

**Oversight and Governance**

Chief Executive's Department
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CITY COUNCIL

Monday 15 September 2025
2.00 pm
Council House, Plymouth

Members:

Councillor Ms Watkin, Chair

Councillor Tofan, Vice Chair

Councillors Allen, Allison, Aspinall, Bannerman, Mrs Beer, Blight, Briars-Delve, Mrs Bridgeman, Coker, Cresswell, Cuddihee, Dann, Darcy, Dingle, Evans OBE, Finn, Freeman, Gilmour, Goslin, Haydon, Hendy, Holloway, Krizanac, Laing, Lawson, Loveridge, Lowry, Luggier, McCarty, McLay, McNamara, Moore, Morton, Murphy, Ney, P.Nicholson, S.Nicholson, Noble, Penberthy, Penrose, Poyser, Raynsford, Reilly, Ricketts, Simpson, M.Smith, R.Smith, Sproston, Steel, Stephens, Stevens, Taylor, Tippetts, Tuohy and Wood.

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 - 20)

To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 02 June 2025 as a correct record.

3. Declarations of Interest:

4. Appointments to Committees, Outside Bodies etc

The Monitoring Officer 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. 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 Service Director for Legal;
- (b) To receive announcements from the Leader, Cabinet Members or Committee Chairs.

7. Capital Monitoring Report Quarter 1:

(Pages 21 - 30)

8. Independent Remuneration Panel Recommendations:

(To Follow)

9. Motions on notice

To consider motions from councillors in accordance with Part B, paragraph 5 of the Constitution.

- | | | |
|------|---|-----------------|
| 9.a. | Plymouth Highway Maintenance Amendments | (Pages 31 - 32) |
| 9.b. | Introducing a fair system of assessing trees suitable for a Tree Preservation Order | (Pages 33 - 34) |
| 9.c. | No to any Asylum Hotels in Plymouth | (Pages 35 - 36) |
| 9.d. | Giving Plymouth Children the Best Start in Life | (Pages 37 - 38) |
| 9.e. | Flags in Plymouth | (Pages 39 - 40) |

10. 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 4 of the constitution.

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City Council

Monday 2 June 2025

PRESENT:

Councillor Ms Watkin, in the Chair.

Councillor Tofan, Vice Chair.

Councillors Allen, Allison, Aspinall, Bannerman, Blight, Briars-Delve, Mrs Bridgeman, Coker, Cresswell, Cuddihee, Darcy, Dingle, Evans OBE, Freeman, Gilmour, Goslin, Haydon, Hendy, Holloway, Krizanac, Laing, Lawson, Loveridge, Lowry, Lugger, McCarty, McLay, McNamara, Moore, Morton, Murphy, Ney, P.Nicholson, S.Nicholson, Noble, Penberthy, Penrose, Poyser, Raynsford, Reilly, Ricketts, M.Smith, Sproston, Steel, Stephens, Stevens, Taylor, Tippetts, Tuohy and Wood.

Apologies for absence: Councillors Mrs Beer, Dann, Finn, Simpson and R.Smith.

The meeting started at 2pm and finished at 6.59pm.

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.

9. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 March 2025, 20 April 2025, 28 April 2025 and 16 May 2025 were agreed as an accurate record.

10. **Declarations of Interest**

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 -

Name	Minute Number	Reason	Interest
Councillor Taylor	20a	Employment	Personal
Councillor M Smith	20a	Employment	Personal

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

There were no changes to membership for Committees or Outside Bodies.

12. **Questions by the Public**

There were two questions from members of the public:

The following question was asked by Klara Wilkins

Question:

What training have Councillors on the Housing and Community Scrutiny Panel received in relation to homelessness legislation? In particular, the Homelessness Code of Guidance.

Response: I have checked and I understand that Housing and Community Scrutiny Panel have not had training in relation to homelessness legislation including the Homelessness Code of Guidance.

Scrutiny panels work at a strategic level within the Council and are not expected to have detailed operational knowledge across every area of their responsibility. Briefings on detailed operational subjects are given as necessary or at the request of the Scrutiny Chair.

There is no legislation that mandates training for Councillors. Scrutiny panels are not decision-making bodies but rather provide scrutiny of officer's work.

All members of scrutiny panels are offered an induction before they sit on the panel to ensure they understand the function, their purpose and how to prepare and ask relevant questions.

Whilst Cabinet cannot require Scrutiny to do anything, I will write to the Chair of the Housing and Community Panel to ask whether there are any areas of training required.

The following question was asked by Mathew Surtees

Question:

Councillor Evans, do you agree that the Labour Government's cuts to welfare will significantly impact the people of Plymouth and are you prepared to publicly condemn the actions of government in relation to these cuts, in the same way that labour councillors have done in other parts of the country?

Response: The government has published a green paper; this is not a decision but the commencement of a consultation that runs until the end of June.

In fact, the government held a public consultation event on the green paper in Plymouth on 13th May.

I would encourage anyone with an opinion to respond to the current consultation.

The government is currently demonstrating that it is carefully considering feedback, including that from Labour Party members and Councillors. The government is being responsible in asking people to engage with them in making submissions to inform decision-making and I am sure that all representations will be carefully considered.

I would suggest that you should also act responsibly by correctly reporting the facts rather than sharing misinformation.

13. **Announcements**

Councillor Ms Watkin (Lord Mayor) made the following announcements:

- a) It was with great sadness that the Council noted the death of former judge William Taylor, who had been an Honorary Recorder of the City of Plymouth since 2004:
 - I. Judge Taylor had earned the recognition, which followed immediately behind the role of Lord Mayor in order of civic importance;
 - II. The Lord Mayor thanked him for a lifetime of service to the city and conveyed her condolences to his family.
- b) The Finance Department was celebrating two exceptional apprentices that made their mark at a prestigious local government Apprentice of The Year 2025 competition.
 - I. Anya Stevens had been named runner up in the national competition whilst Lucy Gregory had reached the final stages, demonstrating the outstanding calibre of talent that was being developed within the Plymouth City Council apprenticeship program.

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

- a) Councillor Evans OBE had the privilege of travelling to Leeds to lead the delegation to the UK Real Estate Investment and Infrastructure Forum (REIIF).
 - I. He referenced Plymouth's bold ambition, future, potential and readiness for growth;
 - II. Met investors, developers, government officials and partners from across the UK;
 - III. Highlighted Plymouth's strengths, such as marine defence, digital and clean energy;
 - IV. Mentioned the importance of networking to build relationships and benefits for the city;
 - V. Mentioned the importance of jobs, homes, innovation and opportunity.
- b) Councillor Evans OBE met with Homes England to discuss a plan to deliver up to 10,000 new homes;
- c) A letter from MHCLG was received at the end of May 2025 about the growth area proposals for local government reorganisation (LGR).
 - I. Plymouth received constructive feedback from the government in May for the interim plan;
 - II. The letter confirmed that flexibility existed around the rule of unitary authorities requiring a population of 500,000 and that they supported the Council's approach;

- III. The letter confirmed that boundary changes to existing district boundaries were possible if there was strong justification;
- IV. This aligned with the proposal for the Council to be a continuing authority.
- d) The community conversation event, was a public engagement initiative involving a series of events, hosted by Cabinet members and officers.
 - I. The sessions provided an opportunity for communities to share what made their area great, as well as, identifying challenges and to discuss future opportunities;
 - II. For those unable to attend the events, there was an online survey available on the Council website until 09 July 2025.
- e) Councillor Evans OBE would be announcing engagement sessions for residents living within the current city boundary as he valued their voices from these communities.
 - I. The proposal needed to truly reflect locals' needs and aspirations;
 - II. Those updates would be provided to the Councillors and the LGR team.
- f) The Associated British Ports (ABP) at Millbay held a formal opening at the end of May 2025 to showcase the £23 million upgrade to port facilities in Millbay. The investment was made possible by the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed two years ago.
 - I. The upgrades included new passenger facilities, future proofing the port at Millbay for Brittany Ferries and a new set of rower ramps;
 - II. The new quayside was capable of handling containers, and provided an excellent use for exports through the Freeport.
- g) The latest developments of the Freeport at Beaumont Way, Langage included:
 - I. Industrial units for the marine and defence sectors;
 - II. Devon Contractors were progressing on the construction of those units, which ranged in size from 750 square meters to over 2,000 square meters;
 - III. £4 million of seed capital funding was matched by the Council and would create 138 new jobs;
- h) The National Marine Park was featured on Countryfile which highlighted the project with the rays which was seen by 6 million people and was a great advert for the city;
- i) The Mountbatten Centre refurbishment work began on the 24 March 2025. The works included; opening up the reception area, a ground floor café, outdoor seating area with spectacular waterfront views and new changing facilities;

- j) Work would be done to improve the visitor facilities for the Artillery Tower on top of Mount Batten;
- k) Tinside improvements were on track, and would open soon. The improvements consisted of a new terrace café, event space and youth hubs;
- l) Mr Daniel Zeichner MP (Minister of State for Food Security and Rural Affairs) laid wreaths on Plymouth Hoe at the fisherman's memorial as a part of National Memorial Day for fishers;
 - I. Issues with Plymouth's fishing ports and the need for investment in the area were discussed with the minister;
 - II. As a result of this connection, support would be provided to the fishers who have had their work disrupted by an invasion of octopuses;
 - III. A major research project surrounding the emergence of octopuses in Plymouth's waters was being pursued;

Councillor Aspinall (Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care) made the following announcements.

- a) Councillor Aspinall thanked the Lord Mayor and her consort for attending the Excellence in Care Awards held on Saturday the 31 May 2025.
 - I. More than 400 nominations were received for the awards;
 - II. Councillor Aspinall remarked on the talent across the sector;
 - III. The 31 awards included; Innovation in Using Technology, Care Worker of the Year and the People's Choice;
 - IV. Councillor Aspinall congratulated the 48 people and teams, who won their awards, as well as those highly commended.
- b) Councillor Aspinall thanked the Director of Adult Social Care and his team for helping celebrate the Adult Social Care workforce;
- c) Carer's week would commence on 09 June 2025, an annual campaign that raised awareness of caring and the challenges of unpaid carers and the contribution that they make were highlighted.
 - I. Councillor Aspinall noted that the theme for Carer's week was caring about equality;
 - II. She calls for an equal society where carers were truly valued, recognised and supported;
 - III. There would be information displayed on the Council's website.

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

- a) Councillor Penberthy mentioned the revision of the annual council tax support scheme. The maintenance of the scheme for the next year meant that recipients of legacy benefits currently migrating to universal credit would not face additional uncertainty during the process;
- b) Councillor Penberthy mentioned the following events;
 - I. June Pride Month: Until the start of Armed Forces Week, the Council would be flying pride identity flags outside the Guildhall;
 - II. Over the summer season, a progress pride flag would be flown alongside the other flags, on the Hoe Promenade;
 - III. On Saturday the 14 June 2025, the Trans community organised Plymouth Trans Pride. The Council would fly the Trans flag outside the Guildhall, over the weekend;
 - IV. On Saturday the 12 July 2025, there would be Pride event activities ongoing. The Progress Pride Flag would be flown outside the Guildhall, over the weekend.
- c) Councillor Penberthy thanked the LGBTQ+ community groups who were organising events and activities over the coming weeks, as part of International Pride and Plymouth Trans Pride;
- d) Refugees Week would take place from the 14 – 20 June 2025 with the theme, Community as Superpower. The week would launch with the Plymouth Hope Festival, which would include sports, music, open days, arts & crafts events, films, food, showcases & more activities;
- e) Councillor Penberthy thanked the Hope, Devon and Cornwall Refugee Service, Open Doors, International Language School, The Give Back Project, The Red Cross, Start and Community Builders for organising all the events;
- f) Councillor Penberthy noted that 02 June 2025 marked the start of the 41st National Volunteers Week. The week celebrated an opportunity to recognise, and thank all volunteers within the city for all their contributions to local communities, the voluntary sector and society.
 - I. Recent data evidenced that 38% of the city's residents volunteered regularly and 19% of those helped their neighbours on a regular basis. The Council supported volunteering within the city and did this by facilitating the Plymouth Volunteer Coordinators Network, a group of 67 volunteer involving organisations, in order to promote partnership working, good practice and mutual support.

- g) Councillor Penberthy thanked The Box, Plymouth Sound National Marine Park, and the National Trust for their support to volunteers across the city, by offering free events during the week, for volunteers and their families;
- h) Plymouth City Council's volunteering programme worked with a range of organisations to develop best practice for volunteering opportunities in the city, and to ensure that they were the best quality, they could be.
 - I. This included providing training and induction sessions to new volunteers;
 - II. In 2024 114 people participated in the programme, and workshops were run for organisations such as, how best to support asylum seekers and refugees to volunteer, effective safeguarding, and safer recruitment processes.
- i) Councillor Penberthy thanked the 700 local residents who volunteered with Plymouth City Council in projects such as our good neighbour support volunteers, communal digital volunteers, changing futures volunteers, the Ocean City Event volunteers, Library Service volunteers, Poole Farm volunteers, the Plymouth Natural Grid volunteers, the Youth Justice Service Restorative Panel volunteers, the Plymouth Information Advice and support for SEND, the Elizabethan House, and the Plymouth Bus User Panels;

Councillor Stephens (Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Transport) made the following announcements.

- a) The A38 Manadon Interchange Scheme was planned to provide junction capacity improvements, walking and cycling improvements, bus-service improvements, as well as, a nature hub and outdoor recreation space;
- b) The Council was in the middle of a six-week period of extensive consultation, working with ECF, an external agent engagement company who was experienced with local knowledge, and were applying the gunning principles to ensure the consultation was robust, had real scope for influence, and would help understand and incorporate community feedback into the final project;
- c) Briefings had been provided at ward level to members of the adjacent wards. Briefings had also been provided to organisations such as: The Police, the NHS and Babcock;
- d) Letters were delivered on Tuesday the 29 April 2025 to local residents whose properties were potentially impacted and the letters invited the residents to arrange a confidential meeting at a convenient time and place convenient to them. A follow-up letter would be sent to those who did not respond. Approximately 450 letters were sent to residents and business to arrive by 02 May 2025 and would include a fact sheet with an invitation to take part in the upcoming engagement. A further 12,000 letters were being delivered to residents in the wider area inviting them to get involved in the engagement exercise;

- e) Councillor Stephens expresses his gratitude to officers and staff for their sensitive conduct towards the public engagement stages of this consultation, particularly with residents living within the vicinity of Manadon roundabout;
- f) The Council had success in the use of velocity spray injection patching to deal with potholes/road surface defects and the method used less resources and produced less carbon. The Carriageway Resurfacing Programme for 2025 had an estimated value of £604,000 with eight sites on the following roads:
 - I. Drunken Hill Bridge and Underwood Road in Plympton Earl and Plympton St Marys. Ham Drive in Ham. Fort Austin Avenue in Eggbuckland. Foliot Road in Southway. New Passage Hill in Devonport. Budshead Road in Budshead. Kinterbury Street and Buckwell Street in St Peters and the Waterfront;
- g) Following representations made by the elected members in Plymstock Dunstone and Plymstock Radford, a bus shelter will be reinstated opposite Plymstock Library on Horn Cross. This was as a result of a 250% increase in passenger patronage at the stop since 2019;
- h) Bus stop shelters were being reinstated at the bottom of Southway Drive and on Clittaford Road adjacent to Langley Crescent. There had been changes to the bus network since the original decision was made to permanently remove the shelters, meaning that they had the patronage to warrant a shelter being replaced;
- i) Following a site visit with Councillor Coker, Councillor Stephens and Councillor Poyser, end panels had been added to the Chaddlewood district shelter on Glenn Road to improve weather protection at the location;
- j) The park crematorium bus shelters were underway;
- k) The cycle and road pedestrian crossing would be progressing in Stoke and St Peter at Millbridge. The Woolwell to the George cycle path was also progressing also.

14. **Provisional Capital and Revenue Outturn Report 2024 -25**

Councillor Lowry (Cabinet Member for Finance) introduced the report which Councillor Evans OBE seconded.

Following a contribution by Councillor Luggar (Leader of the Opposition) Council agreed to:

- I. Note the report.

15. **Scrutiny Annual Report 2024 -25**

Councillor Stephens (Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Infrastructure and outgoing chair of Scrutiny Management Board) introduced the report which Councillor Murphy seconded.

Following contributions from Councillor P. Nicholson and Councillor Evans OBE, council agreed to:

- I. Note the report.

16. **Audit and Governance Chair's Update Report 2024 - 25**

Councillor Allen (Chair of Audit and Governance Committee) introduced the report and Councillor Raynsford seconded.

Following contributions from Councillors P. Nicholson and Councillor Lowry, Council agreed to:

- I. Note the Audit and Governance Chair's Update Report 2024-25.

17. **Decision to be reported**

Councillor Ms Watkin (Lord Mayor) introduced the report which Councillor Tofan (Deputy Lord Mayor) seconded.

Following contributions from Councillor Penberthy and Councillor Ney, Council agreed to note the following decision taken in line with due process:

- I. HCDC05 24/25 - Household Support Fund Round 7
To approve the distribution of the latest round of Household Support Fund monies (£4,044,511.26) through the proposed Framework for April 2025 – March 2026.

18. **Armada Way Independent Learning Review Report**

Councillor Ms Watkin (Lord Mayor) moved a procedural motion to suspend standing orders to allow the Chair of the Armada Way Independent Learning Review, Mr David Williams (AWILR Independent Chair) to introduce the Panel's report and Tracey Lee (Chief Executive) to introduce the action plan. The motion to suspend standing orders would allow Mr Williams, Tracey Lee and the Monitoring Officer to take any questions for item 11.

This motion was seconded by Councillor Tofan (Deputy Lord Mayor) and Council agreed to pass the motion.

For: Allen, Allison, Aspinall, Bannerman, Blight, Briars-Delve, Mrs Bridgeman, Coker, Cresswell, Cuddihee, Darcy, Dingle, Evans OBE, Freeman, Gilmour, Goslin, Hendy, Holloway, Krizanac, Laing, Lawson, Luggier, Mrs Loveridge, Lowry, McLay, McCarty, McNamara, Moore, Morton, M Smith, Murphy, P Nicholson, S Nicholson, Noble, Reilly, Ricketts, Raynsford, Sproston, Stephens, Stevens, Steel, Taylor, Tuohy, Tippetts, Poyser, Wood, Penberthy and Penrose (48).

Against: (0)

Abstain: Councillor Ney (1)

Absent/did not vote: Councillors Mrs Beer, Dann, Haydon, Finn, Tofan, Simpson, R Smith (CON), and Ms Watkin (8)

Mr David Williams (AWILR Independent Chair) and Tracey Lee (Chief Executive) introduced the report to Council and Questions were put to the panel from Councillors Lugger, McLay, Holloway, Tuohy and Lowry.

Councillor Poyser proposed an amendment which was seconded by Councillor McLay (Leader of the Green Party).

(The meeting was adjourned for 15 minutes to consider the amendment)

Council agreed to the amendment.

For: Councillors Allen, Allison, Aspinall, Bannerman, Blight, Briars-Delve, Bridgeman, Coker, Cresswell, Cuddihee, Darcy, Dingle, Evans OBE, Freeman, Gilmour, Goslin, Haydon, Hendy, Holloway, Krizanac, Laing, Lawson, Lowry, Loveridge, Lugger, McCarty, McLay, McNamara, Moore, Morton, M Smith, Murphy, Ney, Nicholson P, Nicholson S, Noble, Penberthy, Penrose, Poyser, Raynsford, Reilly, Ricketts, Sproston, Steel, Stephens, Stevens, Taylor, Tippetts, Wood (49)

Against: (0)

Abstain: (0)

Absent/Did not vote: Councillors Mrs Beer, Dann, Haydon, Finn, Tofan, Simpson, R Smith (CON), and Ms Watkin (8)

Following contributions from Councillor Mrs Bridgeman, Ricketts, Lowry, P. Nicholson, Stevens and Holloway, Council agreed to:

1. Note the content of the AWILR report including the recommendations for the Council
2. Note the Council's response to the recommendations of the ILR and the proposed Action Plan for the implementation of the recommendations.
3. Request that the Audit and Governance Committee establish a cross-party sub committee to oversee the implementation of the action plan, to support public confidence in this process reporting back to Full Council on progress as required.
4. Thank the Panel for the hard work and commitment in undertaking the review and completing the report.

For: Councillors Allen, Allison, Aspinall, Bannerman, Blight, Briars-Delve, Bridgeman, Coker, Cresswell, Cuddihee, Darcy, Dingle, Evans OBE, Freeman, Gilmour, Goslin, Haydon, Hendy, Holloway, Krizanac, Laing, Lawson, Lowry, Loveridge, Lugger, McCarty, McLay, McNamara, Moore, Morton, M Smith, Murphy, Ney, Nicholson P, Nicholson S, Noble, Penberthy, Penrose, Poyser, Raynsford, Reilly, Ricketts, Sproston, Steel, Stephens, Stevens, Taylor, Tippetts, Tuohy, Wood. (50)

Against: (0)

Abstain: (0)

Absent/Did not vote: Mrs Beer, Dann, Finn, Tofan, Simpson, R Smith and Ms Watkin (7)

(Following the conclusion of the item, council adjourned until 16:50)

19. **Motions on notice**

20. **Oppose Cuts to Personal Independence Payment (PIP)**

Councillor McLay introduced the motion which was seconded by Councillor Poyser.

Following a contribution from Councillor Penberthy, Council voted on the motion.

The Motion was not carried.

For: Councillors Mrs Bridgeman, Loveridge, McLay, Ney, P Nicholson, S Nicholson, Poyser, Reilly, Ricketts, Tippetts (10)

Against: Councillors Allen, Allison, Aspinall, Blight, Briars-Delve, Coker, Cresswell, Cuddihee, Dingle, Evans OBE, Freeman, Goslin, Haydon, Hendy, Holloway, Krizanac, Laing, Lawson, Lowry, McCarty, Moore, Morton, M. Smith, Murphy, Noble, Penberthy, Penrose, Raynsford, Steel, Stephens, Stevens, Sproston, Taylor, Tuohy (34)

Abstain: Councillors Wood, Lugger and Darcy (3)

Absent/Did not vote: Councillors Bannerman, Mrs Beer, Dann, Finn, Gilmour, McNamara, R Smith, Simpson, Tofan, Ms Watkin (10)

The motion was not carried.

21. **Plymouth & South West Devon Joint Local Plan - Housing Policy**

Councillor P Nicholson introduced the motion which was seconded by Councillor Ricketts.

Following contributions from Councillor Stephens and Councillor Penberthy, the Council moved to the vote.

The motion was not carried.

For: Councillors Mrs Bridgeman, Loveridge, Ney, P Nicholson, S Nicholson and Ricketts (6)

Against: Councillors Allen, Allison, Aspinall, Bannerman, Blight, Briars-Delve, Coker, Cresswell, Cuddihee, Dingle, Evans OBE, Freeman, Gilmour, Goslin, Haydon, Hendy, Holloway, Krizanac, Laing, Lawson, Lowry, McCarty, McNamara, Moore, Morton, M. Smith, Murphy, Noble, Penberthy, Penrose, Steel, Stephens, Stevens, Sproston, Taylor and Tuohy (36)

Abstain: Councillors Darcy, Lugger, McLay, Poyser, Reilly, Tippetts and Wood (7)

Absent/Did not vote: Councillors Mrs Beer, Dann, Finn, Raynsford, Simpson, R Smith, Tofan and Ms Watkin (8)

22. **Trans+ and Intersex Human Rights Matter**

Councillor Tippetts introduced the motion which was seconded by Councillor McLay.

An amendment was proposed by Councillor Penberthy and seconded by Councillor Penrose.

(Council adjourned for 15 minutes to consider the amendment)

Following a contribution from Councillors Tippetts the amendment was carried.

For: Councillors Allen, Allison, Aspinall, Bannerman, Blight, Briars-Delve, Coker, Cresswell, Cuddihee, Dingle, Evans OBE, Freeman, Gilmour, Goslin, Haydon, Hendy, Holloway, Krizanac, Laing, Lawson, Lowry, Lugg, McCarty, McNamara, Moore, Morton, M Smith, Murphy, Noble, Penberthy, Penrose, Raynsford, Sproston, Stephens, Stevens, Steel, Taylor and Tuohy (38)

Against: Councillors Mrs Bridgeman, Mrs Loveridge, McLay, Ney, P Nicholson, Reilly, Poyser and Tippetts (8)

Abstain: Councillors Darcy, Ricketts, S Nicholson and Wood (4)

Absent/Did not vote: Councillors Mrs Beer, Dann, Finn, Ms Watkin, R Smith, Simpson and Tofan (7)

Council agreed to:

Request that the Cabinet Member for Corporate Estates ensures that the current published list of all-council managed gender neutral public toilets in the city is maintained and kept up to date.

Request that the Leader of the council writes to the Minister for Women and Equalities:

- a. Expressing the Council's concern about the safety of women, trans, non-binary and intersex people accessing public toilets after the supreme court ruling.
- b. Highlighting that trans, non-binary and intersex people have freely used public toilets that align with their gender for decades without any issue or cause for concern.

Request that the Cabinet Member for Equalities and Diversity:

- a. Ensures that the Council responds to the Equality and Human Rights Commission's consultation on the changes required to their Code of Practice;
- b. Actively promotes the EHRC's consultation to encourage widespread participation;

- c. As a matter of priority, once the EHRC's revised guidance is published, review the implications for Council wide services and ensure that appropriate steps are taken to implement appropriate facilities in accordance with the guidance.

For: Councillors Allen, Allison, Aspinall, Bannerman, Blight, Briars-Delve, Bridgeman, Coker, Cresswell, Cuddihee, Dingle, Evans OBE, Freeman, Gilmour, Goslin, Haydon, Hendy, Holloway, Krizanac, Laing, Lawson, Lowry, McCarty, McLay, McNamara, Moore, Morton, M. Smith, Murphy, Noble, Penberthy, Penrose, Poyser, Raynsford, Reilly, Sproston, Stephens, Stevens, Steel, Taylor, Tippetts and Tuohy (42)

Against: (0)

Abstain: Councillors Darcy, Loveridge, Lugger, Ney, P Nicholson, S Nicholson, Ricketts and Wood (8)

Absent/Did Not Vote: Councillors Mrs Beer, Dann, Finn, Simpson, R Smith, Tofan and Ms Watkin (7)

23. **Questions By Councillors**

	From (Councillor)	To (Councillor)	Subject
I	Councillor Steel	Councillor Laing	I understand the new family's first children services team is going live today. Can you explain what this will mean in terms of how children's social care teams will work with children and families?
	<p>Response: The team did launch today and it's gone really well so far, it's a really brilliant development. It's the new multidisciplinary team which includes the multi-agency safeguarding hub which we call the MASH. The team who previously provided our out of hours response. It's been developed to respond to concerns and referrals where children and families need more help or protection. The hours have been widened so it will now be running from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm Monday – Friday and 9:00 am to 5:00 pm on Saturdays, Sundays and bank holidays. Outside of these hours, an emergency duty service will be on call, reviewing any overnight inquiries, to ensure children at immediate risk of significant harm, urgent adult safeguarding risks and immediate risk of homelessness get an urgent response.</p> <p>If a member of the public or a professional thinks a family needs more help or has a safeguarding concern about a child or a young person, they can contact the family's first team on 0175266800. The number is available 24/7. The service will be using a conversation based approach to support information sharing and decision making.</p> <p>The newly extended hours will mean that professionals including teachers, police officers and health staff are able to get advice and support at a time that suits them. It will also mean that children, families and vulnerable adults will get supported with the right help at the right time.</p>		

2	Councillor Penrose	Councillor Evans OBE	With the University of Plymouth proposing significant redundancies in academic staff, and including closures in the public facing arts provision, ie. The gallery and the cinema. Do you feel that this would be a good opportunity to bring together the heads of these institutions and possibly with the inclusion of Marjons, to have a conversation about what the city needs. This matter affects our culture plan, so it's time for a collaborative move thinking about how we safeguard these amenities, so that we can achieve the civic provision that we desire.
	<p>Response: The three universities play such an important and active part in civic life within the City and it's difficult to imagine what life would be like without them. They play a large part in culture as stated by Councillor Penrose, they play a large part in our growth board, for growth alliance Plymouth, for destination Plymouth and also, our ambitious plans for economic development. We must remember that the volunteering the university students do is invaluable. I think the suggestion that we convene with them, is a very good idea. Whether individual universities would want to discuss their individual problems with us, and with each other, remains to be seen. A discussion about how we move forward is incredibly important and I thank you for raising it today.</p>		
3	Councillor Freeman	Councillor Evans OBE	Would you like to join me in paying respect to Mr Steve Hornton who tragically passed away on the 11 th of April this year at the young age of 63. Mr Hornton was a Devonport resident who was a part of the Devonport 5. He helped create dreams for the people of Devonport. Such as, the New Deal for communities funding and DRC partnership. This is thanked to the Labour government at the time. The funding program went on for 10 years, to regenerate Devonport and had substantial wide-reaching benefits for the whole of Plymouth. The impact that the Devonport 5 have made can still be seen in the area today

			and across Plymouth.
	<p>Response: I remember those names very well, I have paid tribute to John Prescott in the past who invented the New Deal for communities, and to people like Chris Watts who notably worked on Pembroke Street. It goes back to where you live, Councillor Freeman and those days. They worked very hard at a time when Devonport was not the best place in the city to live for a number of reasons. They believed in the power of community and they knew that given the chance, they could do something special, which they have. Speaking to Linda Gilroy, who did so much behind the scenes, to help achieve funding. Not only has there been a physical rebuilding of Devonport, but also the emotional, spiritual and community building, has taken place there. I'm sad to hear the news that Steve has passed, he was an incredible individual and the best of Devonport.</p>		
4	Councillor McNamara	Councillor Laing	Some people think of Youth centers as an old-fashioned concept, but I know that exciting things are happening in my ward of Efford. Can you tell me what we can expect when the refit work is completed?
	<p>Response: I am very excited about what is happening in Efford. Thanked to £1.2 million in funding from sources including the Youth Investment Fund, Climate Emergency Impact Fund, and essential maintenance budgets, we've not only saved a valued community asset, but we are future-proofing it. Worn out, old equipment is being replaced by modern resources, computers, incredible sports gear, music and cooking facilities. Young people in Efford will have access to a broader range of activities than they've ever had before. This is a smart, sustainable, future-facing investment, helping young people in Efford and beyond, to thrive. I'm very excited about this and I can't wait for myself, Councillor McNamara, Councillor Murphy and Councillor Hendy to go and pay our first visit when it opens.</p>		
5	Councillor Tippetts	Councillor Laing	We are both passionate about the children and how they are looked after within the City, and the fantastic contribution that they make to life here. We are both passionate about finding them their forever homes. I was disappointed when back in April, the government announced a 40% cut to the amount available for each child from the annual £50 million pound adoption and special guardianship support fund. I was wondering if she could update us on any conversations that she's had with any government ministers expressing Plymouth's disappointment in this and for any updates on movement regarding this topic?
	<p>Response: I have asked this question myself and when I get a response, I will be happy to share with you Councillor Tippetts.</p>		

6	Councillor Ricketts	Councillor Evans OBE	There is a large Palestinian flag hanging over Jewish graves in Central Park. Why is the Labour government doing nothing about it?
	<p>Response from Councillor Evans OBE: I was not aware of this, how long has the flag been there and why have you not written a letter to me before this making me aware of this?</p> <p>Response from Councillor Ricketts: I'm surprised your Peverell Councillors have not made you aware of this sooner. It's been all over social media, and it's a big issue. I've been liaising with the planning and enforcement department via email and phone, who have said that there are two options. One of them is to pursue planning enforcement which they have the power to do, and the other is to do nothing. I urge you to do something, this is disrespectful for a myriad of reason. Will you take action?</p> <p>Response from Councillor Evans: I can provided you a response from Councillor Penberthy if this is acceptable?</p> <p>Response from Councillor Penberthy: I raised the issue of the flag being there just after the Hamas incursion into Israel and I have been talking to members of both communities, at that time, and since. I think personally, that the family has chosen to raise the flag there has shown total insensitivity, and I understand the disrespect and anger caused as a result of this. However, there are questions around legality and enforcement and what can and can't be enforced. We have received advice from a Jewish legal firm where we are being briefed this week on this, if we can get the flag down, we will do so. I will not commit vandalism, I don't think it should be there, you are misrepresenting the situation as you are reacting to the posts via Social Media and not the ongoing discussions that we have been very sensitively been having with both the Jewish and Palestinian communities in the City.</p>		
7	Councillor Noble	Councillor Briars-Delve	Lots of people in my ward were enjoying some of the conservation activities and the animal hour that happened in half term and the urban tree festival we had a couple weeks ago. I am seeing adverts for the Big Green Trail, can you tell me how my residents can get involved in this?
	<p>Response: The Big Green Trail is an annual event, it's led by the Council's net zero team and thanked to the help of some incredible officers in the behaviour change department. The event is going ahead in a couple of week's time, on a Saturday and it's being held at six sites across the City with both indoor and outdoor venues. There is over 40 local organisations and businesses involved and it's all about family friendly activities to engage people with climate rated discussions. We will be celebrating the winners of the climate legends competition which is a great grassroots example. I'll make sure that an invitation is circulated to everyone here today.</p>		
8	Councillor Wood	Councillor Evans OBE	Were the Council's proposals for local government reform enacted as you noted earlier? Also, were Plymouth to vote in favour of the referendum to have a directly elected mayor/leader, have we had guidance

			from Government as to whether that elected position would remain in place or not, in the new Council's government arrangements?
	<p>Response: We've raised this issue as there will be a number of people in a slightly modestly expanded Plymouth, about 30,000 people, will have had no say in the referendum at all, where some people have been left out. We have had no guidance but we will continue to raise this as we understand that this is an issue. If I say to people outside of Plymouth that, they will be given a vote in this due to timing of the LGR, it will be out of kilter with the referendum. The people outside will be ruled by somebody, that they have no say in electing.</p> <p>Response from Councillor Wood: Are the Council's proposals for local government reform only being developed for the initial preferred option, or is the Council continuing to investigate and assess multiple options, so we can generate additional evidence such as service provision, amendment of contracts, change of employment and finances, in order to create a fuller picture of what the public would prefer, through the consultation currently advertised and anything in the future?</p> <p>Response from Councillor Evans: It's really important when we are building a case for the October/November submission of our case; that we can demonstrate firstly by ability. We are not considering alternatives, we are pressing ahead with what was agreed in the chamber a few weeks ago, there are things changing outside of Plymouth with a new administration in Devon and Cornwall. These things are affecting our related but separate discussions around metro mayors and combined authority mayors which was raised by yourself at the last meeting we had. Our case remains sound, we had successful meetings with Parish Councils, both chairs and town clerks there which has given us insight into the needs of those communities but we need to do more. I've met with a number of district council leaders in South Hams to talk about these issues. Every conversation gives us new insight into the desires of the communities, which I outlined earlier on. We're a viable local authority that provides excellent services.</p>		
9	Councillor Raynsford	Councillor Briars-Delve	<p>I've had multiple emails with concerns raised from residents about disposable barbecues, and the damage that they do to the Hoe and Devil's Point. There are wider issues in that, they could start a grass fire for short dry grass. We lost a couple bins last year due to the barbecues being thrown in there. What can we do to highlight, prevent and discourage the use of these barbecues?</p>
	<p>Response: First of all, I agree with your concerns raised by yourself and the Hoe neighbourhood forum. I visited there recently with Cabinet and stood next to Smeaton's Tower. The Hoe is the jewel of Plymouth and it's a shame to see the damage that these barbecues can have on our environment. I'll share my most recent correspondence with officers around this issue, there are two sides of this, as it is an</p>		

	Environment issues as well as a Parks issue, and a legal aspect. If we were to go down the PSPO route to show that there is a sufficient level of harm for us to do that, we can do through this process. The primary concern isn't for aesthetic, even though it is important for areas like the Hoe. The reality is that it can create fires, such as the one last year with Mt Edgecumbe, and this is really alarming. I'll update you privately with the correspondence I've had directly with officers.		
10	Councillor M Smith	Councillor Briars-Delve	Residents in Higher Compton had access to a really lovely green space named Bedford Park, years ago now, it was closed off by the on-site care home. There was an agreement to keep access for the public but over time, the gates have been closed and access has been restricted. I wonder if there is an update on what progress has been made?
	Response: I commend your tenacity on this topic, this is a case that has been going on for years, if not decades now. It has been complicated over the last year by a change of ownership, of Green Acres care home. The previous owner had correspondence with the Council regarding this, so we had to start fresh with the new owner. The new owner does not live in Plymouth and Green Acres are maintaining that the owner needs to have an in-person conversation with the Council around these issues, which has made diarising essentially impossible. It has been reiterated to the Service Director that this is made a priority. I share your passion for the right to roam and the views of the residents, there are complexities about seeking a resolution but hopefully both of the arguments can be addressed.		
11	Councillor Ricketts	Councillor Stephens	On Central Park Avenue, there is a mess in the walkway, where the drainage has been going on for four/five years. We had meetings but progress has been slow. Could you please pick this up with other Cabinet members as this is a point of frustration for multiple Councillors?
	Response: Thank you for bringing this up, I will pick this up with Councillor Holloway. I believe the issue has been passed to the Chief Executive's Office because it's a corporate property issue. But I'll assure you, I will follow this up to gain a greater understanding of the situation.		
12	Councillor Poyser	Councillor Stephens	I am getting concerns raised regarding traffic in the east of the City, from residents. I understand that we have the expansion of Sherford as well. Can we organise a briefing sessions with officers, to go over sustainable transport in these areas? I understand that there are cycle bridges coming in,

			how can we alleviate or improve transport in the area?
	<p>Response: There is a commitment within the Sherford plan for the consortium to provided a Park and Ride. This is to avoid residents travelling through built-up areas such as Derriford or the Dockyard. I will be happy to arrange a meeting with you, to get a clearer understanding of progress to be made now and in the future.</p> <p>Response from Councillor Poyser: There is also on the other side of the A38, lots of traffic coming in and out of Langage, Glenn Road, Steer Park Road. Can we focus in these areas too? Thank you.</p>		
13	Councillor Cuddihee	Councillor Aspinall	I'm impressed at the speed of the construction work on the diagnostic center at Colin Campbell Court. Can we have an update of when it will be operational?
	<p>Response: I was there about a month ago and the foundations are still ongoing. As far as we are aware, it should be up and running by roughly next September. There is always the possibility of delays occurring but I'm very fortunate as the team keep me updated and I visit regularly. It will be a brilliant development, taking pressure of Derriford and will be essential for the people within the City. It was reassuring to know that the ICB, had made sure that there were the funds available to carry on the work and of course, there will be jobs available as a result of the build which is a positive.</p>		
14	Councillor Ricketts	Councillor Evans OBE	Why are Labour councillors from the Plymouth Knows Better campaign consistently posting that Labour will be scrapping City Mayors?
	<p>Response: I am not running the no to a Mayor campaign, it's a cross party campaign. There are 13 city mayors in the country, this is an important statistic. Most of them, are based in the Southeast of England near London. The white paper came out a while ago, it stated within the letter that the devolution model featuring single authority mayors are going" Do you have different legislation that you can quote?</p> <p>Response from Councillor Ricketts: Things can happen before that gets enacted. To say that city mayors may be scrapped is factually incorrect.</p>		

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

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City Council



Date of meeting:	15 September 2025
Title of Report:	Capital Monitoring Report - Quarter 1, 2025/26
Lead Member:	Councillor Mark Lowry (Cabinet Member for Finance)
Lead Strategic Director:	Ian Trisk-Grove (Service Director for Finance)
Author:	Wendy Eldridge (Lead Accountancy Manager)
Contact Email:	Wendy.Eldridge@plymouth.gov.uk
Your Reference:	
Key Decision:	No
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

This report sets out the capital monitoring position of the Council's five-year capital programme as at June 2025, at the end of the first quarter of the financial year 2025/26.

Recommendations and Reasons

That Council:

1. Approves the revision to the Capital Budget for 2025-2030 to £351.063m as shown in Table 2, with reconciliation and detail of the movements in the quarter set out in Tables 1 and Table 4.
Reason: Cabinet recommends these amendments to Full Council for approval in line with the Constitution.
2. Notes the performance against Prudential Indicators for quarter 1 of 2025/26, detailed in section 4.
Reason: To ensure that the Council's borrowing remains affordable, sustainable, and aligned with its Treasury Management strategy

Alternative options considered and rejected

There are no alternative options – our Financial Regulations require us to regularly monitor our financial resources.

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

The report is fundamentally linked to delivering the priorities within the Council's Corporate Plan. The Capital Programme represents a significant investment in key priorities which benefit the residents of Plymouth.

Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

Robust and accurate financial monitoring underpins the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP). The Council's MTFP is updated based on on-going monitoring information, both on a local and national context. Any adverse variations from the annual budget will place pressure on the MTFP going forward and require additional savings to be generated in future years. Each directorate must mitigate its own pressures and achieve a balanced position by the end of the financial year. Plans need to be robust and achievable.

Financial Risks

Financial risks relating to the Council's capital investment programme and associated borrowing are managed through the Prudential Code; compliance with this framework is detailed in section 4 of the report.

Legal Implications

(Provided by Liz Bryant)

Monitoring of capital expenditure is required in order to comply with the provisions of the Local Government Act 2003.

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

There are no impacts directly arising from this 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.*

The reducing revenue and capital resources across the public sector has been identified as a key risk within our Strategic Risk register. The ability to deliver spending plans within budget is paramount to ensuring the Council can achieve its objectives

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: Quarter One Capital Monitoring							

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)						
	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.						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Sign off:

Fin	ITG.2 5.26.0 56	Leg	LS/00 0033 90/27 /LB/0 5/09/ 25	Mon Off		HR		Asset s		Strat Proc	
Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Ian Trisk-Grove (Service Director for Finance)											
Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes Date agreed: 05/09/2025											
Cabinet Member approval: Cllr. Mark Lowry (Cabinet Member for Finance) (approved verbally) Date approved: 26/08/2025											

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Briefing Report: Quarter One Capital Monitoring

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. This report sets out an update on the capital programme, which has seen a net increase of £38.213m in the quarter (see table 1). As at 30 June 2025 the 5-year capital budget 2025-2030 is currently forecast at £351.063m.
- 1.2. The opening budget for the 2025/26 year was £195.196m. During quarter 1, £28.019m of this opening budget has been reprofiled into future years following a targeted review exercise of the more significant schemes to develop a more accurate position at the reporting date.

2. CAPITAL PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

- 2.1. The capital programme as at 30 June 2025 incorporates movement since the capital outturn position as at 31 March 2025 with the 5-year capital budget 2025-2030 currently forecast at £351.063m.
- 2.2. Table 1 reflects the rolling forward of the 5-year programme scope and movement through new approvals and variations since last reported at outturn 2024/25.

Table 1: Capital Programme Changes

Description	£m
Capital Programme as at 31 March 2025 for 5 year period 2024 - 2029	421.629
Restatement of five-year programme window:	
Remove completed 2024/25 year – outturn reported	(109.309)
Addition of 2029/30 to 5 year scope	0.530
New Approvals – April to June see table 4 for breakdown	56.272
Variations – April to June 2025	(18.059)
Total Revised Capital Budget for Approval (2025/26 -2029/30)	351.063

- 2.3. A breakdown of the current approved Capital Budget by directorate and by funding is shown in Tables 2 and 3 below.

Table 2: Capital Programme by Directorate

Directorate	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m	2027/28 £m	2028/29 £m	2029/30 £m	Total
Children's Services	4.474	0.075	-	-	-	4.549
Adults, Health and Communities	15.412	11.038	1.903	-	-	28.353
Growth - Economic Development	60.619	57.765	33.025	12.427	0.008	163.844
Growth - Strategic Planning & Infrastructure	79.105	30.764	6.216	9.225	0.275	125.585
Growth - Street Services	15.482	6.403	0.242	0.212	0.247	22.586
Customer & Corporate Services	3.185	2.044	0.280	0.101	-	5.610
Office for Director of Public Health	0.536	-	-	-	-	0.536
Total	178.813	108.089	41.666	21.965	0.530	351.063

Table 3: Capital Programme Financing

Financed by:	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m	2027/28 £m	2028/29 £m	2029/30 £m	Total
Capital receipts	11.106	3.914	1.196	4.589	0.008	20.813
Grant funding	80.149	28.817	12.394	0.193	0.295	121.848
Corporate funded borrowing	44.936	25.992	10.965	5.324	-	87.217
Service dept. supported borrowing	38.012	40.667	16.095	11.494	0.227	106.495
Developer contributions	2.477	8.686	1.016	0.102	-	12.281
Other Contributions	2.133	0.013	-	0.263	-	2.409
Total	178.813	108.089	41.666	21.965	0.530	351.063

2.4. Based on the latest 2025/26 forecast totalling £178.813m, actual spend as at 30 June 2025 was £16.431m, which equates to 9.19% of the forecast figure of the Capital Programme for 2025/26.

2.5. Of the 5-year programme valued at £351.063m, 75.16% is forecast to be funded from grants, contributions and service-supported 'invest-to-save' borrowing, with the remaining 24.84% (£87.217m) forecast to be funded from corporate borrowing. Work is ongoing to update the capital pipeline which will identify further potential corporate borrowing requirements. Assessment of the future funding assumptions and resulting revenue impact of the capital programme is under review.

Table 4: Capital approvals Q1 including funding

Service / Directorate	Governance	New Approvals	5 Year Programme Approvals £m	Financed By
ED	Exec Decision	Civic Centre Redevelopment (Civic Centre)	45.866	RF Grant, Corp Borrowing, RF Service Borrowing
ED	Exec Decision	Plymouth & South Devon Freeport – Millbay Terminal Development	5.500	RF Grant
ED	Exec Decision	Foulson Park (Brickfields)	0.900	Corp Borrowing
CS	Exec Decision	Woodlands School SEND Expansion	0.728	URF Grant
AHC	Exec Decision	Local Authority Housing Fund Phase 3	0.334	RF Grant
ED	Exec Decision/S151	Plymouth Sound National Marine Park	1.750	RF Grant
CCO	S151	MASH Accommodation move	0.111	RF Service Borrowing
CS	S151	Riverside School Phase 2	0.161	URF Grant
CS	S151	Longcause Office Conversion	0.192	URF Grant
ED	S151	Rail Station Accommodation Block	0.106	RF Grant
SPI	S151	Heat Decarbonisation B.2 – DPRO & EEBC	0.115	Corporate Borrowing
SPI	S151	Plan for Homes 4	0.006	External Contribution
CS	S151	Foster for Plymouth Carers Adaptations	0.200	RF Service Borrowing
CS	S151	Laira Green - Early Years Expansion	0.150	RCCO
CS	S151	Laira Green - Devolved Capital	0.001	RF Grant
SS	S151	Minor Traffic Schemes	0.006	S106
SS	S151	Inclusive Mobility	0.003	S106
SS	S151	Workshop HGV Ramp	0.054	RCCO
SS	S151	Central Park Improvements	0.038	S106
SS	S151	Improving Outdoor Play Phase 3	0.013	S106
SS	S151	Central Park Baseball Pitch Improvements	0.024	S106

Service / Directorate	Governance	New Approvals	5 Year Programme Approvals £m	Financed By
PH	S151	Rees Centre Wellbeing Hub	0.013	S106
Total Capital Approvals			56.272	
Glossary		Glossary		
AHC	Adults, Health and Communities	RF	Ring Fenced	
CS	Children's Services	URF	Unringfenced	
SPI	Strategic Planning & Infrastructure	CB	Corporate Borrowing	
SS	Street Services	SB	Service Borrowing	
ED	Economic Development	Cap Rec	Capital Receipts	
PH	Public Health	Cont	External Contribution	
CCO	Customer & Corporate			

3. CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING

3.1. The opening budget for 2025/26 was £195.196m. During quarter 1, £28.019m of this opening budget has been reprofiled into future years following a targeted review exercise of the more significant schemes to develop a more accurate Q1 position, alongside routine Q1 monitoring. The amount reprofiled included £21.3m identified as part of the targeted exercise and this element was financed by £10.369m of borrowing. Together with new approvals programmed for 2025/26, and variations, this produces a latest forecast for 2025/26 totaling £178.813m.

3.2. Table 5 below includes a breakdown by directorate of actual expenditure as at 30th June 2025. At this stage in the year, actual spend is reduced by the effect of outstanding accruals processed in 2024/25 accounts, which (due to the robust verification process for capital payments) are yet to be matched off with actual invoices. This being the case, the reported figure of 16.431m will increase to a more proportionate level in future monitoring reports.

Table 5: 2025/26 Programme including actual spend and % spent compared to latest forecast

Directorate	Latest Forecast 2025/26 £m	Actual Spend as at 30 June 2025 £m
Children's Services	4.474	0.197
Adults, Health and Communities	15.412	2.234
Growth - Economic Development	60.620	4.520
Growth - Strategic Planning & Infrastructure	79.106	6.184
Growth - Street Services	15.482	2.525
Customer & Corporate Services	3.185	0.651
Office for Director of Public Health	0.536	0.120
Total	178.813	16.431

3.3. Profiling of the capital programme will continue to review robustness of forecasts to spend as project officers assess the inflationary impact to schemes, delivery timescales and challenges to meet grant funding conditions.

4. PRUDENTIAL CODE INDICATORS - Q1 2025/26

4.1. The Authority measures and manages its capital expenditure, borrowing and commercial and service investments with reference to the statutory CIPFA Prudential Code indicators. It is a requirement of the Prudential Code that these indicators are reported on a quarterly basis – Tables 6 – 10 below are produced in line with the methodologies and terminology prescribed by the Prudential Code.

4.2. Capital Financing Requirement

The Authority's cumulative underlying outstanding amount of debt finance is measured by the capital financing requirement (CFR). This increases with new debt-financed capital expenditure and reduces with MRP / loans fund repayments and capital receipts used to replace debt. The capital financing requirement measures the underlying need to borrow – it is not the same as the Authority's actual debt because of the impact of cash balances and reserves, which act to offset the underlying requirement to borrow. Table 6 below sets out the actual, forecast and budgeted CFR level for different financial years as required by the Prudential Code.

Table 6: Capital Financing Requirement (CFR)

Capital Financing Requirement	2024/25 actual £m	2025/26 forecast £m	2026/27 budget £m	2027/28 budget £m
General Fund services	869.516	931.960	975.528	976.784

Note to table 6 - Capital Financing Requirement: The Authority's cumulative outstanding underlying need to borrow is measured by the capital financing requirement (CFR). This increases with new debt-financed capital expenditure and reduces with MRP / loans fund repayments and capital receipts used to replace debt. The actual CFR is calculated on an annual basis. The figures reported above include Private Finance Initiative (PFI) and finance lease debt as explained in paragraph 4.5.

4.3. Statutory guidance is that total debt should remain below the capital financing requirement, except in the short term. The Authority has complied with, and expects to continue to comply with, this requirement in the medium term as is shown below in Table 7.

Table 7: Gross Debt/Capital Financing Requirement

Gross Debt /Capital Financing Requirement	2024/25 actual £m	2025/26 forecast £m	2026/27 budget £m	2027/28 budget £m	2028/29 budget £m	Q1 2025/26 actual £m
Debt (incl. PFI & leases)	795.360	857.804	926.372	927.628	916.305	800.360
Capital Financing Requirement	869.516	931.960	975.528	976.784	965.460	

4.4. Note that whilst the underlying driver for Plymouth City Council's borrowing is capital investment, actual borrowing levels are driven by cash flow needs. Therefore, the level of borrowing above also includes the impact of working capital financing, including the cumulative deficit in the Dedicated Schools Grant.

4.5. Included in the debt balance are amounts relating to 'PFI liabilities & finance leases'. These represent the gross value of the total long-term financing obligations payable or long-term service delivery contracts, e.g. the Energy from Waste plant. Whilst these are both analysed alongside borrowing, these are financing arrangements directly linked to underlying assets, which represent a prudent approach to enabling key operational initiatives to proceed.

4.6. The Authorised Limit and Operational Boundary

The Council is legally obliged to set an affordable borrowing limit (also termed the Authorised Limit for external debt) each year. In line with statutory guidance, a lower “operational boundary” is also set as a warning level should debt approach the limit.

- 4.7. The Council manages its borrowing activity in line with its approved Capital Strategy and Treasury Management Strategy, ensuring that borrowing is managed responsibly, and sustainably. The setting of the Authorised Limit is informed by the CIPFA Prudential Code, and the Council continues to operate well within these defined parameters. Maintaining borrowing within these limits is essential to ensure that the Council’s capital investment programme remains financially sustainable and that any future implications for Council Tax are manageable and proportionate. Table 8 below sets out the actual level of debt as at the end of Quarter 1 2025/26 against the Authorised Limit and Operational Boundary approved by the City Council at its budget setting meeting in February 2025.

Table 8: Debt and Authorised Limit/Operational Boundary

	Max. debt Q1 2025/26 £m	Debt at Q1 2025/26 £m	Operational Boundary £m	Authorised Limit £m	Complied? Yes/No
Borrowing	769.976	707.532	788.286	838.286	Yes
PFI and Finance Leases	92.828	92.828	217.000	217.000	Yes
Total debt	862.804	800.360	1005.286	1055.286	

Note: Since the operational boundary is a management tool for in-year monitoring it is not significant if the boundary is breached on occasions due to variations in cash flow, and this is not counted as a compliance failure.

4.8. Affordability of debt financing: Proportion of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream

Although capital expenditure is not charged directly to the revenue budget, interest payable on loans and MRP/loans fund repayments are charged to revenue and this financing cost is monitored in accordance with the Prudential Code to assess the affordability of the Authority’s debt financing. As noted in table 3 above, the Authority distinguishes between ‘Corporate Borrowing’ and ‘Service Supported Borrowing’. Service Supported Borrowing is used for investments that generate additional income or cost savings, which are used to repay financing costs and provide an overall financial benefit to the Authority. Compared with other councils, a relatively large proportion of Plymouth City Council’s overall debt relates to investment through Service Supported Borrowing into the Property Regeneration Fund (PRF), a portfolio of assets with a gross capital cost of £223.6m. The PRF has regenerated areas of the city, encouraged private investment and created or retained employment in the city.

- 4.9. In line with statutory guidance we have reported total financing costs against the core (net) revenue streams for the authority. However, because for Plymouth City Council this figure is potentially misleading due to the use of borrowing for investment in the PRF and other revenue-generating assets and invest-to-save schemes, we also report a local indicator which excludes financing costs relating to Service Supported Borrowing. This local indicator, we feel, provides a better measure of affordability by comparing ‘core’ borrowing with core (net) revenue streams, setting aside the borrowing that is funded by income or cost reduction. Both figures are reported in Table 9 overleaf.

Table 9: Proportion of Total Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream (statutory indicator) and proportion of Financing Costs (excluding Service Borrowing) to Net Revenue Stream

	2024/25 actual £m	2025/26 forecast £m	2026/27 forecast £m	2027/28 forecast £m
Financing costs (£m)	43.480	50.369	53.895	59.135
Proportion of net revenue stream				
- all financing costs (Prudential Code indicator)	18.38%	19.91%	21.09%	22.35%
- financing costs excl. Service Borrowing (local indicator)	10.73%	12.48%	13.07%	14.08%

4.10. The increase in financing costs set out in the table above is driven by assumptions surrounding use of borrowing to support the approved capital programme and cashflow requirements. Currently this includes assumptions on financing required to fund the cumulative High Needs Block DSG deficit, however at the time of reporting we are seeking guidance to clarify how this financing cost should be disclosed within Prudential Code indicators. The level of borrowing incurred, and therefore MRP, may be reduced where external funding sources, e.g. grants, are secured.

4.11. Short-term borrowing with other local authorities is currently being secured at 4.25% to 4.30% with comparable 1-year Public Works Loans Board loans at 4.50% as at 30 June 2025.

4.12. *Net Income from Commercial and Service Investments to Net Revenue Stream*
The Prudential Code requires councils to report this measure as an assessment of how reliant the council is on commercial investment income (there are risks associated with an over-reliance on funding public services through commercial income). The Authority's income from commercial and service investments as a proportion of its net revenue stream has been and is expected to be as set out in Table 10 below.

Table 10: Net Income from Commercial and Service Investments to Net Revenue Stream

	2024/25 actual £m	2025/26 forecast £m	2026/27 budget £m	2027/28 budget £m
Total net income from service & commercial investments (£m)	(11.281)	(11.666)	(11.705)	(13.637)
Proportion of net revenue stream	4.77%	4.61%	4.58%	5.15%

4.13. As noted in paragraph 4.8 above, this income relates to the strategic investments made into the Property Regeneration Fund (PRF), currently held as a portfolio of assets with a gross capital cost of £223.6m. The PRF has regenerated areas of Plymouth, encouraged private investment and created or retained employment in the city.

MOTION ON NOTICE



Date of Council Meeting: 15 September 2025

Title of Motion: Plymouth Highway Maintenance Amendments

Motion Narrative:

The Council Notes:

- Plymouth City Council is committed to delivering a more efficient and effective approach to highway maintenance.
- Plymouth will manage its transport assets to deliver a safe and well-maintained network that is fit for purpose whilst using resources wisely to deliver the best possible value for money.
- The contents of the Local Highways Maintenance Transparency Report outlines that the number of pot holes filled over the last 5 years has declined and the condition of Category A, B and C roads have also declined.

Action Required:

The Council Therefore agrees to request the Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Transport to:

1. Investigate the means of amending the Pothole Repair Policy, Highway Inspection Manual and Term Maintenance Contract to encourage the council's Highway Maintenance Contractors, when attending a highway defect, to proactively repair other defects in the vicinity.
2. Seek evidence to confirm the cost of this approach
3. Seek evidence to confirm whether this change of approach will improve the standard of the highway network.

Proposer: Councillor Chris Wood

Seconder: Councillor Andy Lugger

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MOTION ON NOTICE



Date of Council Meeting: 15 September 2025

Title of Motion: Introducing a fair system of assessing trees suitable for a Tree Preservation Order

Motion Narrative:

In recent years Plymouth has seen the loss of many important trees owned by Plymouth City Council. Their significance was never recognised as the treatment of City Council owned trees compared with those privately owned, has meant that Tree Preservation Orders have not been considered necessary in order to protect them. As a result, the public's trust in Plymouth City Council protecting its own trees is now minimal.

Action Required:

That Council resolves:

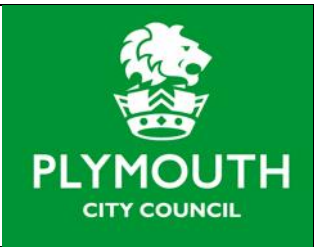
1. That trees in Plymouth that are worthy of protection should be considered for Tree Protection Orders irrespective of land ownership.
2. Request the Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change to prepare and publish a schedule of City Council owned trees that are worthy of being protected by Tree Preservation Orders and arrange for such Orders to be processed by the City Council in the next 6 months.

Proposer: Councillor Maddi Bridgeman

Seconded: Councillor Patrick Nicholson

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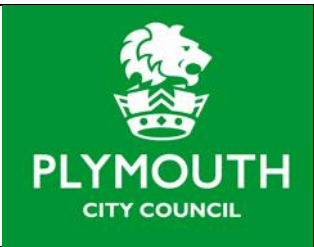
MOTION ON NOTICE



Date of Council Meeting: 15 September 2025
Title of Motion: No to any Asylum Hotels in Plymouth
Motion Narrative: Plymouth currently has no Asylum Hotels. The Labour Government plans to end the use of asylum hotels by 2029, as confirmed by Chancellor Rachel Reeves in June 2025. The target is set for the end of this Parliament. Prime Minister Keir Starmer echoed this commitment, stating he wants to “empty asylum hotels faster” than the current timeline and understands public concerns about migration and hotel placements. Ongoing protests and legal challenges from local councils are increasing pressure on the government to phase out hotel usage faster.
Action Required: That The Leader of Plymouth City Council writes a letter to the Government to state that Plymouth does not want any Asylum Hotels in Plymouth.
Proposer: Councillor Steve Ricketts
Seconded: Councillor Patrick Nicholson

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MOTION ON NOTICE



Date of Council Meeting: 15 September 2025
Title of Motion: Giving Plymouth Children the Best Start in Life
Motion Narrative: <p>This Council believes every child in Plymouth deserves the best start in life.</p> <p>Plymouth City Council notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• From 1 September, the Government is delivering 30 hours of government-funded childcare for working parents of children aged nine months to four years - worth up to £7,500 a year per child.• New free breakfast clubs in schools will be rolling out this academic year following encouraging feedback from the early adopter schools, saving families up to £450 per year.• The Government is investing £500 million in Best Start Family Hubs, with expansion to every local authority by April 2026. This will build on Plymouth’s existing Family Hub network already operating successfully across the city, helping take them to the next level.• Funding for school-based nurseries is being expanded through the £15 million school-based capital grant announced in October 2024. This allows eligible primary schools to bid for up to £150,000 to create or expand nursery provision. In April, three Plymouth primary schools were successful in securing funding. <p>Plymouth City Council further notes that this represents one of the biggest expansions of childcare in our country’s history, marking a promise delivered for working families.</p>
Action Required: <p>Plymouth City Council commits to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome the expansion of childcare and early years provision, recognising its positive impact on Plymouth families.• Work with schools and providers in the city to fully promote and support take-up of new entitlements, including breakfast clubs and nurseries.• Map local childcare and nursery capacity to identify where pressure is greatest and ensure future expansion targets those communities.• Ensure even more families are aware of and can access Family Hub support, building on the existing network and supporting the rollout to more parts of the city.• Request a report back to Cabinet and the Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny Panel in one year on the roll-out of 30 hours childcare in Plymouth, including take-up,

impact, and any local capacity challenges, and share these findings with the Education Secretary.
Proposer: Councillor Charlotte Holloway
Seconder: Councillor Josh Mccarty

MOTION ON NOTICE



Date of Council Meeting: 15 September 2025

Title of Motion: Flags in Plymouth

Motion Narrative:

Plymouth City Council notes:

- Plymouth is a welcoming and patriotic city, we are proud of our country, our past and our communities.
- As a council one of the ways we celebrate our pride in our city and country is through the flying of flags.
- We ensure that, at all times, a Union Flag flies on the Hoe, in Civic Square, on Ballard House, at the Mayflower Steps and at Saltash Passage.
- In addition other flags including the St George's Cross, the Devon flag and the City of Plymouth flag are regularly flown.
- We also celebrate the right of every citizen to fly flags on their own property.

Action Required:

Plymouth City Council commits to:

- Reaffirming its commitment to this stance and our support for the national government guidance on flag flying.

Proposer: Councillor Chris Penberthy

Seconded: Councillor Kevin Sproston

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