances, recording 46,500 visits since 1 April 2025 with a range of workshops and events to improve public interaction;
 - i. 2026 would mark the 10th anniversary of the opening of Central Library and the 150th anniversary of Plymouth's first free library.

Councillor Briars-Delve (Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change) provided the following updates:

- l) Plymouth were the first to create a Habitat Bank that was now known as 'Ocean City Nature';
 - i. PCC had secured Natural England approval for Ham Woods to be the first of three pilot habitat bank sites;
 - ii. Ham Woods was made up of 35 hectares of nature reserve and made up 12% of Plymouth's total local nature reserve estate;
 - iii. The approval from Natural England, secured conservation funding for the next 30 years and this actively supported sustainable developments;
- m) The Big Green Trail, organised by Plymouth City Council in association with a number of partner organisations, aimed to get people involved in nature and climate through free and fun family nature activities;
 - i. Gave thanks to transport providers as they offered sustainable modes of transport for people to get around the trail;
 - ii. Plymouth City Bus were providing a hop on, hop off service along all of these trail routes.

Councillor Penberthy (Cabinet Member for Housing, Co-operative Development and Communities) gave the following updates:

- n) PCC had been working with housing providers for over 10 years as part of Plan for Homes and in excess of 1,100 new homes had been built on surplus Council sites;
 - i. 64% of those were affordable home, which was more than 30% of the local plan requirement, demonstrating Plymouth Labour's commitment to providing affordable, high quality and social rented homes;
 - ii. Despite the private sector was not providing the level of affordable housing that Plymouth needed, but PCC was doing everything it could to tackle the housing shortage and homelessness crisis;
 - iii. 11 new Council sites with the potential for 640 new homes were in the pipeline, of which 288 (45%) were expected to be affordable;
 - iv. He was working with planning officers to release three new surplus brownfield sites which would provide another 75 affordable and social rented homes on sites that would otherwise be an ongoing liability and eye sore;
 - v. There was an aim to improve the quality and build standards of the new housing being constructed;

- vi. Broadland Gardens, the first direct development for more than 40 years, had been shortlisted for National Design Award and South West Region Michelmores Awards;
 - vii. If the Council could do it, so could everyone else, a challenge to the private sector;
 - viii. The Stirling Project, the second veteran self-build development, delivered in partnership with LiveWest was a finalist for the South West Royal Town and Planning Institute Awards and the Local Government Chronicle Awards;
 - ix. He would be speaking at the opening of the site of the previous North Prospect Library, where Plymouth Community Homes would be opening an additional eight new flats;
 - x. They were the first to benefit from the £80,000 grant given from the Plan for Homes eco-homes program, helping to reduce the carbon footprint of the development, as well as keeping energy bills for residents as low as possible with the installation of solar panels and air source heat pumps;
 - xi. The funds generated from the sale of Broadland Garden homes would be reinvested into future Plan for Homes projects;
 - xii. The administration would make their influence count in ensuring that PCC and partners continued to rise to the challenge of the housing crisis;
- o) Transgender Pride would take place on Saturday 14 June 2025 and the Council would be flying the Transgender flag outside of Plymouth Guildhall;
- i. He expressed thanks to the Transgender community for raising awareness and organising the event in a difficult time for the community and showed great bravery, ensuring that the community stayed visible;
 - ii. He urged members of the Transgender community to ensure their voice was heard by responding to the ongoing Equalities and Human Rights Commission consultation because the community had not been consulted during the hearing;
- p) Refugee week was running from 14-20 June 2025 and the theme was 'Community is a Superpower' and would launch at the Plymouth Hope Festival in Devonport Park which would showcase sports and music;
- i. He thanked Hope, Devon and Cornwall Refugee Service, the Open Doors International Language School, the Give Back Project, The Red Cross, START and Community Builders for organising the events across the week;

- q) Co-operative fortnight would begin on 23 June 2025 and would end with the International Day of Co-ops on 6 July 2025;
- i. PCC was proud to be a supporter of the co-operative sector and had commissioned a review of the sector as part of an update to the 2018 action plan;
 - ii. Plymouth was positioned as a national leader in the co-operative movement, ranking in the top 10% of local authorities for co-operative formations since 2018;
 - iii. Plymouth was home to 34 thriving co-operatives based in Plymouth, owned and controlled by 8,265 members, employing over 600 people and generating a combined annual turnover of around £4.5 million;
 - iv. 14 new co-operatives had flourished in Plymouth since 2018, demonstrating sector growth nine times faster than the UK average;
 - v. The Government's focus on addressing barriers like access to finance would further empower Plymouth's co-operative community;
 - vi. Wished all co-operatives ongoing success.

Councillor Cresswell (Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Apprenticeships) reported the following:

- r) The new SEND (Special Education Needs and Disabilities) graduated approach landing page and had over 2,500 visits since being launched in April 2025;
- i. Over 60 positive comments have been received from partners and families;
 - ii. The page represented the new SEND offer for all children and young people in Plymouth from universal to targeted and to specialist support;
 - iii. It was a local area partnership resource with guidance and training available for settings but also schools and families for local and regional experts;
 - iv. The targeted funding model had been launched as part of a new offer and 28 schools were going to be accessing the funding to implement internal, alternative curriculum pathways from September 2025;
 - v. Positive feedback received from families was important could be used to demonstrate the progress PCC had made; which can be used as further evidence to support the PCC inspection;
 - vi. Support was better planned and adaptable and a more consistent approach to supporting SEND children and young people;

- s) The new Riverside satellite for Milford school would expand to 50 places in September 2025, with the assessment nursery at Woodlands which would be in place for September 2025, and expansion to Longcause School;
- t) The headteachers of the maintained special schools were working closely with PCC to secure an additional 34 places for September 2025;
- u) Staff were working to on the next steps of the sufficiency project to ensure all children and young people had access to the best education possible and the most appropriate provision for their needs;
- v) The Education, Participation and Skills team had been nominated for an LGC Award for supported internships as well as Skills Launchpad, who had supported over 300 people into employment, education and training in the past 12 months, and she wished them all the best of luck;
- w) Government had made an announcement that universal free school meals would be extended for children whose families were in receipt of universal credit and with incomes of less than £7,400 a year, and it would benefit over 10,000 children in Plymouth.

Councillor Lowry (Cabinet Member for Finance) provided the following updates:

- x) Flavour Fest had been a successful event with 120 stores and had an estimated 120,000 visitors and was estimated to have generated about £3 million in revenue;
 - i. Investment in the city centre to improvement the public realm meant that events like Flavour Fest, could be bigger and better;
 - ii. Congratulated the City Centre Company on a great event that had received positive feedback from the public;
- y) The City Centre Company would be running an event from 30 June 2025 to 13 July 2025 and showing Wimbledon on the big screen and were working with Paddle United UK to provide a full-size court in the city centre and would be working with Marjons University to host other sporting activities in the area to encourage more people to get involved in sports;
- z) An international food market would be taking place in the city centre shortly;
- aa) Opportunities for local musicians who wish to perform at the Saturday sessions being held weekly were extremely popular.

Councillor Aspinall (Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care) updated Cabinet on the following:

bb) Carer's week had commenced that day which was an annual campaign to raise awareness of caring and highlighted the challenges of unpaid carers;

- i. Improving Lives Plymouth had a range of activities during carers week to help connect carers to offer respite and a chance to explore Plymouth.

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

cc) PCC were improving the first response to children and families when professionals and members of the public requested additional support or wanted to report a safeguarding concern;

dd) Out of hours response has been developed to respond to concerns and referrals where children and families needed more help and/or protection, therefore the hours had been extended to 8 am – 8 pm Monday to Friday and 9 am to 5 pm Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holidays;

- i. This is aimed to increase the responsiveness to families and children who are at immediate risk of harm and also individuals at risk of homelessness;

ee) The Forbidden Territories surrealism exhibition at The Box had opened and the launch event had been very well attended and also included an awards ceremony for the winners of The Box children and young people's art competition surreal estates;

- i. The Box received 2,500 visitors on 27 May 2025;
- ii. The total footfall for May half term had been 10,809.

158. **LGA Update**

Councillor Tudor Evans OBE (Leader of the Council) provided the following Local Government Association update:

- a) Councillor Evans OBE attended LGA meeting's in London in June where concerns from Local Government around SEND issues were acknowledged by national government and the Children's minister;
- b) Concerns around scalping by private children's homes providers was also raised as a matter of concern;
- c) Issues around disposable vapes were discussed and further insight would be required;
- d) The LGA were lobbying for a sexual health strategy due to a rise in infection rates amongst a number of different communities.

