



Oversight and Governance

Chief Executive's Department
Plymouth City Council
Ballard House
Plymouth PL1 3BJ

Please ask for Democratic Support
T 01752 305155
E democratic.support@plymouth.gov.uk
www.plymouth.gov.uk
Published 29 September 2020

PERFORMANCE, FINANCE AND CUSTOMER FOCUS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Wednesday 7 October 2020
2.00 pm
Virtual meeting

Members:

Councillor Jordan, Chair
Councillor Vincent, Vice Chair
Councillors Corvid, Derrick, Hendy, Samantha Leaves, Mrs Pengelly, Tuffin and Wigans.

Members are invited to attend the above meeting to consider the items of business overleaf.

This meeting will be webcast and available on-line after the meeting. By joining this virtual meeting, councillors are consenting to being filmed during the meeting and to the use of the recording for the webcast.

The Council is a data controller under the Data Protection Act. Data collected during this webcast will be retained in accordance with authority's published policy.

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

Performance, Finance and Customer Focus Overview and Scrutiny Committee

1. Apologies

To receive apologies for non-attendance submitted by Councillors.

2. Declarations of Interest

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

3. Minutes (Pages 1 - 10)

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 22 January 2020.

4. Chair's Urgent Business

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

5. Capital & Revenue Monitoring Report 2020/21- Month 4 (Pages 11 - 42)

6. Street Services (Pages 43 - 52)

7. The Way We Work (TWWW) Programme Update

8. The impact of COVID-19 on Homelessness in Plymouth (Pages 53 - 64)

9. Work Programme (Pages 65 - 68)

Performance, Finance and Customer Focus Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Wednesday 22 January 2020

PRESENT:

Councillor Kelly, in the Chair.

Councillor Winter, Vice Chair.

Councillors Mrs Beer, Derrick, Hendy, Mrs Johnson, Mrs Pengelly Tuffin and Vincent.

Apologies for absence: Councillors Ms Watkin (Councillor Mrs Pengelly substituting) and Wiggins (Councillor Beer substituting).

Also in attendance: Councillor Sally Haydon (Cabinet Member for Customer Focus and Community Safety), (Matt Garrett Service Director for Community Connections), Dave Ryland (Community Connections Strategic Manager), Inspector Robin Loveridge (Devon and Cornwall Police), Councillor Chris Penberthy (Cabinet Member for Housing and Co-operative Development), John Hamblin (Shekinah), Melanie Haymes (Finance Business Partner), Holly Golden (Head of Procurement), Councillor Jon Taylor (Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Transformation), Pete Honeywell (Transformation Architecture Manager), Paul Looby (Head of Financial Reporting and Planning), Andy Ralphs (Strategic Director for Customer and Corporate Services) and Jamie Sheldon (Democratic Advisor).

The meeting started at 2.00 pm and finished at 5.10 pm.

Note: At a future meeting, the Panel will consider the accuracy of these draft minutes, so they may be subject to change. Please check the minutes of that meeting to confirm whether these minutes have been amended.

83. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made by Members in accordance with the code of conduct.

84. Minutes

The Committee agreed the minutes of the meetings held on 02 October 2019 and 11 November 2019 (Garden waste Call-in).

85. Chair's Urgent Business

The Chair asked the Committee if they were happy to change the order of the agenda and take the Begging and Community Safety Enforcement item, before the Homeless Overview item.

The Committee agreed to change the order of the agenda.

86. **Mapping of Corporate Plan to Scrutiny Committees**

The Committee noted the Mapping of Corporate Plan to Scrutiny Committees document.

87. **Policy briefing**

The Performance Finance and Customer Overview and Scrutiny Committee were provided with the latest national picture in respect of policy announcements and legislation.

The Committee noted the report.

88. **Begging and Community Safety Enforcement**

Councillor Sally Haydon (Cabinet Member for Customer Focus and Community Safety), (Matt Garrett Service Director for Community Connections), Dave Ryland (Community Connections Strategic Manager) and Inspector Robin Loveridge (Devon and Cornwall Police) presented the Begging and Community Safety Enforcement report –

- (a) Provided detail around city wide enforcement under the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 and gave context as to the actions being undertaken to address begging via enforcement activity.
- (b) Begging and Community Safety Enforcement fell under the remit of Safer Plymouth, our Community Safety Partnership.
- (c) Safer Plymouth had the following statement of intent:
 - Identity – Safer Plymouth delivering safer communities;
 - Purpose – Co-ordination, Quality Assurance, Systems Leadership;
 - Focus – Reducing violence, abuse and exploitation;
 - Aims – Prevention of harm, early intervention, reducing re-offending;
 - Outcomes – Building community resilience, reducing inequalities and improving lives.
- (d) One measure for Safer Plymouth was whether people of Plymouth felt safe during the day and at night which is measured through the City survey.
- (e) The most recent survey from 2018 told us that 90% of people feel safe during the day, with 60% of people feeling safe during the dark. These results were fairly similar to both 2012 and 2014 with only very minor changes. Whilst there would be differences across localities to how people feel this showed that Plymouth was largely seen as a safe place to live.

- (f) Begging was an offence under section 3 of the *Vagrancy Act 1824*, and was a recordable offence. The maximum sentence was a fine at level 3 on the standard scale (currently £1000).
- (g) Between 01 January 2019 and 31 December 2019 in the Plymouth BCU there was 84 recorded incidents / logs of Begging (including all various definitions).
- (h) Plymouth against Retail Crime was established in September 2001 to combat the increasing problems in Plymouth City Centre of retail crime and anti-social behaviour within the City Centre Business Improvement District (BID). PARC have Officers operating in the city centre on a daily basis and were targeted towards addressing matters of concern inclusive of Begging
- (i) Plymouth City Council had a small team that worked closely with the Police and other agencies to deal with Anti-Social Behaviour in its many forms. This would support agencies to address behaviours of concern using a range of powers.
- (j) In 2019 Plymouth City Councils Community Connections team received 533 enquiries relating to Anti-Social Behaviour.

The key areas of questioning from Members related to –

- Understanding the true number of people begging in Plymouth and what their vulnerabilities were;
- How the problem of persistent beggars had been moved from the City Centre to surrounding areas of the city such as Mutley Plain and what further action had been done to prevent them continuing this behaviour in a new location;
- explained that beggars had been using big issue seller spots around the City Centre which was causing issue for the sellers;
- wanted clarification on whether members of the public busking was seen as begging;
- how big of issue begging was in Plymouth and how did we compare with cities of similar population;
- Whether members of the public should be encouraged to report people begging to the police and whether this would help them get the support they need;
- What plans were in place for Mayflower 2020 to combat begging as it would be a bigger opportunity for beggars?

The Committee noted the briefing on city wide enforcement under the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 and the actions being undertaken to address begging via enforcement activity.

89. **Homeless Overview (including an overview of the Alliance)**

Councillor Chris Penberthy (Cabinet Member for Housing and Co-operative Development), (Matt Garrett Service Director for Community Connections) and John Hamblin (Shekinah) presented the Homeless Overview to the Committee –

- (a) Homelessness could happen for a variety of reasons and often with circumstances out of the control of those involved. It was recognised that in a time of crisis, people were often more vulnerable, and there was a need to ensure the right support was available at the right time to prevent homelessness wherever possible.
- (b) The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 (HRA), came into effect in April 2018, placing a new duty on local authorities to help prevent the homelessness of families and single people, who were eligible for assistance and threatened with homelessness, regardless of priority need.
- (c) The Act significantly reformed England's homelessness legislation by placing duties on local authorities to intervene at earlier stages to prevent homelessness.
- (d) The HRA has increased the number of people eligible for services. The time taken to deal with cases is longer due to the change in the law (now 112 days from application to decision, previously it was 33 working days.) Both of these factors had increased demand on front line services with the time spent on cases doubled and reduced capacity within the service.
- (e) The number of households approaching the Local Authority for advice around homelessness and being threatened with homelessness had been rising over the last few years. In 2016/17, advice was provided to 1,654 households. This rose to 1,869 households in 2017/18. In 18/19 there was a further increase to 2,514 households.
- (f) Rough Sleeper numbers in Plymouth (the most visible form of homelessness) have risen over the last few years however there was a decrease to 23 in the official count in November 2018 from 26 in November 2017.
- (g) Where it is not possible to prevent or relieve homelessness for eligible households presenting as homeless or at risk of homelessness, Plymouth City Council had a duty to provide emergency temporary accommodation if the household is determined to be in 'priority need'.
- (h) Plymouth City Council (PCC) commissions a broad range of statutory and non-statutory interventions for people who have support needs in relation to

homelessness and may also have support needs around substance misuse, mental health, offending and risk of exploitation.

- (i) Using an Alliance model, the focus was on creating systemic change: changes to culture, funding structures, commissioning and implementing policies that support a new way of working. Furthermore working together to create a contractual environment where suppliers shared responsibility for achieving outcomes and were mutually supportive, making decisions based on the best outcome for the service user.
- (j) A single contract for the provision of support for people with complex needs had been awarded to a partnership of the following organisations in Plymouth, working together in partnership with commissioners as The Plymouth Alliance for Complex Needs (TPA): BCHA, Hamoaze House, Harbour Trust, Livewell South West, Live West, PATH, Shekinah and The Zone.
- (k) An action plan specifically focused on those aged 16/17 was being implemented to reduce the number of young people in temporary accommodation and increase accommodation options to meet the wider needs of homeless young people aged 16- 24years. In order to do this, Plymouth City Council would work with the Plymouth Alliance to review young people's accommodation and broaden the range of accommodation options for all young people.

The key areas of questioning from Members related to –

- What plans had been put in place to deal with the hard to house group and how could they be supported;
- Whether training or support was provided to people when they are out of the hostel system e.g. cooking and life skills;
- Whether the Police would you encourage people to report rough sleeping and what was the process for doing so;
- why people opted for housing advice but had chosen not to complete an initial assessment form and was this because people needed more support filling out the forms;
- the definition for “intentionally homeless” and how support differed for these individuals;
- how many children were in temporary accommodation and bed and breakfast and the impact temporary accommodation could have on children's education.

The Committee noted the briefing on recent changes in homelessness legislation with the introduction of the Homelessness Reduction Act (HRA), the Council's duties in respect of this and the impact of this on service delivery in the City; the levels of homelessness in the City; and the current work and initiatives to prevent and relieve homelessness, including some of the work of The Plymouth Alliance.

90. **Transfer of Procurement Services**

Councillor Chris Penberthy (Cabinet Member for Housing and Co-operative Development), Holly Golden (Head of Procurement) and Melanie Haymes (Finance Business Partner) presented the Transfer of Procurement Services to the Committee –

- (a) Plymouth City Council's Procurement Service, which was a key support service within the Finance Department. This team was responsible for leading and providing professional support from low value transactional purchases up to multi million pound strategic projects across a diverse range of goods, services and works, covering 4 main category areas- Construction, Professional Services, Facilities Management and Environment and Transport.
- (b) The Cooperative Commissioning team were out of scope for this proposal. The Cooperative Commissioning team operated was part of the People Directorate and undertook all activity within Plymouth City Council (PCC) to contribute to the outcomes defined in four commissioning strategies that cover; Wellbeing, Children and Young People, Community and Enhanced and Specialised Care.
- (c) The Procurement Service was responsible for ensuring PCC's procurement and contracting activity was conducted in accordance with its own Contract Standing Orders, Procurement Regulations and Legislation in a fair, transparent and compliant manner and delivered best value for the Council.
- (d) In 2018/19, the Procurement Service and Cooperative Commissioning team oversaw the procurement of over £226.4 million of goods, services or works.
- (e) The total value of awarded contracts in 2018/19 totalled £128.4 million
- (f) Following a detailed option analysis undertaken in September 2017, the conclusion was reached that existing back office services would provide more value to PCC and Plymouth through them being delivered via a public sector shared service provider. The outcome of this analysis was that Delt Shared Services Ltd (Delt) was recommended as the best option.
- (g) The Payroll and Pensions service was transferred in early 2018, followed by Print and Document Services in the autumn of 2018. The Procurement Service was now recommended for transfer to Delt from 1 April 2020.
- (h) The Procurement Service had previously experienced severe difficulty in recruiting and retaining staff. There was a national shortage of procurement professionals and this was an especially challenging situation in the South West. The private sector had the flexibility to pay higher salaries and could offer more innovative and generous remuneration packages.

The key areas of questioning from Members related to –

- Why PCC had recruited staff and occurred the recruitment expenses if the plan was to transfer staff to Delt Shared Services Ltd;

- What were the risks for the staff transferring across as part of this proposal?
- Whether all vacant posts within the staffing structure were now filled, what the FTE of the department was and what was the Head Count;
- Why there was a large difference in the Employee costs in 2018/19 compared to 2019/20;
- Concerns were raised about not having a gain share arrangement or having details presented before the Committee;
- Whether PCC would have any involvement in recruiting staff if the procurement team transferred over to Delt Shared Services Ltd.

Councillor Kelly proposed an amendment seconded by Councillor Beer to amend the recommendation to read “The Performance, Finance and Customer Focus Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked to recommend Cabinet enter negotiations with Delt Shared Services Ltd” and the Gain share arrangement to be finalised and made public before the deal was signed off in its entirety.

For – Councillors Kelly, Johnson, Pengelly and Beer.

Against – Councillors Winter, Hendy, Derrick, Tuffin and Vincent.

The amendment was not passed but Councillors Kelly, Johnson, Pengelly and Beer wanted it noted that they wished to have a firm split in the gain share arrangements.

The Performance, Finance and Customer Focus Overview and Scrutiny Committee were asked to recommend to Cabinet –

- The Procurement Service transferred to Delt, with staff transferring under TUPE arrangements with effect from 1 April 2020.
- All Procurement Service work is channelled through Delt allowing for greater efficiencies and growth through a central hub and the potential for greater retention and stability in the workforce through a broader range of procurement categories
- A Gain share arrangement is put in place whereby both PCC and Delt are motivated to drive down the cost of spend through a share in savings generated. The finer details of the gain share arrangement are to be worked up in partnership with Delt. Finalised
- The client function to remain within PCC Finance department with KPI's to be agreed in partnership with Delt.

For – Councillors Winter, Hendy, Derrick, Tuffin and Vincent.

Against – Councillors Kelly, Johnson, Pengelly and Beer.

91. **TWWW Programme Update - To follow**

Councillor Jon Taylor (Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Transformation) and Pete Honeywell (Transformation Architecture Manager) presented The Way We Work Programme Update –

- (a) Described the rationale and approach to digital services that the Council was taking as part of The Way We Work Programme. Previous updates to the panel had explained how digital was part of the programme without fully explaining why it was so important.
- (b) Provided a description of the new Assisted Customer Service Support scheme which protected customers who might otherwise be in danger of digital and even social isolation.
- (c) Taking a customer focused approach to the digitisation of more of our services will achieve the following benefits:
 - Benchmarks shown that whilst face to face interactions cost between £10.53 and £14.00 and calls cost between £3.39 and £5 per call, digital transactions cost between £0.08 and £0.17 per interaction. In 2012 Government Digital Services (GDS) estimated the annual savings to central government were in the region of £1.7bn to £1.8bn per year;
 - Access to services 24/7;
 - Status updates on progress to complete a service request;
 - Ability to see and manage multiple requests at the same time.

The key areas of questioning from Members related to –

- The possibility of using text messages to remind residents when bins needed to be collected;
- Concerns were raised that not all residents had access to the technology required and would isolate them from services.

The Committee noted the report and considered the data and analysis in the report as background for future recommendations arising from The Way We Work programme.

92. **Revenue Monitoring - Month Eight**

Paul Looby (Head of Financial Reporting and Planning) presented the Revenue Monitoring - Month Eight report to the Committee –

- (a) This report outlined the finance monitoring position of the Council at the end of November 2019.
- (b) The primary purpose of this report was to detail how the Council is delivering against its financial measures using its revenue resources.
- (c) The projected revenue overspend is £2.699m against a revenue budget of £185.483m.
- (d) The Children Young People and Families Service were reporting a net budget pressure of £2.342m at Month 8.
- (e) Street Scene & Waste services were reporting an adverse variation. This can be attributed to the RTS fire and closure of the facility for 9 weeks, increased costs linked to health and safety, increased maintenance costs of an aging fleet and overall pressures to deliver clean and tidy streets.
- (f) Strategic Planning and Infrastructure budget position showed a net £86k positive variation to budget. This was a positive change since last month's budget monitoring report of £69k.

The key areas of questioning from Members related to –

- What Financial information would be provided to the budget scrutiny meeting?
- Concerns were raised regarding the ongoing use of reserves.

The Committee noted the month eight monitoring position.

93. **Work Programme**

The Committee noted the work programme and agreed to -

1. Add the Communication Review Plan to 18 March 2020 meeting;
2. Add the Policy plan on rogue landlords to the Work Programme for the next Municipal year.

94. **Tracking Decisions**

The Committee noted the progress against actions since the last meeting.

This page is intentionally left blank

Performance, Finance and Customer Focus Overview and Scrutiny Committee



Date of meeting: 07 October 2020

Title of Report: Capital & Revenue Monitoring Report 2020/21 – Month 4

Lead Member: Councillor Mark Lowry (Cabinet Member for Finance)

Lead Strategic Director: Andrew Hardingham (Service Director for Finance)

Authors: Paul Looby – Head of Financial Planning and Reporting
Hannah West - Finance Business Partner

Contact Email: email: paul.looby@plymouth.gov.uk
email: hannah.west@plymouth.gov.uk

Your Reference:

Key Decision: No

Confidentiality: Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

This report was agreed by Cabinet 15 September 2020:

- Outlines the capital and revenue finance monitoring position of the Council as at the end of July 2020;
- Updates the report presented to Cabinet on 18 August 2020 which set out a revenue position statement for 2020/21 and the impact upon 2021/22 financial planning arising from the COVID-19 pandemic;
- Sets out the capital budget 2020-25, taking into account changes to the capital programme and adjustments to income assumptions as a result of the pandemic.

The forecast revenue outturn after the application of Covid grants and council mitigating actions is shown in Table I.

Table I: End of year revenue forecast

	Budget £m	Forecast Outturn £m	Variance £m
--	--------------	------------------------	----------------

Total General Fund Budget	193.678	194.966	1.288
----------------------------------	----------------	----------------	--------------

Recommendations and Reasons

The Performance, Finance and Customer Focus Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked to note the report

Recommendations agreed by Cabinet 15 September 2020 -

1. Notes the current capital and revenue monitoring position.
2. Endorses the mitigating actions set out at paragraphs 1.7-1.10 below to offset the impact of the projected overspend.
3. Approves the creation of a Covid Reserve to fund the additional costs and lost income arising from the Pandemic as set out in paragraph 1.10.
4. Continues to work with Strategic and Service Directors to explore further options to reduce the projected overspend and minimise any further call on the Council's reserves to balance the 2020/21 budget.
5. Recommends that the Council approves the Capital Budget 2020-2025 as revised to £593.638m (as shown in Table 5).

Alternative options considered and rejected

None – our Financial Regulations require us to produce regular monitoring of our finance resources and take the necessary actions to ensure that resources are in place to meet the Council's expenditure commitments.

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

This report is fundamentally linked to delivering the priorities within the Council's Corporate Plan. Allocating limited resources to key priorities will maximise the benefits to 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 Medium Term Financial Forecast is updated regularly 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.

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

No impacts directly arising from the recommendations of 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 is paramount to ensuring the Council can achieve its objectives and priorities as set out in the Corporate Plan

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
1	Detailed Breakdown of the Capital Programme							

Background papers:

*Add rows as required to box below

Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below. Background papers are unpublished works, relied on to a material extent in preparing the report, which disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the work is based.

Title of any background paper(s)	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) <i>If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</i>						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Sign off:

Fin	djn.2 0.21. 83	Leg	lt/353 15/0 9092 0	Mon Off		HR		Asset s		Strat Proc	
Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Andrew Hardingham (Service Director For Finance)											
Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes											
Date agreed: 02/09/2020											
Cabinet Member approval: Councillor Mark Lowry (Cabinet Member for Finance)											
Date approved: 08/09/2020											

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report outlines the capital and revenue finance monitoring position of the Council as at the end of July 2020. This paper provides a further update to the report presented to Cabinet on 18 August 2020 which set out a revenue position statement for 2020/21 and the impact upon 2021/22 financial planning arising from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 1.2 The Council's budget for 2020/21 was approved by Council only a matter of days before the country was placed into lockdown as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) has to date paid the Council un-ringfenced grant in three tranches in response to the additional costs faced by Plymouth arising from the pandemic. These are set out in Table 2 below.
- 1.3 The five year capital budget 2020-2025 is currently forecast to be £593.658m as at 31 July 2020. The capital budget has been adjusted to take into account the rolling forward of the programme from 2019-2024 to 2020-2025 as well as changes to the capital programme and adjustments to the income assumptions shown in Table 7 below.

Table 2: One-off Grants Received

Covid-19 Grant Funding	£m
MHCLG Grant Tranche 1	8.464
MHCLG Grant Tranche 2	7.236
MHCLG Grant Tranche 3	2.503
Total Grant received	18.203
Less used in 2019/20	(0.496)
Total Grant available for 2020/21 costs	17.707

- 1.4 In addition to the grant set out in Table 2 above, the Government has announced an Income Compensation Scheme which will partially offset the council's lost income arising from sales, fees and charges. This compensation will be 'one off' in nature for 2020/21 and has a set of parameters and rules. In summary, after applying a deduction equivalent to 5% of the Council's budgeted income for 2020-21, the government will compensate 75p in every pound of losses thereafter from all eligible sales, fees and charges. Certain types of income have been deemed ineligible and will attract no compensation under the scheme. Ineligible income includes income from Commercial rents and Treasury Management investments.

- 1.5 MHCLG published the form via which lost income claims can be submitted on 4 September 2020, and work on the final submission is not yet complete. Inevitably the guidance released to date is complex and is an additional resource burden on the Council. Lost income for Plymouth has been set out at paragraph 1.09 below.
- 1.6 Table 3 below summarises the forecast outturn position. Before any mitigating actions are put in place the forecast overspend would be £9.047m. Set out below are the mitigating actions which will reduce the projected outturn position to £1.288m

Mitigating Actions to Reduce the Forecast Overspend

a) Employee Voluntary Redundancy Scheme (EVRS)

- 1.7 The Council opened the EVRS programme to all officers. This is forecast to deliver £3.0m of sustainable full year equivalent savings. Of these total £0.550m is available in 2020/21. At the time of writing final decisions are still pending which may mean a small variation to the financial outcome.

b) Capital Financing Costs

- 1.8 Officers are reviewing two elements of the Council's capital financing costs. The first is the methodology for accounting for the interest costs in relation to debt and capitalising these as opposed to charging direct to revenue. The second is a review of accounting policies to allow for Minimum Revenue Provision not to be charged on assets acquired for investment purposes. These two changes can save an estimated £0.250m.

c) Income Compensation Scheme (ICS)

- 1.9 As set out above in paragraph 1.5, officers are analysing the ICS. At this stage the estimated grant is £4.559m and this has been included within the forecast outturn position. The Section 151 Officer will be required to authorise the final submission and this will be reviewed and approved by MHCLG. This grant represents 75% of eligible expenditure after discounting the first 5%. Due to the nature of the way the claim works it is difficult to be precise at this time as to the full year claim position. The Council has to submit in three tranches. The first claim is for income lost up to the end of July 2020. The final claim will reflect the year end position.

d) Release of Earmarked Reserves and Creation of Covid Reserve

- 1.10 The Council is holding £23.897m of earmarked reserves. Of that total £17m have specific terms and conditions attached rendering them unavailable to support the Council's General Fund. Following a review of reserves it is recommended that some could be released and a Covid Reserve is created to support the in-year budget pressures. There is manageable risk associated with drawing on these and they amount to £2.400m. If required, the Covid Reserve will be used to fund the additional costs incurred for the Temporary Mortuary (should the Council be unsuccessful in its claim for reimbursement from Government) and the shortfall from the ICS where the government will not compensate Plymouth for all of its lost income.

- 1.11 Cabinet Members and officers must look at all opportunities to manage the impact of Covid 19, existing legacy pressures and in year budget pressures. The Council must declare a balanced budget at year end and this report summarises a number of potential mitigations. Forecasts need to be refined and updated over the coming weeks but provide an overview of the challenges the Council still faces. The financial challenges facing the Council should not be underestimated and managing them continues to be a principal priority for the Council both in the current year and over the duration of the Medium Term Financial Plan.

Table 3: Revenue Monitoring Position

Directorate	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	2020/21 Latest Approved Budget	Forecast Outturn – Prior to use of Covid Grants	Forecast Year End Variation - Prior to use of Covid Grants
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Executive Office	6.500	(0.506)	5.994	6.179	0.185
Finance	29.962	(5.295)	24.667	25.171	0.504
Customer and Corporate	81.748	(64.638)	17.110	20.113	3.003
Children’s Directorate	149.354	(95.669)	53.685	57.975	4.290
People Directorate	125.425	(35.710)	89.715	92.876	3.161
Office of the Director of Public Health	19.306	(19.697)	(0.391)	(0.234)	0.157
Place Directorate	85.002	(60.011)	24.991	35.619	10.628
Corporate Items	5.362	(27.455)	(22.093)	(17.267)	4.826
TOTAL – Prior to use of Covid Grants	502.659	(308.981)	193.678	220.432	26.754
Less balance of COVID 19 grants					(17.707)
Less (Estimated) Income Compensation Scheme					(4.559)
SUB TOTAL					4.488
Council Mitigating Actions:					
- EVRS					(0.550)
- Capital Financing					(0.250)
- Covid Reserve					(2.400)
NET FORECAST AFTER APPLICATION OF COVID GRANTS					1.288

The financial position for the Plymouth Integrated Fund is not being reported for the start of 2020/21 due in part to the financial uncertainties for both the Council and Devon Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) arising from the Covid-19 crisis. It is also a reflection of the CCG operating without a formal budget for the period April to July 2020, with all costs being compensated on a claims basis by NHS England. For these reasons, it has been agreed by both parties that the Risk Share Agreement is reset to 0% for both parties for the full financial year.

Table 4: Key Issues and Corrective Actions

Included in the budget, is an assumed vacancy target of £3.800m. For the purposes of budget monitoring, it is assumed that this target will be met in full, and therefore is excluded from legacy pressures as set out in column 1 below. However it is important to note that this projection is based on the data available at month 4 and could change depending on the council's continued need to respond to the pandemic.

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	
Issue	Legacy £m	BAU* £m	Covid19 Income Lost £m	Covid19 Costs Incurred £m	Total £m	Management Corrective Action
<p>EXECUTIVE OFFICE</p> <p>There are legacy pressures of £0.045m along with additional costs which have been incurred due to newspaper publications covering narrative on Covid19. These have been marginally offset by salary savings.</p> <p>In addition within the Elections budget this year there is a saving of £0.113m which has been moved to reserve in line with the five year rolling budget which will manage the future known pressures within this budget.</p>	0.045	(0.047)	0.004	0.037	0.039	<p>The department will continue to seek efficiencies by reducing costs and increasing potential income opportunities. Risks will be closely monitored and mitigated wherever possible. At the time of writing there are no further specific plans in place.</p>

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	
Issue	Legacy £m	BAU £m	Covid19 Income Lost £m	Covid19 Costs Incurred £m	Total £m	Management Corrective Action
<p>EXECUTIVE OFFICE – Legal</p> <p>There is currently a pressure, £0.189m. This is a carry forward from 2018/19. £0.100m was to be achieved from a Service review as indicated in the MTFP and £0.089m is apportioned Transformation legacy savings.</p>	0.189	(0.043)	0.000	0.000	0.146	A small vacancy saving is offsetting this slightly and a budget review is under discussion with further details to follow.
<p>FINANCE</p> <p>Legacy items from the unachieved Transformation programme savings totalling £0.500m remain a pressure.</p> <p>Facilities Management Covid19 pressures: lost income from Guildhall events and cost for additional staffing. There is risk in Repairs and Maintenance (R&M) budget which is being monitored.</p>	0.500	(0.200)	0.093	0.111	0.504	<p>An in depth review of the Treasury Management budget has been undertaken. Interest rates have fallen significantly reflecting the Bank of England base rate of 0.1%. Interest on investments is forecast to be below the budget target. The interest charged on fixed debt remains unchanged but the council is benefiting from the reduction in the cost of short term borrowing. This is reflected in the forecast which is showing £0.500m saving.</p> <p>The remainder of the Finance budget is predominantly employee related costs. Any further reduction in staffing levels will expose the Council to greater financial risk. The Chief Financial Officer has a duty to ensure that staffing levels are adequate to enable duties to be discharged.</p>

						The R&M budget will be targeted primarily to undertake only essential maintenance.
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	
Issue	Legacy £m	BAU £m	Covid19 Income Lost £m	Covid19 Costs Incurred £m	Total £m	Management Corrective Action
<p>CUSTOMER and CORPORATE – Customer Services</p> <p>Housing Benefit (£0.985m) additional costs incurred due to the impact of Covid19 and pressures related to recovery of overpayments</p> <p>Covid19 has also impacted on income on Court Fees and Registration. These pressures are currently being offset in part by salary savings.</p>	0.985	(0.516)	0.450	0.911	1.830	A budget review is underway and further details are to follow.
<p>CUSTOMER and CORPORATE – Service Centre</p> <p>Legacy item totalling £0.600m. Other transactional services to transfer into the Service Centre.</p>	0.600	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.600	Budget review is underway and further details to follow. However the shortfall will be partially addressed in year from the savings derived from the Employee Voluntary Release Scheme programme launched on 20 June. Benefits will be quantified in 2020/21.
<p>CUSTOMER and CORPORATE – Human Resources & OD</p>	0.000	0.016	0.000	0.000	0.016	No other risks identified.

Overall pressure of £0.016m; this is £0.060m target for staff green travel plan offset by salary savings.						
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	
Issue	Legacy £m	BAU £m	Covid19 Income Lost £m	Covid19 Costs Incurred £m	Total £m	Management Corrective Action
CUSTOMER and CORPORATE – Departmental The budget includes savings of £0.570m from Transformation, and £0.004m gap to budget delivery affected by response to Covid19.	0.570	0.004	0.000	0.000	0.574	Plans are in the process of being developed including a review of management overheads across the directorate and challenging decisions will need to be made to address these pressures.
CUSTOMER and CORPORATE – Transformation Costs incurred for funding laptops for officers and Members and remote working, offset by salary savings.	0.000	(0.165)	0.000	0.148	(0.017)	Budget review underway and further details to follow.

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	
Issue	Legacy £m	BAU £m	Covid19 Income Lost £m	Covid19 Costs Incurred £m	Total £m	Management Corrective Action
<p>CHILDREN'S DIRECTORATE</p> <p>Savings Plans: £0.957m attributable to Covid19 due to: 1) restructure delays, 2) planned placement reviews stalled as a result of increased demand.</p> <p>Placements - Independent Sector Providers</p> <p>Placements £0.347m. There has been an increase in the cost of young people's placements due to the high levels of demand from our neighbouring local authorities and nationally, reducing the availability of the right sort of placement in order to meet a young person's needs.</p> <p>The impact of Covid19 has had an effect on looked-after children placements. From April to July there has been an increase of 20 new Looked After Children</p>	0.000	0.347		3.836	4.290	<p>Directorate to identify further plans to mitigate shortfall. EP+S restructure now in-train and Home to School Transport review progressing. Current position is that 76% of the savings plans are now realised or on track for delivery by the end of the financial year.</p> <p>All placements continue to be reviewed with a view to reduce costs.</p>

<p>placements equating to a full year effect of £1.549m</p> <p>Using trend analysis, an increase of +16 placements bimonthly is forecast. Increased costs by year end by £1.279m if realised.</p> <p>Education Participation and Skills (EP+S).</p> <p>£0.107m lost income; from training courses fees.</p> <p>£0.051m costs: home to school transport from lack of sufficient vehicles to allow for social distancing and SEND costs due to the implementation of emergency short break packages for some children with complex needs with 1 to 1 support replacing group based sessions.</p>						
<p>PEOPLE – Community Connections</p> <p>Bed and Breakfast numbers set to increase further, still due to Covid19; payments to our partner The Alliance may increase with the increase in demand for services.</p> <p>Additional costs for more housing and associated staffing; expected</p>	<p>0.000</p>	<p>(0.326)</p>	<p>0.045</p>	<p>1.178</p>	<p>0.897</p>	<p>All pressures being reported are Covid19 related.</p> <p>The department has been tasked with achieving delivery plans of £0.113m, as well as £0.268m of savings brought forward from 2019/20 that were realised from one off savings and needed to be achieved in this financial year. It is thought that they will achieved in full, however, some of these</p>

Youth Centre loss of income; BAU saving is because of grant maximization.						may be achieved through one off savings again, which could cause further pressure in 2021/22.
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	
Issue	Legacy £m	BAU £m	Covid19 Income Lost £m	Covid19 Costs Incurred £m	Total £m	Management Corrective Action
<p>PEOPLE - Strategic Cooperative Commissioning</p> <p>The forecast includes additional payments made to providers up to 30th June 2020 and includes no provision for further payments. The market will continue to be monitored over the coming months and risks and issues will be escalated to CMT and Cabinet.</p> <p>The forecast also reflects additional payments relating to Discharge claims from Health.</p> <p>After a period of Adult Social Care (ASC) client numbers dropping, now seeing rises in the numbers of both residential and community clients.</p> <p>Covid19 has also had a large impact on the department, with increased costs to providers, both</p>	0.000	0.114	0.300	1.850	2.264	<p>At the moment, most of the pressures being reported are Covid19 related.</p> <p>At this time, the service are hoping to cover off all delivery plans, however most of these may be achieved through one off grants again, which will cause further pressure in 2021/22.</p> <p>The development of the next phase of transformation is underway to support the delivery of sustainable savings during 2020/21 and thus reduce the reliance on one off savings in future years.</p>

one off and ongoing, as well as a very large cost of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) that is being used for the local authority and also for providers.						
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	
Issue	Legacy £m	BAU £m	Covid19 Income Lost £m	Covid19 Costs Incurred £m	Total £m	Management Corrective Action
<p>Office of the Director of Public Health</p> <p>The Track and Trace initiative will have funding of £1.402m from the Department of Health and Social Care which will be spent on a variety of areas.</p> <p>At the moment the Bereavement Service is forecasting to budget for numbers of cremations, but any pressure will be around the decision not to increase prices this year.</p>	0.000	0.000	0.121	0.036	0.157	<p>At the moment, all pressures being reported are Covid19 related.</p> <p>Bereavement will be monitored closely over the coming months to understand the trends emerging in this financial year. However this budget is ring-fenced and cannot be counted towards any favourable variations for the Directorate.</p>
<p>PLACE - Strategic Planning and Infrastructure (SP&I)</p> <p>The monitoring position is heavily influenced by the impact of</p>	0.000	(0.930)	0.914	(0.033)	(0.049)	<p>SP&I Management will continue to closely monitor opportunities for additional income and spend savings given wider budget pressures. The Service Director identified in July 2020 a series of emergency budget decisions. These include:</p>

<p>Covid19 on income and expenditure.</p> <p>We have forecasted a Covid19 related adverse impact on SP&I income of £0.914m based upon assumptions relating to the demand for services (e.g. planning applications and building control), our ability to deliver services that generate fees, and potential impacts on capital project delivery.</p>						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freezing recruitment for a number of posts for the rest of 2020/2021 £0.176m; • Shutting down or intentionally limiting project spend for the rest of 2020/2021 £0.266m plus; • One-off capitalisation for 2020/2021; • Additional In-Year Fees for Services Provided and External Partnership Income; • Negotiating one-off savings where contributions can be offset by reserves held by partnerships; • Postponing the Local Green Space Development Planning Document and stopping non-revenue generating work.
<p>PLACE - Management Support</p> <p>£0.338m Accumulated Place legacy efficiencies target following apportionment of historic Transformation costs.</p>	0.338	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.338	<p>Overall Place monitoring will continue to seek one off efficiencies by reducing costs and potential income opportunities to reduce this pressure. With the in-year Covid19 impact however this is unlikely to be realised in full.</p>
<p>PLACE - Economic Development</p>	0.000	(0.300)	1.799	(0.364)	1.135	

<p>There are pressures due to income no longer achievable from the Computer Complex as a result of asbestos discovery at Stoke Business Park, and lack of resource to deliver on agreed budget priorities including for Co-operatives and the Fishing Industry.</p> <p>These are being offset in part from planned savings that have been achieved; including from the Airport Estate, additional capitalisation and NNDR commitments have reduced rates delisting.</p> <p>In addition there are pressures as a result of Covid19 impacting on commercial activities: these include but not limited to; Asset Investment Fund, Mount Edgumbe, The Box and City Market.</p>						<p>Risk based intelligence monitoring will ensure that these pressures are kept under ongoing review and reported appropriately.</p> <p>It is anticipated that National Government business grant payments to tenants will enable these PCC delayed invoice payments to be made. There remains however a significant risk of write off from tenants who do not recover and go out of business. This level of write off risk has been assessed by the Land and Property team for each area within ED.</p>
--	--	--	--	--	--	--

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	
Issue	Legacy £m	BAU £m	Covid19 Income Lost £m	Covid19 Costs Incurred £m	Total £m	Management Corrective Action
<p>PLACE - Street Services</p> <p>Street Scene & Waste (SSW) services:</p> <p>Street Scene and Waste are reporting an adverse variation of £1.978m. A substantial proportion of this is due to ongoing legacy/income targets, which are unlikely to be achieved - these total £0.556m.</p> <p>COVID-19 has also had a significant impact on SSW, causing a forecasted pressure of £1.172m due to lost income through Trade Waste, Bulky Waste and Sales of Recyclables, as well as additional costs as a consequence of increased tonnages and having to cease and then reopen services.</p> <p>Among other things, SSW have BAU pressures of £0.124m, which include vehicle running costs and agency costs as the most significant.</p> <p>Grounds has also brought a pressure of £0.155m in relation to</p>	0.556	0.250	0.529	0.643	1.978	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Street Scene and Waste has undergone a series of end-to-end reviews to understand the genesis of the cost pressures that exist across the service. The available budget for the service was increased in 2020/21 after having not been increased for a number of years despite exacting service standards, ever increasing demands and increased numbers of households across the city. The service is looking at a series of measures that will introduce more accountability and tighter controls. As part of the review, the service is also undergoing a series of changes as part of its modernisation agenda and this should see improved income, which will in part address the shortfall as well as some (but not all) of savings targets. The impact of Covid-19 is significant and the service continues to monitor and assess the implications, particularly for trade and commercial income, as well as the additional costs of running Covid-safe services and adjusting working practices in a dynamic pandemic environment

<p>backdated grant monies owed to National Trust. Grounds are also reporting a COVID-19 related pressure of £0.109m (of which £0.068m is lost income). Measures are in place to monitor the service area more frequently and apply tighter financial control.</p>						
<p>Fleet and Garage:</p> <p>Fleet and Garage are reporting a pressure of £0.127m which is made up of historic legacy/income targets. Fleet of £0.077m and Garage of £0.050m.</p>	0.127	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.127	
<p>Highways and Car Parking:</p> <p>The Highways and Car Parking Trading account is currently reporting a forecast loss of up to £7.099m. This is made up of £6.5m potential loss from Car parking income from On Street & Off Street, Permit Parking, Penalty Charge Notices & Corporate Permits and the continuation of the service running costs during the period. £0.400m Tamar Bridge & Torpoint Ferry loss of income shared with Cornwall. Other pressures are within mooring income, loss of rental from cruise operators and Highways Legal Fees.</p>	0.000	0.090	6.984	0.025	7.099	<p>The Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry Joint Committee is predicting a shortfall of £4.2m income in 2020/21. The Act establishing the bridge requires that accumulated reserves are used first to offset any in year loss. Plymouth will be claiming its share (£2.1m) of the loss from the Government although at present guidance suggests we will only receive 71p in the £. After use of the reserves if there is still a deficit this is shared equally between Plymouth and Cornwall. At present the position is estimated to be £0.4m</p>

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	
Issue	Legacy £m	BAU £m	Covid19 Income Lost £m	Covid19 Costs Incurred £m	Total £m	Management Corrective Action
<p>CORPORATE ITEMS</p> <p>There is £3.200m of pressure for The Way We Work (TWWW) programme and Business Support Review as shown in the MTFP.</p> <p>Costs totalling £1.856m have already been incurred for the Temporary Mortuary of £1.450m and for PPE equipment including signage.</p> <p>Climate Emergency Budget</p> <p>Of the £0.250m received £0.020m has been spent. The Senior Responsible Officer role for Climate Emergency rests with the Strategic Director of Place</p> <p>Health and Safety capital finance budget.</p> <p>Essential works have been approved as part of the capital programme up to the limit of the funding available. Should works be delayed because of Covid there may be a small underspend Responsibility for this budget rests with the Director for Finance.</p>	0.000	3.200	0.000	1.856	5.056	<p>Boards have been convened to look at components of TWWW programme, including for example, the Accommodation strategy to review impact of Covid 19 on future service delivery.</p> <p>EVRS council wide programme; driving out £0.750m this financial year</p>
	0.000	(0.230)	0.000	0.000	(0.230)	

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	
Issue	Legacy £m	BAU £m	Covid19 Income Lost £m	Covid19 Costs Incurred £m	Total £m	Management Corrective Action
TOTAL	3.910	1.450	11.346	10.048	26.754	
Less balance of COVID 19 grants.					(17.707)	
Less estimated ICS					(4.559)	
Less Council mitigating actions					(3.200)	
NET TOTAL					1.288	

Capital Finance Report Month 4 2020/21

The five year capital budget 2020-2025 is currently forecasted to be £593.658m as at 31 July 2020. The capital budget has been adjusted to take into account the removal of 2019/20 (£195.780m) and the addition of the 2024/25 programme as well as changes to the capital programme and adjustments to the income assumptions shown in table 6.

The Income Assumptions are estimates of future funding. Most of the future funding has not yet been secured and will be ring-fenced to deliver future capital projects to grow the city.

Current Capital Resources

Table 5 The Capital budget consists of the following elements:

Description	£m
Capital Programme approved by CCIB	360.874
Income Assumptions *	232.784
Total Revised Capital Budget for Approval (2020-2025)	593.658

* Estimate of possible future income to finance future capital projects (funding see Table 2b)

Within the approved budget (representing forecast resources), the Capital Programme represents projects that have been approved by the City Council Investment Board (CCIB). Project officers prepare detailed business cases and present them to the board and if approved the CCIB recommends them to the Leader for approval. Once the executive decision has been signed by the leader the projects are added to the Capital Programme for delivery.

Tables 6 and 7 below show the revised capital programme for the period 2020-2025, as at the end of July 2020. Appendix I shows a detailed breakdown of the Capital Programme.

Table 6a Capital Programme by Directorate

Directorate	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
People	6.048	0.632	0.172	-	-	6.852
Place	137.529	83.983	68.442	10.708	2.681	303.343
Customer & Corporate	8.095	29.571	-	-	-	37.666
Public Health	5.209	7.804	-	-	-	13.013
Total	156.881	121.990	68.614	10.708	2.681	360.874
Financed by:						
Capital Receipts	4.465	4.087	2.150	0.610	0.664	11.976
Corporate funded borrowing	39.170	39.001	11.563	4.828	2.017	96.579
Service funded borrowing	46.887	40.639	28.517	4.020	0	120.063
Grant funding	57.826	27.991	25.524	0	0	111.341
SI06 & CIL	6.883	10.155	0.860	1.250	0	19.148
Other contributions	1.650	0.117	0	0	0	1.767
Total Financing	156.881	121.990	68.614	10.708	2.681	360.874

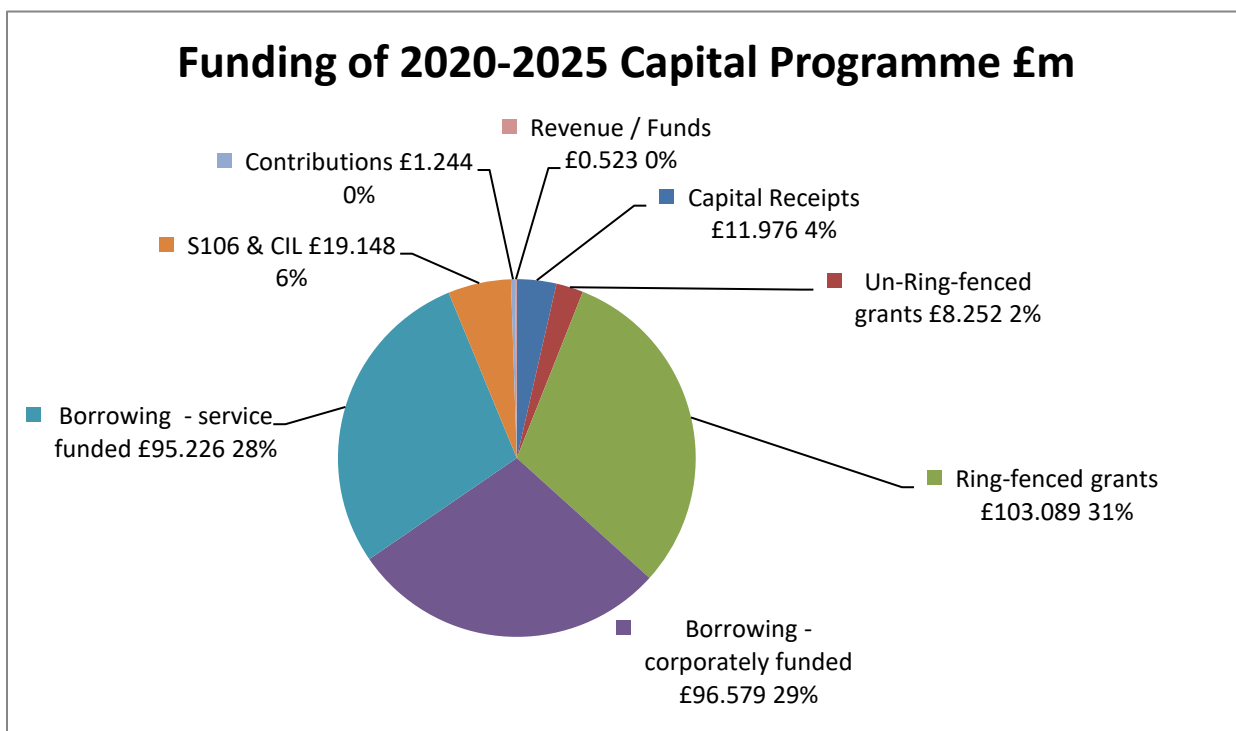


Table 6b Income Assumptions Funding Estimates

Funding Estimates	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Capital receipts	1.938	(0.439)	0.477	0.966	(0.362)	2.580
Corporate & service borrowing	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grants	11.440	24.083	5.067	159.196*	2.126	201.912
SI06 and CIL	4.575	4.575	4.575	4.575	0	18.300
Other sources	0.226	1.298	7.268	0.600	0.600	9.992
Total	18.179	29.517	17.387	165.337	2.364	232.784

* Please note that the income assumptions for future funding have not all been secured and include a possible grant from the Department of Transport in the region of £141m for the Manadon Interchange and Major Road Networks.

Covid 19

The effect from Covid 19 has slowed the capital programme delivery. As we come out of lock down the capital projects are resuming but with the extra safety requirements of social distancing. There will be slippage in the delivery of the capital programme but the Resurgam group has been set up to accelerate the delivery of projects.

Table 7: Capital Programme by Delivery Outcome

Primary Outcome of Projects	£m
Securing Growth in the City Centre/Waterfront	17.450
Securing Growth in Derriford and the Northern Corridor	57.398
Securing Growth in the Eastern Corridor	8.602
Delivering More/Better Housing	15.195
Ensuring Essential City Infrastructure	94.597
Improving Neighbourhoods and Community Infrastructure	3.848
Ensuring Good Quality School Places	1.802
Growing the Economy	33.038
Delivering Oceansgate	11.103
Connecting the City	27.162
Celebrating Mayflower	4.737
Delivering The Box	3.140
Transforming Services	82.802
Total	360.874

Recommendation

Cabinet will be asked to recommend to Council that the Capital Budget 2020-2025 is revised to £593.658m as at 31 July 2020. (as shown in Table 6).

Appendix I: Detailed Breakdown of the Capital Programme

Approved Capital Programme	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Celebrating Mayflower						
Mayflower 400 - A38 Signage	975	-	-	-	-	975
Mayflower 400 – Plymouth Signage	438	-	-	-	-	438
Mayflower 400 – Public Realm Improvements	381	-	-	-	-	381
Mayflower 400 – Public Realm Enabling	1,761	-	-	-	-	1,761
Mayflower 400 - Elizabethan House	451	-	-	-	-	451
Mayflower 400 - Monument	289	-	-	-	-	289
Mayflower 400 IT and CRM Systems	246	-	-	-	-	246
Mayflower 400 - Waterfront Event Infrastructure	196	-	-	-	-	196
Total Celebrating Mayflower	4,737	-	-	-	-	4,737
Connecting the City						
Mayflower Coach Station	-	8	-	-	-	8
Electric Car Charge Points	2	-	-	-	-	2
Cot Hill Bridge	763	-	-	-	-	763
Plymouth Rail Station Regeneration	3,533	4,793	13,014	4,020	-	25,360
Ply Railway Station Concourse (TCF)	832	-	-	-	-	832
Total Connecting the City	5,130	4,801	13,014	4,020	-	26,965
Delivering More/Better Housing						
Self Build Housing Sites	116	-	-	-	-	116
North Prospect Phase 4	1,000	-	-	-	-	1,000
North Prospect Phase 5	128	-	-	-	-	128
Bath Street	1,686	-	-	-	-	1,686
Plan for Homes	1,013	-	-	-	-	1,013
Plan for Homes 3	2,526	2,250	2,250	1,250	-	8,276
Asbestos Claims by PCH	623	500	400	400	500	2,423
Broadlands Gardens	95	0	0	0	0	95
Extra Care Housing Support Millbay	450	-	-	-	-	450
Re-provision of Vines and Colwill Lodge	8	-	-	-	-	8
Total Delivering More/Better Housing	7,645	2,750	2,650	1,650	500	15,195

Delivering Oceansgate						
Oceansgate Remediation/separation works	778	-	-	-	-	778
Oceansgate Phase 1 Direct Development	80	-	-	-	-	80
Oceansgate Phase 2 Direct Development	5,134	-	-	-	-	5,134
Oceansgate Phase 2 Infrastructure	1,174	-	-	-	-	1,174
Oceansgate Phase 2 Offsite Drainage	2,645	-	-	-	-	2,645
Oceansgate – Phase 2 Building 1.8	1,292	-	-	-	-	1,292
Total Delivering Oceansgate	11,103	-	-	-	-	11,103
Delivering The Box						
The Box	3,140	-	-	-	-	3,140
Total Delivering The Box	3,140	-	-	-	-	3,140
Ensuring Essential City Infrastructure						
Bus Improvements	198	-	-	-	-	198
Cycleway Improvements	3,671	176	-	-	-	3,847
Bridge Repairs	273	-	-	-	-	273
Staddon Lane Cliff Stabilisation	145	-	-	-	-	145
Electric Vehicle Charging	302	-	-	-	-	302
Derriford Community Park	62	-	-	-	-	62
Container Provision	685	-	-	-	-	685
European Marine Sites - Recreational Behaviour Changing Measures	98	-	-	-	-	98
Home Energy	246	-	-	-	-	246
Warm Homes	994	-	-	-	-	994
District Energy Heating	482	-	-	-	-	482
Emergency Active Travel Fund T1	105	-	-	-	-	105
Transforming Cities Fund	9,014	19,959	22,271	-	-	51,244
Capitalised Maintenance Schemes	5,898	4,995	4,947	2,000	-	17,840
Minor Repairs	407	336	345	-	-	1,088
Street Lighting Column Replacement	875	1,858	1,910	1,963	2,017	8,623
Local Safety Schemes & Street Furniture	1,190	206	212	-	-	1,608
Footway Resurfacing	1,380	1,945	1,955	-	-	5,280
Living Streets	309	-	-	-	-	309
Billacombe Foot Bridge	-	590	-	-	-	590
Flood defence Works	106	-	-	-	-	106
West Hoe Pier	80	-	-	-	-	80

Mount Edgcombe Projects	192	200	-	-	-	392
Total Ensuring Essential City Infrastructure	26,713	30,265	31,639	3,963	2,017	94,597
Ensuring Good Quality School Places						
Pomphlett Basic Need	427	-	-	-	-	427
Plymstock School Expansion	1,375	-	-	-	-	1,375
Total Ensuring Good Quality School Places	1,802	-	-	-	-	1,802
Growing the Economy						
Social Enterprise Fund	217	-	-	-	-	217
Langage Development Phase 2	290	-	-	-	-	290
Langage Development Phase 3	2,661	10	-	-	-	2,671
Other regeneration Investments	27,171	-	-	-	-	27,171
City Business Park	195	-	-	-	-	195
39 Tavistock Place	30	-	-	-	-	30
Co-operatives and Mutuals	270	187	249	209	164	1,079
ED Loans	1,580	-	-	-	-	1,580
Total Growing the Economy	32,414	197	249	209	164	33,233
Improving neighbourhoods and delivering community infrastructure / facilities						
Barne Barton general amenity improvements	164	-	-	-	-	164
Active Neighbourhoods	6	-	-	-	-	6
Infrastructure Works at Honicknowle	26	-	-	-	-	26
Derriford Community Park	415	-	-	-	-	415
Play Pitch Projects	737	-	-	-	-	737
Central Park Improvements & Sports Plateau	1,010	-	-	-	-	1,010
Improving Outdoor Play	199	82	-	-	-	281
Tennis Improvements	88	-	-	-	-	88
Brickfields Athletics	597	10	-	-	-	607
Environmental Improvements	242	-	-	-	-	242
Swimming Pools	22	-	-	-	-	22
Children Centres	250	-	-	-	-	250
Total Improving neighbourhoods and delivering community infrastructure / facilities	3,756	92	0	0	0	3,848

Securing Growth in Derriford and Northern Corridor						
Forder Valley Link Road	19,642	21,549	-	-	-	41,191
Forder Valley Interchange	3,329	4,007	-	-	-	7,336
Derriford Transport scheme	65	-	-	-	-	65
Charlton Road	102	704	-	-	-	806
Northern Corridor Junction Improvements	40	7	-	-	-	47
Woolwell to the George	911	40	-	-	-	951
Morlaix Drive Access Improvements	225	4,151	-	-	-	4,376
Northern Corridor Strategic Cycle Network	350	1,577	700	-	-	2,627
Total Securing Growth in Derriford and Northern Corridor	24,664	32,035	700	-	-	57,399
Securing Growth in the City Centre and Waterfront						
Cobourg House	126	-	-	-	-	126
Quality Hotel	299	-	-	-	-	299
Colin Campbell Court	636	-	-	-	-	636
Contribution to Civic Centre Public Realm	1,599	6,620	1,281	861	-	10,361
Re-development of Old Town Street / New George Street East	2,500	-	-	-	-	2,500
City Centre Shop Fronts Grant Scheme	18	-	-	-	-	18
West End Public Realm	156	-	-	-	-	156
Other Projects	201	-	-	-	-	201
Devonport Market High Tech 'Play Market'	57	-	-	-	-	57
Sutton Harbour Public Realm Improvements	32	-	-	-	-	32
Millbay Boulevard	1,996	4	3	-	-	2,003
Demolitions and Pedestrian Crossings	487	-	-	-	-	487
Western Approach Car Park	245	-	-	-	-	245
Development Funding	89	115	125	-	-	329
Total Securing Growth in the City Centre and Waterfront	8,441	6,739	1,409	861	-	17,450
Securing Growth in the Eastern Corridor						
Eastern Corridor Junction Improvements	2,371	150	-	-	-	2,521
A379 Pomphlett to The Ride	50	409	-	-	-	459

A38 Manadon Junction	2,241	299	-	-	-	2,540
Plymouth Major Road Network	275	275	-	-	-	550
Eastern Corridor Strategic Cycle Network	1,065	1,468	-	-	-	2,533
Total Securing Growth in the Eastern Corridor	6,002	2,601	0	0	0	8,603
Transforming Services						
Street Services Information Management System	78	-	-	-	-	78
Fleet Replacement	1,801	-	-	-	-	1,801
Street Scene & Waste Vehicles	2,562	-	-	-	-	2,562
Electric Vehicles	1,146	-	-	-	-	1,146
On Street Electric Vehicle Charging	534	-	-	-	-	534
Grass Cutting Equipment	202	-	-	-	-	202
Car Parks	2,000	-	-	-	-	2,000
Street Lighting Bulb Replacement	680	700	721	-	-	2,101
Chelson Meadow Closure & Leachate Plant Upgrade	805	-	-	-	-	805
Disabled Facilities Grant	2,515	-	-	-	-	2,515
Schools Condition Works	481	-	-	-	-	481
Schools Devolved Formula & Projects	372	172	172	-	-	716
St Budeaux Library	69	-	-	-	-	69
ICT	2,824	-	-	-	-	2,824
Local Full Fibre Network	3,764	-	-	-	-	3,764
Other Corporate Property	2,117	8	-	-	-	2,125
Property Investment	16,992	-	-	-	-	16,992
Transformation Accommodation	74	-	-	-	-	74
Bereavement Infrastructure	5,209	7,804	-	-	-	13,013
Miel Solutions Ltd Shares		29,000	-	-	-	29,000
Total Transforming Services	44,225	37,684	893	0	0	82,802
TOTAL CAPITAL PROGRAMME	156,881	121,990	68,614	10,708	2,681	360,874
Forecast future income streams	18,179	29,517	17,387	165,337	2,364	232,784
GRAND TOTAL	175,060	151,507	86,001	176,045	5,045	593,658

This page is intentionally left blank

Performance, Finance and Customer Focus Overview and Scrutiny Committee



Date of meeting:	07 October 2020
Title of Report:	Street Services
Lead Member:	Councillor Sue Dann (Cabinet Member for Environment and Streetscene)
Lead Strategic Director:	Anthony Payne (Strategic Director for Place)
Author:	Philip Robinson (Service Director for Street Services)
Contact Email:	Philip.Robinson@plymouth.gov.uk
Your Reference:	N/A
Key Decision:	No
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

To update on Performance and Finance on the following discrete areas of delivery within Street Scene and Waste (SSW)

- Grass Cutting
- Garden Waste
- Wheelie bin charges
- Missed bin collections
- Fly-tipping
- Performance data for the above

Recommendations and Reasons

No recommendations. Report to provide Committee with awareness on current service performance on discrete areas of service delivery requested.

Alternative options considered and rejected

None

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

SSW has a key role to play in supporting the delivery of the Corporate Plan priorities of a clean and tidy city and a green, sustainable city that cares about the environment. As an operational service with a large fleet of vehicles and equipment involved in service delivery there are opportunities to contribute to the Plymouth Plan carbon reduction Policy GR07: Reducing carbon emissions and adapting to climate change. SSW is also reshaping its grounds maintenance operations to further its contribution to GR06; Delivering the natural network.

Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

Covid19 has had significant impacts on the Street Scene and Waste service and associated revenue budgets ranging from increased volumes of household waste and litter collected for disposal to total loss of or reduced rents and other incomes that recover costs in the green estate. Undertaking our responsibilities as a Waste Authority and a Principal Litter Authority mean that the increased demand arising from the pandemic must be borne. The specific scrutiny items requested form part of wider functional budgets and therefore cannot be separately attributed. Where direct costs are clear they are included in this update report to support Scrutiny in understanding some of the resource implications.

Direct Covid19 costs or losses are being monitored as part of the department budget monitoring.

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

Reshaping the future approach to grass cutting regimes can have a positive impact on the Council's carbon footprint through reduced fuel use and provide a nature based solution to carbon reduction and increasing biodiversity through green space that support more diverse plant and insect species to thrive.

Covid-secure measures have created additional vehicle usage with associated increased fuel spend and carbon impacts. This is in part due to the need to reduce vehicle occupancy where practical to reduce close contacts. Where this is not practical fluid resistant masks are issued adding to the environmental and financial impacts of the pandemic. PPE COVID spend £40k, Fuel COVID spend £47k.

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.*

Some neighbourhoods are more impacted by environmental crimes such as littering and flytip contributing to inequality. For the purposes of this Scrutiny item, that breakdown is not provided. SSW proactively monitors known hotspots to reduce any visual blight or health and safety risk arising from accumulations. Three crews monitor and respond over the course of seven days.

Inappropriately discarded items and waste present a risk to the public and staff that is avoidable. Particular risks are presented by hazardous materials such as sex and drug litter and asbestos.

Appendices

**Add rows as required to box below*

Ref.	Title of Appendix	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
A	Street Scene and Waste Scrutiny Update							

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	djn.2 0.21. 93	Leg	lt/353 95/2 9092 0	Mon Off		HR		Asset s		Strat Proc	
Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Philip Robinson (Service Director for Street Services)											
Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes											
Date agreed: 29/09/2020											
Cabinet Member approval: Councillor Sue Dann (Cabinet Member for Environment and Streetscene)											
Date approved: 29/09/2020											

This page is intentionally left blank

SCRUTINY UPDATE 7 OCTOBER 2020

Street Scene and Waste Performance and Finance



PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide an update on current performance and finance information requested by Scrutiny on;

- Grass Cutting
- Garden Waste
- Wheelie bin charges
- Missed bin collections
- Performance data
- Fly-tipping

This report provides a brief overview of performance during these unprecedented times, which have presented myriad challenges. Street Scene and Waste (SSW) has been working to make sure we have kept critical services running whilst following government guidance, listening to concerns from residents and keeping the staff and public safe. This has meant that from the beginning of lockdown SSW has been prioritising services and working to bring services back on line as guidelines changed and lockdown eased.

SSW has seen increased demand in areas such as fly-tipping, street cleansing and household waste tonnages. There have also been unusual patterns of behaviour and footfall as well as public disorder to adjust and respond to. With all of the challenges presented by COVID19, there has been a huge effort to keep things going, but also opportunities to do things differently.

GRASS CUTTING

DELIVERING THE STRATEGY - The Corporate Plan sets out a priority for Plymouth to be a green, sustainable city that cares about the environment. The Plymouth Plan wants to protect and enhance biodiversity with the Policy GRO6 “Delivering Plymouth’s Natural Network” seeking to ensure the natural environment is fully considered and that there is space for nature to thrive.

The traditional approach to grass cutting is becoming outdated and counter to the challenges we face in a climate emergency and plummeting insect numbers.

A small trial of an alternative approach to grass cutting regimes, as part of the climate emergency action plan, was ‘supercharged’ by Covid19. The 2020 approach has proved broadly popular and has been celebrated regionally by Devon Wildlife Trust and nationally by the National Trust and Buglife.

Many residents continue to be in touch - some to comment or complain but many with positive comments and customer reports of problems around grass cutting was one-third of 2019 volumes.

We were not alone during the pandemic, with 75% of Local Authorities reducing their regime by stopping or changing the way they cut grass. We prioritised amenity areas in parks, cemeteries and sports pitches.

SHORT BACK AND SIDES - Highway verge grass cutting commenced again in July. Wider verges got a schedule of short back and sides to keep the edges tidy and leave the middle longer. As always,

these works have still been subject to disruption from heavy rainfall and any gaps in critical services that needed to be back-filled to ensure we prioritised essential services.

From August, full cuts began and by the end of October all grass and meadows will have received their final full cut ahead of the winter.

We are seeing some real advantages and are working through what this means exactly for the future, but initial findings are positive:

- **BIODIVERSITY GAINS** - We have reduced the amount of grass being cut on over 1,000 areas across the city, in which more plant and animal species can thrive.
- **SPECIES SPOTTING** - A survey on one innocuous roadside verge in Prince Rock highlighted 17 wild flower species spotted in one June day including a Bee Orchid.
- **100 PLANT SPECIES IN A MILE** - Residents across the city were encouraged to support the effort to map the effects of reduced mowing. One lady in Eggbuckland wrote in to tell us how happy she was that she had recorded nearly 100 species of plants thriving within a mile of her home during her daily exercise.
- **TWICE AS MUCH** – When you compare cut amenity grassland with longer meadow areas surveys in Plymouth show that there are twice the number of pollinating insects and species found in meadow areas. There are also over twice as many plant species in the meadow areas.
- **LESS CARBON AND FUEL** - A review of fuel use currently shows that we have used 33% less fuel than we had at this stage last year. This has saved money but, more importantly, reduced the carbon footprint of the service.
- **NATURE-BASED SOLUTION** - Studies show that every year, for every hectare of amenity grassland that is restored to meadow grassland, over 11 tonnes of CO₂ are stored in the soil. If we apply this across the area of the city we will be making big gains in using the grassy areas of the city as a Nature-Based Solution towards our Climate Emergency and Carbon Reduction targets.

GARDEN WASTE

COVID19 - Due to Covid19, we took action to safeguard our refuse driver numbers to ensure statutory waste streams continued to be collected. Leave was cancelled and the start of garden waste collection season was delayed. Some Local Authorities suspended statutory collections early on but Plymouth continued throughout lockdown without significant disruption.

Garden Waste 2020 season commenced 24 August on a revised frequency of four-weekly. This decision took into account the ongoing risks around driver numbers and the potential for increased volumes that would lead to routes not being completed as usual.

The re-start has been successful for the first complete cycle (four weeks);

- 39,000 residents have registered for garden waste collections.
- 27,337 properties presented for collection
- 627 tonnes collected (66% up on the first collection cycle in April 2019)
- 510 incidences of overfilled or contaminated bags
- 122 properties presented more than 4 bags

- 5% of missed bin reports - showing an improvement from the previous year

We have received a combined increase of garden waste volumes through Chelson Meadow and the commercial refuse transfer station compared with the same period in 2019. Altogether about 2,207 tonnes. It was important that we kept the refuse transfer station open throughout lockdown for commercial waste carriers so that those business could continue to operate. Chelson Meadow recycling centre reopened on 13 May.

WHEELIE BIN CHARGES

Since 2014, PCC has charged of £15 for the delivery of replacement waste containers. At the beginning of the pandemic, the option of collecting the bin free of charge was ceased, as it was not possible to provide a safe place to do so.

MISSED BIN COLLECTIONS

At Scrutiny in October 2019 an overall improving picture of performance was presented and that has continued into 2020/21. New sources of crew data was also demonstrating that about a third of missed bin reports had a matching crew record of non-collection for a reason (contamination, blocked access, non-presentation).

COVID19 CHALLENGES - Covid19 has presented significant challenges, which have been largely overcome with only a 0.08% reduction in performance across the city's collections between April and August this year (compared with the same five months last year).

Out of about 30,000 scheduled collections each day, more than 99% are collected to schedule.

This is a valued service and during the height of the lockdown collection crews welcomed the claps, children's drawings and cakes they were receiving from residents whilst they continued to work in challenging circumstances. The waste sector has recently been recognised as unsung heroes by a [Recycle Now campaign](#).

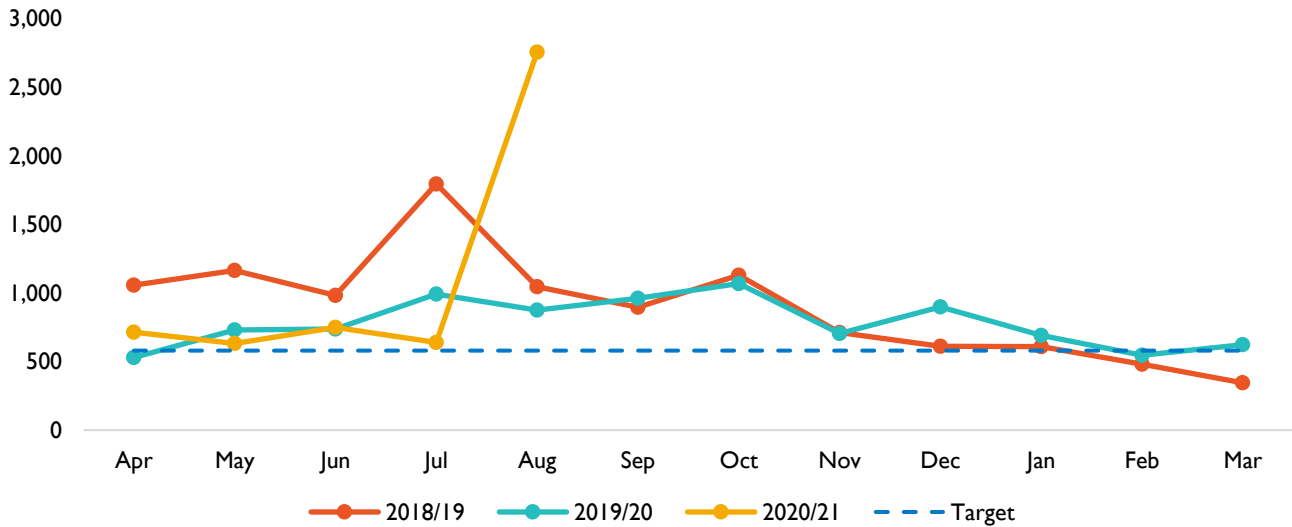
Challenges from Covid19 continue. We are bracing ourselves for the winter months and the expected impacts on staffing numbers as we make sure we all stick to the self-isolation rules and any NHS Test and Trace contact.

We have experienced a dip in collection performance as we continue to explore ways in which our staff can operate safely whilst also reducing the risk to residents. This has initially resulted in slower rounds - which is demonstrated in the performance Chart 1 below for the months of August and September. However, we have taken steps to bring in additional vehicles and staff and expect to see the situation improve further – notwithstanding any further impacts we might see from the pandemic.

The reasons are multiple and include Covid19 impacts such as supporting staff to take a well-earned break following months without leave, unplanned absences such as self-isolation, continued increased tonnages being collected and a backlog of MOTs for VOSA.

From April to August, most people were at home and limited on their activities. This resulted in a 13% increase in brown bin tonnages - almost 3,000 tonnes of waste – and a 12% increase in green bin tonnages - over 800 tonnes of recycling. Additional disposal charges alone are currently estimated at over £300,000.

Chart 1. Number of customer reported missed household, recycling and garden waste bins

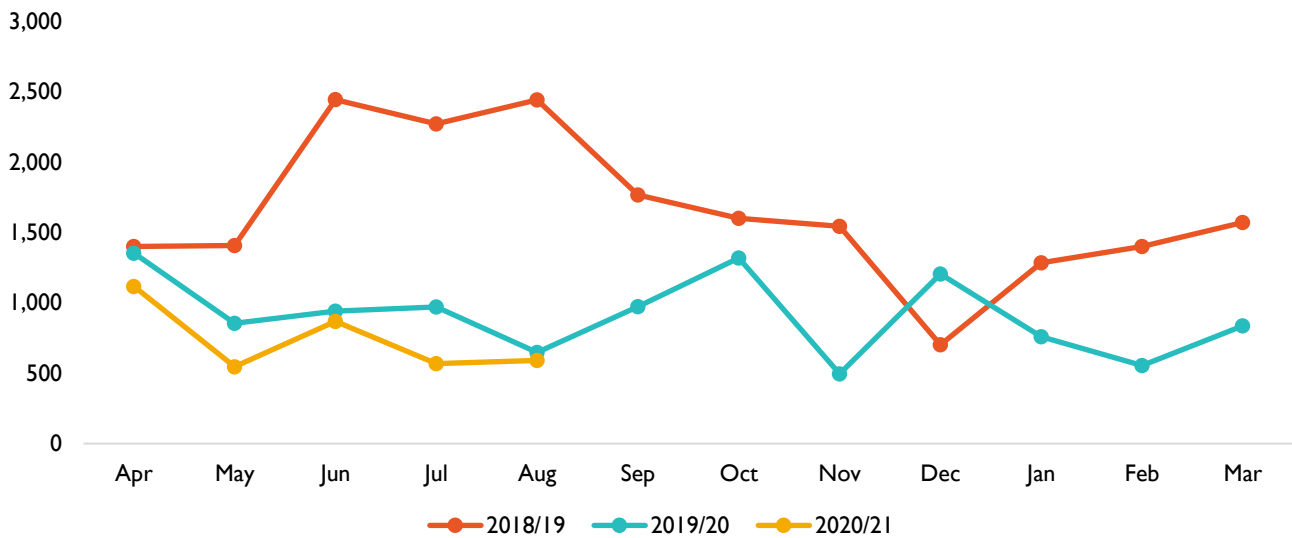


FLY TIPPING

Overall, Plymouth has witnessed an improving picture of reduced fly tip incidences and increased enforcement, when comparing 18/19 to 19/20 and into 20/21.

Recorded incidences of fly tip clearance have reduced from 19,812 in 18/19 to 10,989 19/20 and 20/21 shown in Chart 2 below.

Chart 2. Number of incidents of fly tipping as recorded in FlyCapture



It is worth noting that across the UK there are differences in how fly tip is recorded. We continue to prioritise responding to incidences.

Nationally, there has been a widely publicised concern about fly tipping and littering during lockdown and as lockdown eased. Chart 3 shows a notable spike in tonnages arising from fly tip clearance in April.

Chart 3. Weekly number of customer reported incidents of fly-tipping and tonnage of fly-tip cleared

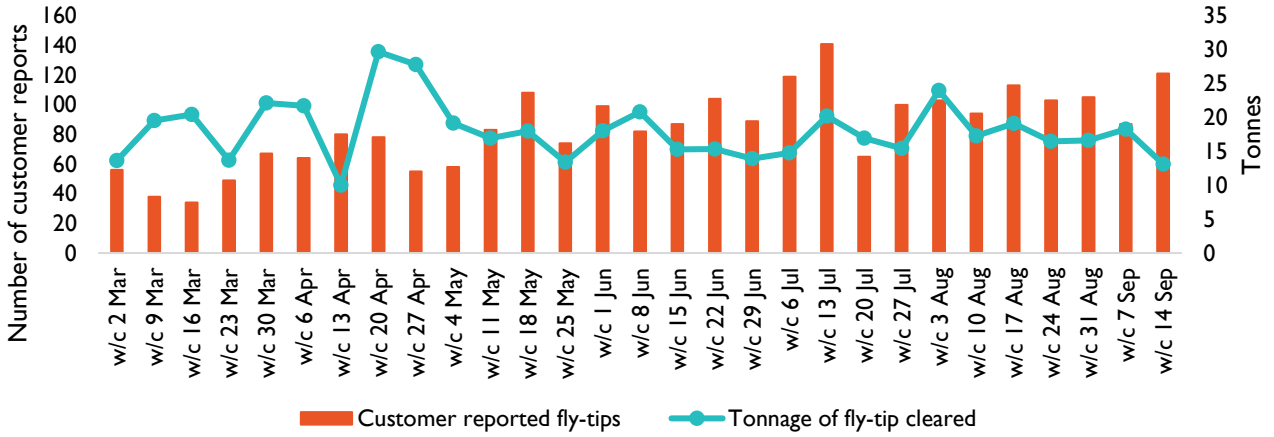


Chart 3 shows that customer reports of fly tipping do not always correlate with the volumes cleared. This is in part because multiple reports that can be received for a single incident and the size of incidents may vary significantly. Importantly, we proactively monitor hotspots and internal reporting mechanisms. This proactive approach is evidenced in low reporting periods.

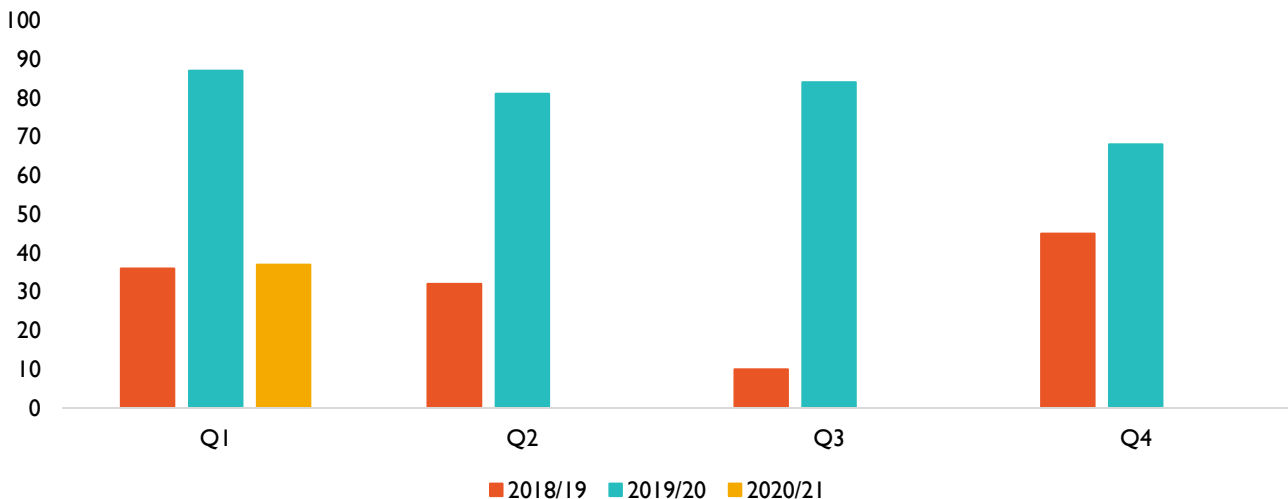
Fly tip clearance, disposal and investigation has significant costs across a number of Council services, which divert limited resources. Disposal charges alone for the April to August volumes has been over £35,000*

*This excludes collection costs and hazardous consignment notes. Third party asbestos clearance costs are also excluded.

TRI-SERVICE - SSW has improved its approach to evidence searching and reporting for the Public Protection Service. During Covid19, a new tri-service approach emerged bringing Plymouth Highways rapid deployment CCTV capability to bear on hotspots. This has provided important evidence to investigations and it seems to also act to prevent environmental crime. Further investment is being made in this technology as part of a broader plan to deploy CCTV for events and traffic management.

2019 saw significant improvements to dealing with fly tipping with investigations resulting in fixed penalty notices more than doubling (123 in 18/19 to 320 19/20). The 2020 first quarter reporting period has shown the impacts of Covid19 and the need to divert Environmental Health resources to other activities in the pandemic. Even with that and delays in cases coming to Court, some recent examples of investigations have been featured in Plymouth Newsroom articles, demonstrating enforcement action for rogue traders and back lane litterers.

Chart 4. Number of Fixed Penalty Notices issued for illegally dumped waste and fly-tipping



This page is intentionally left blank

Performance, Finance and Customer Focus Overview and Scrutiny Committee



Date of meeting:	07 October 2020
Title of Report:	The impact of COVID-19 on Homelessness in Plymouth
Lead Member:	Councillor Chris Penberthy (Cabinet Member for Housing and Co-operative Development)
Lead Strategic Director:	Craig McArdle (Strategic Director of People)
Author:	Jackie Kings, Community Connections Strategic Manager
Contact Email:	Jackie.kings@plymouth.gov.uk
Your Reference:	Homelessness PFCOSC
Key Decision:	No
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

The Performance, Finance and Customer Focus Overview Scrutiny Committee has requested this report giving an overview of homelessness in Plymouth.

This report sets out the impact of COVID-19 on homelessness in the city, provides data to demonstrate the levels of homelessness in the city and explains how we are addressing these through partnership working.

Recommendations and Reasons

That the committee notes the briefing on the impact of COVID-19 on homelessness in the city and our mitigation plans in response.

Alternative options considered and rejected

Not applicable, this is a briefing report.

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

This briefing supports the Corporate Plan as a caring council supporting the prevention and relief of homelessness and the Plymouth Plan as Plymouth's single, integrated and holistic strategic plan which includes the Plymouth policy elements of the statutory Plymouth and South West Devon Joint Local Plan. This strategy brings together all aspects of housing in an attempt to tackle both place and people based issues in a holistic way: the quantity and quality of housing in the city and the wider social issues that can lead to housing issues and homelessness.

Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

Not applicable, this is a briefing report.

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

None identified.

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.

[Click here to enter text.](#)

Appendices

*Add rows as required to box below

Ref.	Title of Appendix	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
A	The impact of COVID-19 on Homelessness in Plymouth							
B								

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
n/a							

Sign off:

Fin	lt/353 85/25 0920	Leg	djn.20. 21.94	Mon Off		HR		Asset s		Strat Proc	
Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Matt Garrett, Service Director for Community Connections											

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

Date agreed: 25/09/2020

Cabinet Member approval: Councillor Chris Penberthy (Cabinet Member for Housing and Co-operative Development) – approved by e mail Date approved: 25/09/2020

This page is intentionally left blank

THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON HOMELESSNESS IN PLYMOUTH

Update Report for Performance, Finance and Customer Focus Overview and Scrutiny Committee



1. Background

Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, the impact on housing and homelessness has been significant; from needing to rapidly accommodate our most vulnerable rough sleepers who are at greater risk of infection, to continuing 'business as usual', creating outbreak guidance to enable support work to continue safely in a range of accommodation settings.

It is recognised that in a time of crisis, people are often more vulnerable and there is a need to ensure the right support is available at the right time to prevent homelessness wherever possible; this is true even more so at the present time.

This report will:-

- Describe what impact COVID-19 has had on homelessness in the city
- Briefly discuss the links to unemployment and homelessness
- Provide performance data around homelessness
- Outline the gap between housing benefit payment and private landlord rent
- Share our mitigation plans as a city for homelessness.

2. COVID-19 and homelessness

Pre-Covid, Plymouth was well placed to meet needs of those at risk of homelessness and rough sleeping. In partnership with The Plymouth Alliance and through utilising Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) Rough Sleeper Initiative (RSI) funding, the number of people placed in emergency accommodation had significantly reduced (under 20) and those rough sleeping were in the minority (8).

However, in March the World Health Organisation (WHO) declared COVID 19 a global pandemic. It was expected that the implications of Coronavirus would have an impact on the number of households presenting as homeless for a number of reasons including:

- Those staying temporarily with friends/ sofa surfing being asked to leave
- Those refusing to abide by the parameters set out by the Government required to move out of their current home/ accommodation as a result of the homeowner wanting to protect themselves/their family from COVID 19
- An increase in relationship breakdown.

In addition to those sleeping rough, the government also announced on the 26th March that those who were vulnerably housed in shared dormitory style accommodation should be re-settled into single room facilities within a small number of days. This meant that an additional 19 people who were accommodated within our Winter Provision and Safesleep shared provision needed to be re-settled into alternative appropriate accommodation.

In response to this 'Everyone In directive', a 12 bed and a 14 bed house were leased by The Plymouth Alliance for three months in the first instance to accommodate those in Winter Provision (12 beds) and Safesleep (10 beds), as well as those rough sleeping. These houses are referred to as Houses for Homeless (H4H) and were opened on Tuesday 31st March. Winter Provision and Safesleep closed during the week commencing 23rd March and there is no longer any dormitory style accommodation within the temporary accommodation portfolio. The night staff from Winter Provision, and other staff from across the Plymouth Alliance are providing 24 hour support at the H4H houses.

Every person housed in temporary accommodation in response to COVID has an individualised assessment (which also takes into account their health needs). By August, 213 individuals had accessed accommodation under COVID and had Individual Move On Housing Health and Care Needs plans. In line with the MHCLG guidance provided:-

- 21% were assessed as high support need
- 41% were assessed as medium support need
- 38% were assessed as low support need

This data has been used to inform our accommodation response and mitigation plans.

A further 54 bed places (taking the total additional units to 81) were commissioned across Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMO) accommodation delivered by the Plymouth Alliance to meet demand. To support this, 5 additional complex needs staff were recruited for an initial 6 months to better meet need and this has enabled these additional units to be delivered.

Despite this, demand on statutory (673 approaches) and non-statutory (161) placements meant that demand was not met and B and B has increased to 74 as at 21st September.

There is limited supported move on in the City and this was bed blocked due to COVID with lack of access to Private Rented sector (PRS) or Registered provider (RP) accommodation for permanent move on. However, even with this challenge, since July we have successfully moved 69 people out of our temporary move on accommodation into more permanent homes.

2i. Rough Sleepers

For people who are street homeless, a multi-agency response is in place with the Rough Sleeper Outreach Team (RSOT), Community Connections and the Access to Accommodation Hub (A2A):-

- RSOT – those newly evidenced rough sleeping via early morning outreach are engaged with, given initial triage assessment by RSOT and, where relevant, given same day appointment to see Community Connections team
- RSOT supports existing rough sleepers who will not access accommodation, offering drop-in (currently outside) for access to accommodation, reconnection, specific support and access to other services
- Community Connections - triage, offer homeless application, confirm homelessness status, and arrange B and B where appropriate. (RSOT and Community Connections first look at supported accommodation.)
- The Access to Accommodation (A2A) Hub manages accommodation voids and flow into accommodation/out of B and B, i.e. aiming to move people out of B&B, even if just into more appropriate, potentially supported temporary accommodation
- Support for rough sleepers therefore transfers from RSOT on the street to support staff once accommodated. The most complex are taken on by the MARS (Multi-Agency Rough Sleeper) team, for intensive support.

As a result of 'Everyone In' it has been identified that there are a small number of rough sleepers who will not and/or cannot access supported accommodation. We are seeking to address this by providing an overnight shelter during the winter months by providing overnight sleep rooms (please see mitigation plans).

2ii. Homeless day service

At the same time as implementing the 'Everyone in' directive, the decision was made to close Shekinah homeless drop in centre once all rough sleepers had an offer of accommodation as, while open, the day centre remained a place for congregation contrary to the social distancing and self-

isolation measures. An exit strategy to re-open the day centre in a COVID safe way is in development; this is likely to be a different offer to the model previously provided, as the aspiration will be to continue to support rough sleepers whether in accommodation or not. The day centre kitchen is being used to provide one hot meal per day to H4H residents. The Soup Run continues to support with food for those most in need across the City (including the H4H houses) and is operated in keeping within social distancing and hygiene measures.

2iii. Evictions

The government has introduced additional legislation to support renters during this period. This has meant that:

- Emergency legislation has increased notice periods to 6 months until at least the end of March 2021
- Evictions will not be enforced in local lockdown areas and there will be a truce on enforcement over Christmas
- £180 million of government funding for Discretionary Housing Payments is available for local authorities to support vulnerable renters this year. Plymouth's allocation is £2,574,999, to be spent by the end of the financial year. Further information can be found: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/919743/COVID-19_Council_Tax_Hardship_Fund_Guidance.pdf

Routine Homelessness prevention work through the Plymouth Alliance and Community Connections continues during this period. However, now the courts having started processing eviction procedures again from the 21st September we are anticipating an increase in homelessness presentations.

3. COVID Accommodation learning

Appreciative enquiry carried out with those accommodated through the 'Everyone in' directive has told us that people being given accommodation was the most positive thing that had happened. The second most common response was that they felt supported and that the 'best of humanity' had been shown, highlighting that they:

- Felt safer
- Re-engaged with family and friends
- Improved their hygiene levels
- Stopped drinking

The learning from COVID has meant there is a commitment to support those brought in to move on in a supported and sustainable way (see mitigation plans) and to try to increase access to more permanent accommodation for those with complex needs.

The need to respond quickly to the 'Everyone In' directive, accommodating some of the most complex and entrenched rough sleepers has also provided valuable learning in respect of the challenges this can bring. A multi-agency approach has been employed, including the voice of the community, to ensure the residents and the community are best supported moving forwards.

4. Unemployment and homelessness

The data available to us does not enable us to identify those claimants who are homeless. However, data gathered from the Office of National Statistics shows the following:

JSA/UC - Claimant count by sex

Date	Female	Male	Total	Monthly % Increase	Increase from Jan 2020
January 2020	2,205	3,305	5,510		
February 2020	2,345	3,530	5,875	6.6%	6.6%
March 2020	2,280	3,510	5,790	-1.4%	5.1%
April 2020	3,665	5,890	9,555	65.0%	73.4%
May 2020	4,085	6,825	10,910	14.2%	98.0%
June 2020	3,990	6,400	10,390	-4.8%	88.6%
July 2020	4,090	6,615	10,705	3.0%	94.3%
August 2020	4,290	6,730	11,020	2.9%	100%

These figures suggest that claims have doubled since pre-COVID periods in January-March 2020. It would be reasonable to assume that there are links between the increases in both homelessness and unemployment.

5. Performance DataData for the period 01/04/2020 – 31st August 2020

- HRA taken = 1178 (22% increase during same period last year)
- B&B placements arranged (please note this is not households) = 361 (29% increase on same period last year)
- Housing solutions found to end prevention and relief duties = 351 (3% decrease on same period last year) based on average outcomes so far we are forecasted to have overall 23% decrease on last year
- Devon Home Choice Application = 2940 (35% increase on same period last year)

Temporary Accommodation - As of 2nd September 2020

- 208 households in statutory temporary accommodation of which 66 households which included 134 children in total (for the same period in 2019 there were 170 households in statutory temporary accommodation of which 61 households which included 121 children in total, plus 2 pregnancies)
- 59 households provided non statutory temporary accommodation.

Rough sleeping

- Over the last three years the number of rough sleeper figures counted at the official November rough sleeper count have decreased as follows:
 - 2019: 19
 - 2018: 23
 - 2017: 26
- The next official count is due in November 2020.

- On the 21st September there were 10 people evidenced rough sleeping by the Rough Sleeper Outreach Team, broken down as follows:
 - 1 who has refused the offer of accommodation
 - 7 have lost accommodation provided due to behaviour in their accommodation
 - 2 have accommodation provided but fail to use it
- All remain supported by the Plymouth Alliance to move away from rough sleeping and into suitable accommodation.

These figures demonstrate the challenges of accommodating rough sleepers due to the complexity of need.

6. Housing benefit and private rented accommodation

This data has been extracted from the Office of National Statistics published data on rental figures by Local Authority area. These figures show that the Local Housing Allowance rates for 2020-21 have increased in response to COVID, although we cannot tell the extent to which local renting rates may have also increased in parallel.

Private rental market figures Plymouth			
	ONS 2019-20 Mean rental cost in Plymouth	LHA Rates 2019- 20	LHA Rates 2020- 21
Room	£95.31	71.21	73.5
Studio	£102.46	94.16	103.56
1 bed	£120.00	94.16	103.56
2 bed	£150.69	122.36	134.63
3 bed	£176.08	145.43	159.95
4 bed	£283.15	182.45	195.62

Feedback from local social landlords confirms that rent rates have risen at least in line with the increased LHA rates, however, they are still significantly below mean rental costs.

7. Mitigation plans

The Plymouth Plan is our overarching strategic plan for the city which sets the shared strategic direction of the city for the long-term future. It outlines our Preventing Homelessness and Rough Sleeping in Plymouth 2019 - 2024 strategy which confirms our commitment to reduce rough sleeping in Plymouth.

Following the outbreak of Covid-19, Plymouth City Council has developed its plan for the City's recovery. Our Resurgam programme prioritises a recovery that will 'minimise inequality and support individuals and communities' and includes the reset ambition: 'homeless people are housed in appropriate accommodation, have their needs fully met and as few people return to the streets as possible'

In addition, the Plymouth Alliance has a COVID Accommodation Strategy and a broader Alliance wide Reset Strategy which makes the following commitments:

- Nobody will return to rough sleeping following the pandemic (and we will no longer use dormitory style accommodation)

- We will continually strive to reach the point of no longer using bed and breakfast as emergency accommodation
- Everyone in will receive an offer of accommodation and appropriate support
- There will be no return to business as usual (health & homelessness elements continue as interdependencies).

7i. Next Steps Accommodation Programme

In support of these commitments, Plymouth bid for £491,780 funding from the revenue stream of the MHCLG Next Steps Accommodation Programme. As a result, we have been awarded £381,780 revenue funding until March 2021. The plans contained within the bid align with the Plymouth Alliance revised accommodation strategy and action plan to acquire more quality homes as individual units for move on; and bringing on new smaller units for those requiring immediate housing and support. The wider support that the Plymouth Alliance provides, working in partnership with Plymouth City Council, will supplement this accommodation and the additional support hours required are critical to ensuring we have the right level of support for this group of people who have traditionally been furthest away from our services.

Revenue funding

The funding will enable us to support 132 people through:

- Addressing financial bad debt accrued from damage and non-payment of rent/service charge on the additional properties
- Creating 47 bed spaces until March 2020 by:
 - Extending our H4H properties model with funding for 6 fte staff providing 24 hr support to our most vulnerable rough sleeping cohort
 - Leasing 2 additional 6 bed HMO properties totalling 12 units. This will be to meet the need of some of the high support needs group similar to our H4H provision. Alongside this there are additional self-contained properties identified for continued market engagement (2 x 7 bed properties) in 2021/22 which could run parallel to these properties until transition to/works are completed for self-contained units (see capital funding)
 - Appointing an additional fte complex needs worker to support these two properties
 - Reconfiguring the Winter provision space from 2019 into 8 COVID secure sleeping areas with 2 night staff 8pm-8am
- Enhancing move on from emergency and temporary accommodation through an additional Complex Needs Move On officer for 12 months
- Better co-ordinate accommodation placements and move on support through a p/t administrator for 12 months
- Improve how we meet the healthcare needs of this cohort through recruiting 1 x Registered Practitioner (nurse) and 1 x Health Care Assistant to engage and support the most vulnerable in our emergency accommodation, winter shelter and other temp accommodation for 12 months

In addition, from October 2020 we will provide 10 x 1 bed properties as direct matches with Plymouth Community Homes as a rolling programme with support delivered through the Plymouth Alliance. This will enable us to move people out of emergency and temporary accommodation and into more appropriate housing, in particular those we have assessed as medium or low needs which is approximately 79% of this group of people.

This model will continue beyond March 2021 with the realignment of the Plymouth Alliance budget and staffing to ensure this value for money model is able to continue to support some of those whom

otherwise would be unable to access self-contained supported housing with an opportunity for this to become a tenancy/home.

Capital funding

We are also awaiting the outcome of the capital funding element from the same bid which may provide:

- Acquisition of 12 x 1 bed units with support to these properties of 1 fte complex needs worker and 0.33fte admin coordination (through Bournemouth Churches Housing Association)
- Acquisition of 3 x 1 bed self-contained properties with buy back of right to buy with support of 0.4fte complex needs worker and 0.33fte admin and coordination (through Plymouth Community Homes).

8. Budget pressures

Despite additional funding and accommodation provision, pressure on the accommodation budget remains high and meeting the demand on homelessness as a result of COVID-19 has resulted in a forecasted overspend.

Pressure on the system has created additional costs of approx. £1.178 million through increased numbers in Bed and Breakfast and additional accommodation and support provided by the Alliance. To offset this the Community Connections service has worked hard to maximise grant income and has managed to find savings of approx. £326k which leaves a forecasted overspend of over £850,000 this financial year.

9. Conclusion

Following the recent changes as a result of the Homelessness Reduction Act, we have seen an increased demand on front line services, resulting in capacity within the housing support sector being reduced. COVID has now further impacted this with increased demand on services. The full extent of the impact is not yet understood and it is crucial that services continue to be supported to ensure effective delivery in preventing and relieving homelessness. The financial impact and recovery will be a medium-long term plan, before we can return to a pre-COVID 19 position.

This page is intentionally left blank

**Performance, Finance and Customer Focus Overview
Scrutiny Committee**

Work Programme 2020-2021



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

For general enquiries relating to the Council's Scrutiny function, including this Committee's work programme, please contact Jamie Sheldon, Democratic Advisor on 01752 304001.

Date of meeting	Agenda item	Prioritisation Score	Reason for consideration	Responsible Cabinet Member / Officer
07 October 2020	Finance Monitoring Report Month 4	(5)	To monitor the Council's financial position and identify areas of concern for further scrutiny	Councillor Lowry/ Paul Looby
	Street Services	(5)	Grass Cutting, Garden Waste, Wheelie bins, performance data around this	Councillor Dann/Philip Robinson
	Homelessness	(5)	The impact of COVID-19 on homelessness in the city, provide data to demonstrate the levels of homelessness in the city and explains how we are addressing these through partnership working.	Councillor Penberthy/ Matt Garrett
	Transformation update report (Briefing)	(3)	To update the committee on the progress made to deliver the changes to be delivered through the The Way We Work Programme.	Councillor Jon Taylor/ Pete Honeywell
25 November 2020	Libraries (briefing)			Councillor Smith/Andy Ralphs
	Finance Monitoring Report	(5)	To monitor the Council's financial position and identify areas of concern for further scrutiny	Councillor Lowry/Paul Looby

Date of meeting	Agenda item	Prioritisation Score	Reason for consideration	Responsible Cabinet Member / Officer
	Performance report	(5)	To monitor the Council's financial position and Performance and identify areas of concern for further scrutiny	Councillor Lowry/Andrew Loton
20 January 2021	Customer Services			Councillor Sally Haydon/ Andy Ralphs
	Finance Monitoring Report		To monitor the Council's financial position and identify areas of concern for further scrutiny	Councillor Lowry/Paul Looby
17 March 2021	Finance Monitoring Report		To monitor the Council's financial position and identify areas of concern for further scrutiny	Councillor Lowry/Paul Looby
Items to be re - scheduled				
Select Committee Reviews				
To be scheduled				
Joint Select Committee Reviews				

Annex I – Scrutiny Prioritisation Tool

		Yes (=1)	Evidence
Public Interest	Is it an issue of concern to partners, stakeholders and/or the community?		
Ability	Could Scrutiny have an influence?		
Performance	Is this an area of underperformance?		
Extent	Does the topic affect people living, working or studying in more than one electoral ward of Plymouth?		
Replication	Will this be the only opportunity for public scrutiny?		
	Is the topic due planned to be the subject of an Executive Decision?		
	Total:		High/Medium/Low

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

This page is intentionally left blank