



**Oversight and Governance**

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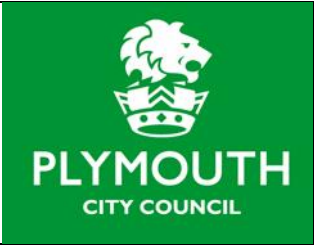
## **MEMBERS' WRITTEN QUESTIONS**


Friday 31 October 2025

## **Members' Written Questions**

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# MEMBER'S WRITTEN QUESTION



Member submitting the question: Cllr Mrs Terri Beer	
Date received: 09 October 2025	
To the Cabinet Member for: tom.briars-delve@plymouth.gov.uk	
Question: Some benches were removed form the Castle Green in Plympton St Maurice some time ago and have never been replaced. Can you tell me if we have the funding to replace these seats and when they might be replaced?	
<p>Answer:</p> <p><i>Whilst the responsibility for benches sits under the Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change I have sourced a response from the relevant officers.</i></p> <p><i>You are correct that two benches were removed from the perimeter of the green space adjacent to Plympton Castle some time ago. The benches were vandalised and were no longer fit for purpose. There are a total of four alternative benches in the wider area but I do appreciate that the replacement of one or both benches would help residents enjoy the amenity space. Therefore, one of the officers from the Grounds Maintenance service will make contact with you directly to discuss funding options and whether you, and possibly your Ward Member colleague, may wish to consider contributing your Community Grant towards a replacement.</i></p>	
Signed: 	Date: 20 October 2025

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# MEMBER'S WRITTEN QUESTION



Member submitting the question: Cllr Mrs Terri Beer

Date received: 09 October 2025

To the Cabinet Member for: mark.lowry@plymouth.gov.uk

Question: I appreciate that you are the member for finance but can you tell me what funding is in place to update aging play parks at St Maurice and Yealmpstone Farm? In Plympton Erle

Answer:

Thank you for your enquiry around finance for playgrounds.

The Improving Outdoor Play programme has delivered citywide capital works to PCC owned play spaces between 2017 and 2024 to significantly improve the quality of outdoor play space provision across the city. A total of £2.54M has been invested to date.

Since 2017 there have been 3 phases of delivery focusing on play areas in most need of upgrades. The 2017 Play Assessment was used as the basis to score and RAG rate all 127 play areas in all wards across the city.

Phase 1: £500k Corporate Borrowing, £283 External

Phase 2: £800k Corporate Borrowing, £357k External

Phase 3: £380k Corporate Borrowing, £220k External

Our approach to investment included:

- Priority spend in poorer quality play spaces
- Investing in good/high quality play spaces to ensure they remain good quality
- Using S106 funds for play investment, where geographically applicable
- Promoting inclusive play for a range of ages/abilities in or near greenspaces

To ensure that we delivered the range and type of play facilities that local communities wanted we carried out a range of consultations focusing around:

- Onsite discussions and events to facilitate consultation with local people, families and children
- Onsite posters/social media
- Visits to schools and sessions with schools, youth groups and local Councillors
- Work with local partner organisations and community groups such as Plymouth Community Homes, Neighbourhood Watch, Plympton Podcast etc to reach communities

Within Plympton Earle Ward specifically Yealmstone Farm and Plympton St Maurice play areas both had updates in Phase 1, with Plympton St Maurice receiving further improvements in Phase 3 totalling £30,300.

Any remaining amounts in the Improving Outdoor Play Phase 3 capital budget (£139,651.25) is primarily made up of S106 and external income allocated to specific sites. There is also a maintenance budget of £50,000 for inspections, safety assessments and maintenance of all play areas but this is fully committed.

We are very aware that there is a continuing need to maintain and improve our play areas and to look for new funding to support this. To help plan for future investment a new Play Assessment 2025 has been devised online to update and reassess the state of our play provision. The assessment data collected will be used along with other play data to inform future priorities and locations.

In addition, you are welcome to raise any specific maintenance issues or requests via the Cllr Casework process and officers will assess. For example, there may be options involving use of your Community Grant allocation that can be discussed.

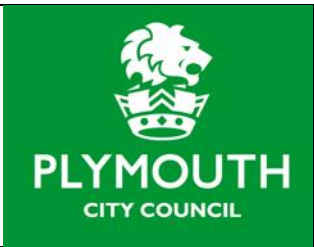
Your ongoing support for local play is greatly appreciated and officers would be happy to join you for a site visit at any time.

Signed:

Date: 17 October 2025

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QUESTION BY COUNCILLOR



**Question submitted by:** Cllr Terri Beer

**To Cabinet Member:** Cllr John Stephens

**Question:** Can you advise me on what residential streets are funded for resurfacing or re-dressing in Plympton Erle in the next 12 months?

**Response:** ( for completion by City Council officers and Cabinet Members)

Thank you for your enquiry regarding road resurfacing and re-dressing plans in Plympton Erle.


I've looked into the upcoming programme, and I can confirm that **two residential streets in Plympton Erle** have been earmarked for resurfacing during the **2026/2027 financial year**:

- **Plymouth Road** – covering approximately **2,877.54 m<sup>2</sup>**
- **Ridge Road** – covering approximately **1,946.78 m<sup>2</sup>**

In addition, although not within Plympton Erle itself, **Boringdon Hill** in the neighbouring ward of **Plympton St Mary** is also included in the tentative programme, with a resurfacing area of **3,587.32 m<sup>2</sup>**.

Please note that these locations are currently **provisional** and may be subject to change pending final review and confirmation of funding allocations.

If you'd like updates as the programme progresses or have any concerns about specific streets, I'd be happy to pass them on to the relevant teams.

**Signed:**   
**Dated:** 10<sup>th</sup> October 2025

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# MEMBER'S WRITTEN QUESTION



Member submitting the question: Cllr Mrs Terri Beer

Date received: 09 October 2025

To the Cabinet Member for: [sally.cresswell@plymouth.gov.uk](mailto:sally.cresswell@plymouth.gov.uk)

Question: When will free breakfast clubs be rolled out to Plympton children who's Parents are struggling to cover this cost?

Answer:

The below briefing has been shared with you in connection to the question you raised.

## **“Breakfast Clubs and Wraparound (Plympton)”**

Date: 9<sup>th</sup> October 2025      Author(s): April Davies and Hannah Bruty

### **Breakfast Clubs Early Adopters**

The DfE invited Primary Schools to apply to be a breakfast club adopter school in October 2024. These applications were made directly to the DfE. The local authority was not informed about which schools applied and was not part of the decision-making process.

As a result of the application process Plymouth has four schools which were selected to become early adopters. They have access to government funding to deliver free and universal breakfast clubs.

All four schools are feeding back to the local authority, local councillors and the DfE during this test and learn phase.

The four DfE funded early adopted schools are:

Pennycross Primary School

St Peters RC Primary

Marine Academy Primary

Pilgrim Primary Academy.

A Childcare Works regional event convened on the 9<sup>th</sup> October at which the DfE indicated 2000 new free Breakfast Clubs for 2026/27. The DfE representative was unable to confirm when this would be formally announced, including how and where the Breakfast Club provision would be allocated.

### **Plympton DfE Wraparound Childcare Programme (including those offering Breakfast Clubs)**

In Plympton all mainstream primary schools offer wraparound childcare from at least 7.30am for breakfast club and until 6.00pm for after school club.

Three Primary Schools in Plympton have joined the Wraparound Programme:

- Yealmpstone Farm Primary School, have wraparound childcare from 7.30am-6.00pm, they have received revenue funding to expand the provision by sixteen places to meet demand from their families.
- Plympton St Mary Church of England Infants and Old Priory Junior Academy run a cluster model. At Old Priory, they had wraparound childcare from 7.30am-5.45pm. They have received funding to extend the provision to 6.00pm from September to meet the DfE wraparound aim.
- Boringdon Primary School, outsource their childcare to Premier Education. The Wraparound Childcare Officer is currently working with the private provider to increase their capacity.

Other relevant childcare providers in Plympton:

- Glen Park Primary School has been supported by the Wraparound Childcare Officer to change from a private provider to a school run provision. This will ensure the sustainability and longevity of the setting for local families.
- Chaddlewood Primary School, Plympton St Maurice and Woodford Primary School all have a private provider providing their wraparound childcare. They have all been contacted by the Wraparound Childcare Officer and encouraged to join the wraparound programme. These three schools have expressed a view that they are already meeting parents needs and do not plan to participate in the expansion programme.

**In summary:**

Four Plymouth Primary Schools were selected by the DfE to be free, universal breakfast adopter schools. These schools have access to funding to provide free and universal breakfast clubs.

All other schools who provide breakfast clubs as part of their extended offer and fund this through charging parents, they do not have access to the early adopters DfE fund.

Through delivery of the Wraparound Funding (which is separate to the universal breakfast club adopter funding), Plymouth City council has supported 32 schools across the city to create new provision or to expand their provision supporting more parents to access breakfast clubs and after school care. The programme is designed to fund the initial setup or expansion of wraparound provision to meet existing unmet demand. It is also designed to remove the financial risk of setting up or expanding wraparound provision where sufficient demand is not guaranteed to sustain provision initially (but where sufficient demand may be built over time, as parents are assured of the supply of places). The expectation is that this over-supply of places will help to generate additional demand, as parents are assured of the availability of provision. The schools and providers in the Plympton area who have been supported to expand their wraparound offer are described earlier in this paper.”

Signed:

Date: 22 October 2025



## QUESTION BY COUNCILLOR



**Question submitted by:** Councillor Terri Beer

**To Cabinet Member:** Councillor Jemima Laing (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children's Social Care, Culture and Communications)

**Question:** Do we have any grooming gangs in the city? Is Plymouth still experiencing Child exploitation either sexual or other grooming methods? Can I have the numbers?

**Response:** Addressing the exploitation of children in Plymouth is a key focus of the Plymouth Safeguarding Children's Partnership, implemented through our safeguarding adolescent strategy. This strategy outlines how we identify, respond to, and tackle exploitation using a range of methods. These include analysing data, conducting risk assessments for vulnerable children—such as those who go missing—utilising police intelligence, monitoring children missing from education, and engaging with the community.

Given the covert nature of this abuse, it can be extremely challenging for children to recognise it due to the grooming involved. Therefore, we consistently screen for children at risk of exploitation during Return Home Conversations, assessing risk by observing factors like behavioural changes or signs such as unexplained possession of money or new clothing.

As of the end of August, we have identified 11 children who are confirmed or potentially at risk of criminal exploitation, along with a smaller number who may be vulnerable to sexual exploitation.

Devon and Cornwall Police have confirmed we do not currently have any intelligence or operations into any 'grooming gangs' relating to children. However, we work closely with our child centred policing team to monitor intelligence received either by us or through the portal. Daily Intelligence Briefings are held as a multi-agency partnership to come together and consider any individual children we may have concerns about and links to any adults of concern.

As we continue to prioritise this work a new 6 weekly Risk outside the Home Problem Solving Group has been established to consider themes, issues, places and spaces and adults of concern to ensure we have a city-wide response.

**Signed:**

**Dated:** 22 October 2025

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# MEMBER'S WRITTEN QUESTION



Member submitting the question: Cllr Mrs Terri Beer

Date received: 9 October 2025

To the Cabinet Member for: jemima.laing@plymouth.gov.uk

**Question:** How many Asylum seeker children do we have on our books? Where is the funding coming from to pay for them if we have them? How many are in the City boundary and for those not in the boundary where are they living if we have them? What is the cost of social worker time spent on visits to these children if we do in fact have any?

**Answer:**

In Plymouth we use the term Separated Young People rather than UASC or Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children and young People as this is the language that they have told us they would like us to use.

Separated young people may be seeking safe asylum in the UK for a range of reasons, often fleeing war or persecution on the grounds of race, religion, nationality or political views. These young people will have fled their country and travelled on often long and dangerous journeys to seek safety in another country.

Plymouth City Council has legal responsibility for separated young people seeking asylum who arrive in Plymouth or who are allocated to the local authority by the Home Office on a mandatory basis. Separated young people are children in care and the Local Authority has a legal duty to care for them, we are their Corporate Parents.

On 30/09/2025 Plymouth City Council had 25 Separated Young People in Our Care.

Where Plymouth City Council are the responsible Local Authority for a separated young person, they will place the child or young person in a suitable registered home, which may be foster care, supported lodgings or regulated supported accommodation. Some of our 25 separated young people in care live within Plymouth, some in the wider Devon area and some live elsewhere in the country depending on availability and suitability of home to meet their needs.

Social Workers have a range of duties to support children in care, visiting them is one of those duties. All of our children in care who are Separated Young People are allocated in our Permanence Service and we have two dedicated social workers who have a specialism in supporting our separated young people.

Home Office funding is received for each separated young person.

Signed: Cllr J Laing

Date: 21/10/2025

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## QUESTION BY COUNCILLOR



**Question submitted by:** Cllr Terri Beer

**To Cabinet Member:** Cllr Chris Penberthy

**Question:** Can you update me on work for homeless people in our City? Numbers? How is the progress on the building that was purchased to home homeless people and will this building include provision for families?

**Response:** ( for completion by City Council officers and Cabinet Members)

The demand and work in relation to homelessness is set out in the latest Scrutiny report: [Scrutiny Report](#)

Since finalising the purchase of The Royal building last year, we have been reviewing options for how we transform the building. These discussions are ongoing.

**Signed:**

**Dated:** 15<sup>th</sup> October 2025

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**QUESTION BY COUNCILLOR**

**Question submitted by:** Councillor Mrs Beer

**To Cabinet Member:** Councillor Penberthy

**Question:**

*As you failed to answer my previous question I ask again. The Royal Building purchased for homeless people in this City, is it going to be used for homeless families and when? Its been 12 months now and nothing has happened to reduce homelessness in Plymouth, why not?*

**Response:** ( for completion by City Council officers and Cabinet Members)

I totally reject your suggestion that nothing has been done to reduce homelessness in Plymouth over the past 12 months. The latest of our regular six-monthly reports to the Housing and Communities Services Scrutiny Panel which we presented on 22<sup>nd</sup> October clearly demonstrates a substantial amount of work being undertaken by Council officers as well as staff and volunteer in our partners organisations, most of whom are charities and social enterprises. To assist you to understand the scale of this work here, once again, is the link to the work set out in our Scrutiny Report <https://democracy.plymouth.gov.uk/documents/s156208/Scrutiny%20Report%20-%2022nd%20October.pdf>. I feel that your suggestion that they have all been doing no work is a massive denigration of their service and one you should withdraw.

If you watch the webcast of last week's Scrutiny Panel meeting you will see that I provided Members with an update on the Royal. I am happy to also provide this publicly available information to you in writing.

Since we purchased the Royal building, several things have happened that have changed the landscape of temporary housing provision in Plymouth.

With our partners, we were successful in bidding for a total of **£6,436,016** capital money from the Local Authority Housing Fund 3 and the Supported Housing Accommodation Programme with an additional **£2,867,185** of revenue funding to support residents living in these.

- LAHF 3 supported the delivery of 11 temporary accommodation units
- SHAP is supporting the delivery of 74 temporary accommodation units

At the same time, we have supported partners to deliver an additional 70+ units of temporary accommodation at no cost to the Council

All of these schemes needed to be delivered on tight funding timescales, this meant we had to balance priorities to ensure successful completion.

Whilst doing all of this we have also developed our recently announced Housing Partnership with Bournemouth Churches Housing Association (BCHA) which will deliver 22 units of temporary accommodation as well as 39 general needs homes. This will bring a forecast £18,300,000 of external investment into the city at a cost to the Plan For Homes capital programme of £1,000,000.

In total this is over 180 additional temporary accommodation units now being delivered or in the pipeline with over **£9,000,000** of investment from sources outside the Council in addition to the agreement with BCHA. This is an amazing achievement by our officers and partners,

In the meantime, we have been working through building surveys and looking at the standard of the Royal building with partners. We are also sense checking the priority accommodation mix that is now needed in the light of all of this additional activity. We are now ready to move forward with development of proposals for the building and look forward to being able to say more by the end of the year.

**Signed:**

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**Dated:** 29<sup>th</sup> October 2025

**QUESTION BY COUNCILLOR**

**Question submitted by:** Councillor Mrs Beer

**To Cabinet Member:** Councillor Penberthy

**Question:**

*Can you confirm where the funds came from to purchase the Royal Building in Plymouth for the homeless to live in? Also please confirm that if this money has been wasted given the fact the refurbishment to home homeless people has been either put on hold or will never happen?*

**Response:** ( for completion by City Council officers and Cabinet Members)

The money to purchase the Royal came from Service Borrowing.

The money has not been wasted, I refer again to the update I gave to Members at the Housing and Communities Scrutiny Panel statement last week, which for ease I have set out again below.

Since we purchased the Royal building, several things have happened that have changed the landscape of temporary housing provision in Plymouth.

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**Signed:**

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**Dated:** 29<sup>th</sup> October 2025