Oversight and Governance
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Delegated Decisions

Delegated Executive/Officer Decisions

Notice of call-in for non-urgent decisions must be given to the Democratic Support Team by 4.30 pm on 24 February 2026. Please note – urgent decisions and non-key Council Officer decisions cannot be called in. Copies of the decisions together with background reports are available for viewing as follows:

- on the Council's Intranet Site at https://modgov/mgDelegatedDecisions.aspx
- on the Council's website at https://tinyurl.com/3hwmppzp

The decision detailed below may be implemented immediately.

Delegated Decisions

1. Council Officer Decision - Gary Walbridge (Strategic Director for Adults, Health and Communities):

1.a. COD20 25/26 - Safe Accommodation Procurement **(Pages 1 - 24)**

EXECUTIVE DECISION

made by a Council Officer

PLYMOUTH CITY COUNCIL

REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY BY AN INDIVIDUAL COUNCIL OFFICER

Executive Decision Reference Number – *COD20 25/26*

Decision	
1	**Title of decision:** PEO/22053a Safe Accommodation Support Service Contract Award
2	**Decision maker:** Gary Walbridge (Strategic Director for Adults, Health and Communities)
3	**Report author and contact details:** Karlina Hall (Senior Commissioning Officer) E. Karlina.hall@plymouth.gov.uk, T. 01752 304415
4a	**Decision to be taken:** 1. To award the PEO/22053a Safe Accommodation Support service contract to Bournemouth Churches Housing Association (BCHA). The total contract value over 10 years is £2,086,008 (4 year initial period with 3 additional 2-year increments).
4b	**Reference number of original executive decision or date of original committee meeting where delegation was made:** Executive Decision 'CS01 25/26 - PEO/22053a Safe Accommodation Service Procurement' (18 December 2025). Decision - CS01 25/26 - PEO/22053a Safe Accommodation Service Procurement - Modern Council
5	**Reasons for decision:** 1. A competitive open tender process has been undertaken in line with the Procurement Act 2023 and Plymouth City Council's Contract Standing Orders to recommission safe accommodation support service. 2. The Tenderer with the highest total score will be awarded the PEO/22053a Safe Accommodation Support Service contract.
6	**Alternative options considered and rejected:** 1. Do Nothing – allow the Plymouth Domestic Abuse Service (PDAS) contract to end on 31 March 2026. This would lead to vulnerable adults and families with children who are survivors of domestic abuse having no support and not fulfil our statutory duty for safe accommodation to support survivors who live in the refuge and dispersed units. 2. Award a direct contract to the incumbent provider for an extended period of 4 years. This would not make the required changes needed to ensure that the service offers meet the needs of the survivors of domestic abuse into the future. In addition, in line with the Procurement Act 2023 a competitive tendering process needs to take place.
7	**Financial implications and risks:** The funding for the contract will be from the Homelessness Prevent Grant £2,086,008 over 10 years. The principle financial risk is that the Homelessness, Rough Sleeping and Domestic Abuse Grant may not

	being allocated going forward in future years. If this happened, it could be mitigated by identifying alternative funding, reducing the size of the contract or de-commissioning the Safe Accommodation Support Service.			
8	**Legal Implications and risks:** None			
9a	**Is the decision a Key Decision?** **(please contact Democratic Support for further advice)**	**Yes**	**No**	**Per the Constitution, a key decision is one which:**
			x	in the case of **capital** projects and contract awards, results in a new commitment to spend and/or save in excess of **£3million** in total
			x	in the case of **revenue** projects when the decision involves entering into new commitments and/or making new savings in excess of **£1million,** anually
			x	is **significant** in terms of its effect on communities living or working in an area comprising **two or more** wards in the area of the local authority.
9b	**If yes, date of publication of the notice in the Forward Plan of Key Decisions**	N/A		
10	**Please specify how this decision is linked to the Council's corporate plan/Plymouth Plan and/or the policy framework and/or the revenue/capital budget:**	The service aligns to keeping children, adults and communities safe priorit through focusing on prevention and early intervention and ensuring that children and young people and adults are protected.		
11	**Please specify any direct environmental implications of the decision (carbon impact)**	No implications.		

Urgent decisions				
12a	**Is the decision urgent and to be implemented immediately in the interests of the Council or the public?**	**Yes**		(If yes, please contact Democratic Support for advice)
		No	**X**	(If no, go to section 13a)
12b	**Reason for urgency:**			
12c	**Scrutiny Chair signature:**		**Date**	
	Scrutiny Committee name:			
	Print Name:			

Consultation				
13a	**Which Cabinet Member's portfolio does this decision relate to?**	Councillor Sally Haydon (Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Libraries, Cemeteries & Crematoria)		
13b	**Date Cabinet Member consulted**	12/02/26		
13c	**Are any other Cabinet members' portfolios affected by the decision?**	**Yes**	**x**	
		No		(If no go to section 14)
13d	**Which other Cabinet member's portfolio is affected by the decision?**	Councillor Mary Aspinall (Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care) Councillor Jemima Laing (Cabinet Member for Children's Social Care, Culture and Communications) Councillor Chris Penberthy (Cabinet Member for Housing, Cooperative Development and Communities)		
13e	**Date other Cabinet member(s) consulted**	12/02/26		
14	**Has any Cabinet member declared a conflict of interest in relation to the decision?**	**Yes**		If yes, please discuss with the Monitoring Officer
		No	**x**	
15	**Which Corporate Management Team member has been consulted?**	**Name**		Louise Ford
		Job title		Service Director for Integrated Commissioning
		Date consulted		12/02/26

Sign-off			
16	**Sign off codes from the relevant departments consulted:**	**Democratic Support (mandatory)**	JS76 25/26
		Finance (mandatory)	OW.25.26.133
		Legal (mandatory)	LS/5689(02)/RH/160226
		Human Resources (if applicable)	N/A
		Corporate property (if applicable)	N/A
		Procurement (if applicable)	NY/AHC/819/ED/0226

Appendices		
17	**Ref.**	**Title of appendix**
	A	Safe Accommodation Support Service Briefing Paper (Part I)
	B	EIA Safe Accommodation Support Service

	C	CIA Safe Accommodation Support Service

Confidential/exempt information

18a	**Do you need to include any confidential/exempt information?**	**Yes**	**x**	If yes, prepare a second, confidential ('Part II') briefing report and indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box in **18b** below.
		No		

		Exemption Paragraph Number						
		1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**
18b	**Confidential/exempt briefing report title:** Procurement Decision Record Safe Accommodation Support Service (Part II)			**x**				

Background Papers

19	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. If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.

Title of background paper(s)	**Exemption Paragraph Number**						
	1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**
Conflict Assessment	**x**	**x**					

Council Officer Signature

20	I agree the decision and confirm that it is not contrary to the Council's policy and budget framework, Corporate Plan or Budget. In taking this decision I have given 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. For further details please see the EIA attached.

Signature		**Date of decision**	17/02/2026
Print Name	Gary Walbridge (Strategic Director for Adults, Health and Communities)		

Safe Accommodation Support Service

Contract Award Briefing Paper Part 1

PLYMOUTH CITY COUNCIL

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 The Safe Accommodation Support Service Contract meets the following minimum requirements:

1.2 The contract will provide support for survivors of domestic abuse and their children residing in following safe accommodation units: 11 units in the Refuge with 45 bedspaces and 13 commissioned Dispersed Units with 35 bedspaces.

1.3 The commissioned Dispersed Units are owned by two landlords: 7 units belong to Sovereign Network Group (SNG) and 6 units belong to Westward. The Refuge belongs to SNG.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 This Safe Accommodation Support Service Contract award covers the replacement of the Plymouth Domestic Abuse Service (safe accommodation including a refuge and dispersed units) to cover the provision of safe accommodation offer for survivors of domestic abuse. The new Lot 2 Domestic Abuse Service and Behaviour Change service is part of the current Plymouth Domestic Abuse Service (PDAS) and Behaviour Change service contracts.

2.2 The Procurement Record Decision Business Case for the Procurement of the Safe Accommodation Support Service, agreed by delegated Executive Decision to a Cabinet Member in December 2025, described procuring a safe accommodation service. Following an unsuccessful tender process and feedback from the market, the community domestic abuse and safe accommodation elements were split into two lots and the specification further developed to ensure maximum market participation in the tendering process as the safe accommodation element has a limited market.

2.3 The Lot 2 contract for the community service was awarded in December 2025, but the safe accommodation contract (Lot 1) could not be awarded due to no bids being received for the second ITT stage.

3. PROCUREMENT PROCESS

3.1 Procurement for Safe Accommodation Support Service was published on Supplying the South-west portal on 6 January 2026; this was a one stage open procedure. A Tender Notice was published on the Central Digital Platform reference number 2026/S 000-000759 on 06/01/2026.

3.2 The procurement was advertised as a Safe Accommodation Support Service. The one stage submission deadline was 30January 2026 at midday.

3.3 Tenderers passing all the pass/fail criteria at Conditions of Participation stage had their responses evaluated for the ITT by the evaluators to determine the most advantageous tender based on the quality and social value criteria that are linked to the subject matter.

3.4 The high-level award criteria:

Criteria	Weighting
Quality	95%
Price	0% (Pass/Fail)
Social Value	5%
TOTAL	**100%**

3.5 One compliant tender submission was received by the submission deadline of the 30 January 2026. One tender submission received was non-compliant. The tender submissions were independently evaluated by Council Officers, all of whom have the appropriate skills and experience, to ensure transparency and robustness in the process. Moderation meetings were held for all method statements.

3.6 The evaluation results are contained in the confidential (Part II) paper.

4. RECOMMENDATION

4.1 To award the Safe Accommodation Support Service Contract Award to Bournemouth Churches Housing Association (BCHA) for a total value over 10 years of £2,086,008 (4-year initial period with 3 additional 2-year increments).

The following relates to exempt or confidential matters (Para(s) 3 of Part 1, Schedule 12A of the Local Govt Act 1972). Any breach of confidentiality could prejudice the Council/person/body concerned & might amount to a breach of the councillors /employees codes of conduct.

Document is Restricted

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EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT – PLYMOUTH DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICE

SECTION ONE: INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROPOSAL

Author(s): The person completing the EIA template.	Karlina Hall	**Department and service:**	Adult, Health & Communities	**Date of assessment:**	20.11.25
Lead Officer: Head of Service, Service Director, or Strategic Director.	Head of Commissioning	**Signature:**		**Approval date:**	25.11.25
Overview:	The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 has placed new statutory duties on local authorities to provide safe accommodation and support to all victims of domestic abuse including children in their own right. We will procure a safe accommodation service for people who have experienced domestic abuse which will build upon and develop our offer for the whole city and will be a service for everyone. However, we recognise that the way in which people are impacted by domestic abuse can vary depending on a number of intersecting themes and characteristics. This EIA has been completed for the procurement of the safe accommodation service to ensure we consider appropriate and proportionate mitigation to enable anyone affected by domestic abuse can access the service.				
Decision required:	To award the PEO/22053a Safe Accommodation Support service contract to Bournemouth Churches Housing Association (BCHA). The total contract value over 10 years is £2,086,008 (4 year initial period with 3 additional 2-year increments).				

SECTION TWO: EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT SCREENING TOOL

Potential external impacts: Does the proposal have the potential to negatively impact service users, communities or residents with protected characteristics?	**Yes**		**No**	X
Potential internal impacts: Does the proposal have the potential to negatively impact Plymouth City Council employees?	**Yes**		**No**	X

Is a full Equality Impact Assessment required? (if you have answered yes to either of the questions above then a full impact assessment is required and you must complete section three)	**Yes**		**No**	X
If you do not agree that a full equality impact assessment is required, please set out your justification for why not.	This contract seeks to procure current service levels and therefore the changes will not negatively impact on any group.			

SECTION THREE: FULL EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Protected characteristics (Equality Act, 2010)	Evidence and information (e.g. data and consultation feedback)	Adverse impact	Mitigation activities	Timescale and responsible department

Age	Plymouth • 16.4 per cent of people in Plymouth are children aged under 15. • 65.1 per cent are adults aged 15 to 64. • 18.5 percent are adults aged 65 and over. • 2.4 percent of the resident population are 85 and over. South West • 15.9 per cent of people are aged 0 to 14, 61.8 per cent are aged 15 to 64. • 22.3 per cent are aged 65 and over. England • 17.4 per cent of people are aged 0 to 14. • 64.2 per cent of people are aged 15 to 64. • 18.4 per cent of people are aged 65 and over. (2021 Census)	None anticipated	N/A	

Care experienced individuals (Note that as per the Independent Review of Children's Social Care recommendations, Plymouth City Council is treating care experience as though it is a protected characteristic).	It is estimated that 26 per cent of the homeless population in the UK have care experience. In Plymouth there are currently 7 per cent of care leavers open to the service (6 per cent aged 18-20 and 12 per cent of those aged 21+) who are in unsuitable accommodation. The Care Review reported that 41 per cent of 19-21 year old care leavers are not in education, employment or training (NEET) compared to 12 per cent of all other young people in the same age group. In Plymouth there are currently 50 per cent of care leavers aged 18-21 Not in Education Training or Employment (54 per cent of all those care leavers aged 18-24 who are open to the service). There are currently 195 care leavers aged 18 to 20 (statutory service) and 58 aged 21 to 24 (extended offer). There are more care leavers aged 21 to 24 who could return for support from services if they wished to.	None anticipated	N/A	
Disability	9.4 per cent of residents in Plymouth have their activities limited 'a lot' because of a physical or mental health problem. 12.2 per cent of residents in Plymouth have their activities limited 'a little' because of a physical or mental health problem (2021 Census)	None anticipated	N/A	

Gender reassignment	0.5 per cent of residents in Plymouth have a gender identity that is different from their sex registered at birth. 0.1 per cent of residents identify as a trans man, 0.1 per cent identify as non-binary and, 0.1 per cent identify as a trans women (2021 Census).	None anticipated	N/A	
Marriage and civil partnership	40.1 per cent of residents have never married and never registered a civil partnership. 10 per cent are divorced, 6 percent are widowed, with 2.5 per cent are separated but still married. 0.49 per cent of residents are, or were, married or in a civil partnerships of the same sex. 0.06 per cent of residents are in a civil partnerships with the opposite sex (2021 Census).	None anticipated	N/A	
Pregnancy and maternity	The total fertility rate (TFR) for England was 1.62 children per woman in 2021. The total fertility rate (TFR) for Plymouth in 2021 was 1.5.	None anticipated	N/A	

Race	In 2021, 94.9 per cent of Plymouth's population identified their ethnicity as White, 2.3 per cent as Asian and 1.1 per cent as Black (2021 Census) People with a mixed ethnic background comprised 1.8 per cent of the population. 1 per cent of the population use a different term to describe their ethnicity (2021 Census) 92.7 per cent of residents speak English as their main language. 2021 Census data shows that after English, Polish, Romanian, Chinese, Portuguese, and Arabic are the most spoken languages in Plymouth (2021 Census).	None anticipated	N/A	
Religion or belief	48.9 per cent of the Plymouth population stated they had no religion. 42.5 per cent of the population identified as Christian (2021 Census). Those who identified as Muslim account for 1.3 per cent of Plymouth's population while Hindu, Buddhist, Jewish or Sikh combined totalled less than 1 per cent (2021 Census).	None anticipated	N/A	
Sex	51 per cent of our population are women and 49 per cent are men (2021 Census).	None anticipated	N/A	
Sexual orientation	88.95 per cent of residents aged 16 years and over in Plymouth describe their sexual orientation as straight or heterosexual. 2.06 per cent describe their sexuality as bisexual, 1.97 per cent of people describe their sexual orientation as gay or lesbian. 0.42 per cent of residents describe their sexual orientation using a different term (2021 Census).	None anticipated	N/A	

SECTION FOUR: HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

Human Rights	Implications	Mitigation Actions	Timescale and responsible department
	No adverse impacts are anticipated. This service intends to support human rights		

SECTION FIVE: OUR EQUALITY OBJECTIVES

Equality objectives	Implications	Mitigation Actions	Timescale and responsible department
Work together in partnership to: ▪ **promote equality, diversity and inclusion** ▪ **facilitate community cohesion** ▪ **support people with different backgrounds and lived experiences to get on well together**	No anticipated implication. However we acknowledge that those who have experienced domestic abuse include people who move and relocate to the city for their safety. Our needs assessment states average 40% of people in the specialist accommodation are from out of area. The target for the new safe accommodation service will 20% from out of area and 80% Plymouth based to support the local homeless pathway.	To continue to ensure people can access our accommodation from other areas. This supports our ambition to be a welcoming city. To encourage positive community cohesion we will continue to work as a partnership, and with advice from, organisations such as Plymouth Racial Equality Council. The new service specification requires the inclusion of 'by and for' organisations to ensure we promote this as part of our Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED)	Commissioning – ongoing
Give specific consideration to care experienced people to improve their life outcomes, including access to training, employment and housing.	No anticipated implications.	The Social Value indicator for recruitment of care leavers is now mandatory within all new procurements.	Commissioning – ongoing

Build and develop a diverse workforce that represents the community and citizens it serves.	The provision of this service will support the delivery of VAWG/DASV Strategy. Women and people with disabilities are more likely to be impacted by domestic abuse. This may result in the immediate workforce of PCC requiring support from this service. Service provision workforce dominated by women and the roles are often considered lower paid.	The procurement process will include a requirement from providers to have an equality and diversity policy and domestic abuse and for the first time to have a sexual violence (DASV) policy; respond positively to our social value assessment and can support our workforce who experience domestic abuse. To ensure via our procurement and social value processes that pay equality can be met. Ensure staff at Plymouth City Council are aware of the service and can access.	Commissioning – ongoing
Support diverse communities to feel confident to report crime and anti-social behaviour, including hate crime and hate incidents, and work with partners to ensure Plymouth is a city where everybody feels safe and welcome.	No anticipated impact. However, we recognise the diversity of people affected by domestic abuse and the impact of people fleeing domestic abuse to our city.	To support our commitment to reporting of hate crimes, ensure the service is set up as 3rd party reporting. The new community domestic abuse service requires the inclusion of specialist 'by and for' organisations to support survivors from diverse communities who may experience domestic abuse.	Commissioning – ongoing

Climate Impact Assessment
DOM478
24-03-2025

Domestic Abuse Climate Impact Assessment

Project details

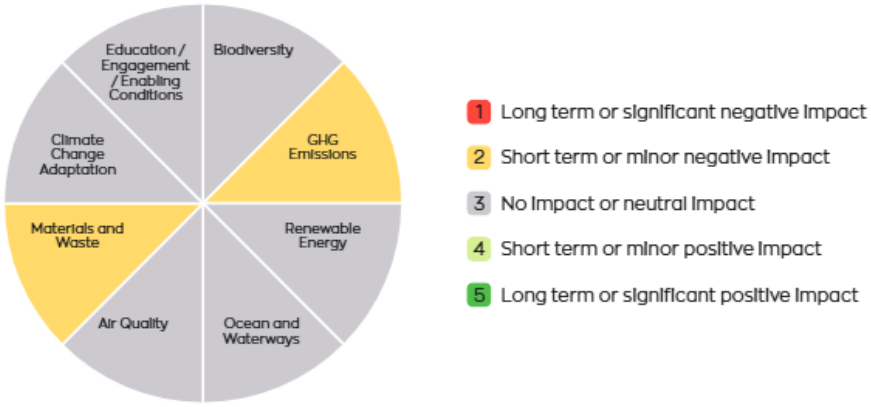
Assessment author

Karlina Hall

Project summary

The procurement of Plymouth's Domestic Abuse Service (PDAS) to support people who are victims/survivors of domestic abuse including children and those who cause harm.

Summary of assessment



Currently this is forward planning for the acquiring additional housing stock with the preference for existing accommodation to the reduce waste, maximise energy efficiency and preference for accommodation accessible to public transport.

Assessment scores

Biodiversity

Score

(3) No impact or neutral impact

Score justification

Plymouth's domestic abuse services are delivered in the community or in safe accommodation settings. There is no direct impact on biodiversity as a result of this work.

GHG Emissions

Score

(2) Short term or limited negative impact

Score justification

There is potential to expand the safe accommodation units for use of existing or new buildings over the lifetime of the contract. However, preference will be given to existing housing stock.

Mitigatory measures applied:

The Council will work with housing providers to minimise the greenhouse gas emissions during the acquisition, refurbishment or building of additional accommodation unit, adopting retrofit measures to increase overall energy efficiency. Preference will also be given to housing accessible by public transport to minimise reliance on the car.

Renewable Energy

Score

(3) No impact or neutral impact

Score justification

The Council will work with housing providers to maximise the use of renewable energy during the acquisition, refurbishment or building of additional accommodation units.

Ocean and Waterways

Score

(3) No impact or neutral impact

Score justification

The procurement of Plymouth's Domestic Abuse Service may lead to additional safe accommodation units being required which may increase the amount of water needing to be treated as sewage if these are new units rather than repurposing of existing accommodation. However, sufficient infrastructure is in place across the city and this is not likely to place any significant additional strain on the city.

Air Quality

Score

(3) No impact or neutral impact

Score justification

Plymouth's Domestic Abuse Service is primarily for existing residents in Plymouth although there is a reciprocal arrangement with other local authorities the net gain of residents is negligible. Preference will also be given to housing accessible by public transport to minimise reliance on the car.

Materials and Waste

Score

(2) Short term or limited negative impact

Score justification

Plymouth's Domestic Abuse Service may require additional units of safe accommodation.

Mitigatory measures applied:

The Council will work with housing providers to minimise the impact of waste and maximise reusing existing structures during the acquisition, refurbishment or building of additional accommodation units.

Climate Change Adaptation

Score

(3) No impact or neutral impact

Score justification

Plymouth's Domestic Abuse Service will carry out a climate impact assessment before any new safe accommodation is acquired, refurbished or built to minimise the negative impact on the environment.

Education / Engagement / Enabling Conditions

Score

(3) No impact or neutral impact

Score justification

Plymouth's new Domestic Abuse Service has not been commissioned to educate and / or engage on the impact of climate change.

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