



**Oversight and Governance** Chief Executive's Department Plymouth City Council Ballard House Plymouth PLI 3BJ

Please ask for Helen Rickman T 01752 305155 E democraticsupport@plymouth.gov.uk www.plymouth.gov.uk Published 08 October 2020

### EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Monday 19 October 2020 1.30 pm Virtual Meeting

### Members:

Councillor Mrs Beer, Chair Councillor Murphy, Vice Chair Councillors Allen, Downie, Goslin, James, Loveridge, McDonald and Morris.

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

This meeting will be broadcast and will be available on-line for playback once the meeting has concluded. By joining the meeting, Councillors are consenting to being filmed during the meeting and to the use of the recording for the online viewing.

For further information on attending Council meetings and how to engage in the democratic process please follow this link - <u>Get Involved</u>

Tracey Lee Chief Executive

### Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee

### I. To Note the Appointment of the Chair and Vice Chair

To note the appointment of the Chair and Vice Chair of this Committee for the forthcoming municipal year 2020/21.

### 2. Apologies

To receive apologies for non-attendance submitted by Councillors.

### 3. Declarations of Interest

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

#### 4. Minutes

### (Pages I - 8)

To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting held on 4 March 2020.

### 5. Chair's Urgent Business

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

6.	Policy Update	(Pages 9 - 14)
7.	Children's Services - finance breakdown (month 4 monitoring report)	(Pages   5 - 46)
8.	Children in Care Update - verbal	
9.	Return to School Recovery Plan	(Pages 47 - 62)
10.	Work Programme	(Pages 63 - 66)

# Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee

### Wednesday 4 March 2020

### PRESENT:

Councillor Mrs Johnson, in the Chair. Councillor McDonald, Vice Chair. Councillors Allen, Buchan, Corvid, Goslin, James and Loveridge.

Apologies for absence: Councillors Murphy (Councillor Corvid substituting) and Downie.

Also in attendance: Alison Botham (Strategic Director of Children's Services), Jean Kelly (Service Director for Children, Young People and Families), Councillor Laing (Cabinet Member for Children and Young People), Helen Rickman (Democratic Advisor), Paul Stephens (Performance Advisor), Councillor Jon Taylor (Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Transformation).

The meeting started at 2.00 pm and finished at 4.20 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.

### 53. **Declarations of Interest**

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

### 54. Appointment of Vice Chair

In the absence of Councillor Murphy, Councillor McDonald was appointed as Vice Chair for this meeting.

#### 55. Minutes

Members agreed the minutes of 8 January 2020 as an accurate record of the meeting.

### 56. Chair's Urgent Business

Under this item Alison Botham (Director of Children's Services) provided Members with a brief update regarding Coronavirus (Covid 19) and the impact on schools.

Members were advised that Dr Ruth Harrell (Director of Public Health) was the Council's lead regarding Covid 19; arrangements had been reviewed and revised on a regular basis and updates from the DFE were provided to schools. There were currently no confirmed cases in Plymouth schools and a decision regarding any form of school closure would be between the school and Public Health England. It was expected that incidents of self-isolation would be recorded as authorised absence.

In response to Members questions it was highlighted that:

- (a) it was not expected that schools were asking parents to confirm if a child's self-isolation was directed by a GP or through parental choice;
- (b) business continuity arrangements, specifically regarding children's social care, were in place and would be revised if necessary to support the needs of children;
- (c) officers were not aware of a newly confirmed case of Covid 19 in Devonport however information surrounding this virus would be the priority of Dr Ruth Harrell.

Members noted the update.

### 57. Mapping of Corporate Plan to Scrutiny Committees

Under this item clarification was sought as to which scrutiny panel was responsible for CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services) as this was not specifically listed in the mapping of the Corporate Plan to Scrutiny Committees document.

It was agreed that clarification would be sought from the Scrutiny Management Board as to which scrutiny panel was responsible for CAMHS.

#### 58. Policy Update

Committee Members discussed the Policy Update specifically with regards to the Department for Education's, 'Music Education: Call for Evidence'.

Members raised their concerns regarding the impact on a student's later life if music was not prioritised by schools and considered that there was less emphasis on music and creative education.

In response to questions raised it was reported that:

- (a) officers were due to respond to the 'Unregulated Provision for Children in Care and Care Leavers' Department for Education Open Consultation;
- (b) Members would be advised if officers were intending on responding to the 'Music Education: Call for Evidence' open consultation and if so, what the response would include. Members highlighted that, as a scrutiny panel, they could respond to consultations however timescales were restrictive in this instance.

Members noted the update.

### 59. Number of Children in Care - verbal update

Jean Kelly (Service Director for Children, Young People and Families) provided Members with an update on the number of children in care.

The following key points were highlighted to Members:

- (a) the local authority currently had 1684 children in need; this was calculated at 320 children per 10,000 and was within England averages and statistical neighbour averages. There were 965 (55 per 10,000) children who had a child in need plan with 431 of those children in the care of the local authority (82 per 10,000). 288 children were subject to child protection plans (55 per 10,000);
- (b) in response to a query raised at the previous meeting, there were 80 children in care who lived more than 10 miles from the local authority the distance was calculated from the child's family home and not the city border;
- (c) in response to a query raised at the previous meeting, of the 431 children in the care of the local authority, 406 were white British and 25 were from a range of ethnicities (black or mixed race);

In response to questions raised it was reported that -

- (d) there were several performance indicators linked to children in care including health assessments, dental checks, plans and assessments, care leavers, suitable accommodation and education, employment and training. It was agreed that an update on performance indicators for children in care would be added to the panel's work programme in order to allow Members to track progress;
- (e) the 431 children in care was calculated as 82 per 10,000 and was below the average which was 90 per 10,000; statistical neighbours included Torbay, Southampton, Sheffield, Portsmouth, Rotherham, Bournemouth and Medway. The range was from below 82 to 120;
- (f) information related to looked after children was provided on an annual basis as part of the SSDA 903 return; as at March 2019 Plymouth was reported at 78 children per 10,000, with statutory neighbours having an average of 94.44 children per 10,000 and England at 65 per 10,000.

Members noted the update.

#### 60. Pledges Update - to follow

Councillor Laing (Cabinet Member for Children and Young People) provided a brief overview of the Pledges Update report and drew Members attention to the Barnardos Care Journey work – it was highlighted that this was an exciting programme which was designed to ensure that care leavers would end up in a positive destination. The Chair commented that the inclusion of completion dates to the pledges document would help Members effectively scrutinise and track progress.

In response to questions raised it was reported that -

- (a) in relation to Pledge 41, the Council did not currently have enough foster carers – the campaign was designed to attract new foster carers to the local authority. The Council was now a Foster Friendly Employer to help employees who already fostered, and to attract employees who wanted to foster in the future;
- (b) the Council currently had 125 foster carers and the aim was to attract 21 new foster carers in the next financial year, and 36 in each of the following two years. This was an ambitious target however it was hoped that the redesign of the foster service in the council and the appointment of a new Service Manager would drive forward this plan;
- (c) with regards to Pledge 40, the Regional Head of Ofsted praised Plymouth for the work already undertaken and it was considered that progress was being made. The Plymouth Education Board was now more established and the Standards Partnership, the operational arm of the Education Board, was meeting.

It was agreed that:

- 1. Pledge 41 would be added to the panel's work programme in the next municipal year in order to track progress of the number of foster carers recruited to the local authority;
- 2. Pledge 40 would be added to the panel's work programme in the next municipal year to receive an update on the success of the Standards Partnership.

Members noted the update.

### 61. JTAI (Joint Targeted Area Inspection) - verbal update

Jean Kelly (Service Director for Children, Young People and Families) provided Members with an update on the Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI).

Key points highlighted to Members included the following:

- (a) the JTAI took place 18 22 November 2019; the purpose of the inspection was for Ofsted, the CQC, the Police Inspectorate, Fire and Rescue Services and the Probation Service to work in partnership to carry out a joint inspection of the multi-agency response to children's mental health services (between the ages 10-15);
- (b) six local authorities across the country were assessed; a letter summarising

the findings had been received (and was included in the agenda pack) however judgements were not provided in the letter;

- (c) some key strengths identified included: that senior leadership across the partnership was stable, joint commissioning reflected the well-developed partnership arrangements, school based interventions met children's needs at the earliest opportunity;
- (d) areas for improvement included: governance arrangements for the youth offending team required attention, the Safeguarding Children's Partnership Strategic Board needed to improve quality assurance and learning and development sub groups, the local authority quality assurance framework was not robust enough, the youth offending team didn't always use the correct template for assessments and didn't consistently provide analysis of the impact of mental health on a child's experience.

In response to questions raised it was reported that -

- (e) every social worker had regular supervision; time set aside for record keeping was reserved and reviewed, as well as the quality of what was written; cases were audited to quality assure written accounts;
- (f) MASH was the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (a team of partner agencies); it was acknowledged that there was a lack of health and education decisionmakers in this group meaning that some decisions lacked input from all agencies however this would be addressed;
- (g) a joint improvement plan would be submitted and agreed by partners in order to address areas of development set out in the letter;
- (h) there were instances whereby some children were placed in bed and breakfast establishments, hotels or other unregulated placements however this was due to an emergency placement breaking down or if a child came into care into an emergency; work to improve the fostering service and increase provision of residential care in Plymouth was hoped to improve this;
- the improvement plan would be made available for scrutiny Members once it had been agreed and signed off by all partners; timescales had yet to be agreed;
- a sub-regional approach for the governance of the youth offending team had been chosen however Devon were leaving this model; a new model had been proposed and agreed in partnership with the Youth Justice Board however it was being considered if youth offending needed to return to a local authority owned arrangement;
- (k) an update regarding Child Sexual Exploitation would be scheduled onto the committee's work programme, specifically with regards to the CSE screening tool to provide Members with assurance that improvements were being made;

(I) fortnightly meetings were scheduled to discuss gang related activity; officers were confident that safeguards were in place to protect vulnerable children.

The Chair thanked all teams involved in the JTAI.

<u>Agreed</u> that the JTAI Improvement Plan would be provided to the Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee so progress could be charted again the plan.

### 62. Scrutiny of Adopt South West: Regional Adoption Agency - verbal update

Alison Gwilliam (Operations Manager for Adopt South West) provided Members with an update on the Scrutiny of Adopt South West: Regional Adoption Agency.

Key points highlighted to Members included:

- (a) Adopt South West went live on 1st October 2018 and it managed the adoption services for children and adopted adults from the Local Authorities of Devon County Council, Plymouth City Council, Somerset County Council and Torbay Council. Devon County Council was the host Local Authority;
- (b) the Government announced that they were increasing the adoption support fund from £40m last year to £45m this year. There would also be an extra £1m to be spent on recruiting adopters for the most vulnerable children;
- (c) Adopt South West teams had been working hard to boost the number of applicants and held a campaign on social media to 'myth bust' the reasons people often think they can't adopt;
- (d) timescales showed an improvement in Plymouth. Once a child had a court order, they could be placed for adoption; it took on average 181 days for them to be placed. This was an improvement on the previous year's figures of 207 days. The England average rate was 201 days and the national target rate was 121 days.

In response to questions raised it was reported that -

- (e) a copy of the verbal update in written form would be provided to Members; it was highlighted that the author of the update was on holiday therefore adding to the delay in providing the information to Members;
- (f) financial situations were not considered when assessing for future adopters; means tested assessments were undertaken;
- (g) older children and those with complex needs or siblings were most in need of adoption across the country; the recent recruitment campaign targeted the adoption of siblings groups;
- (h) eight years old was considered to be the cut-off point for children to be

adopted; it was unlikely that children older than this age-group would be adopted; children older than this would remain in foster care;

- (i) anyone could adopt a child (as long as they had not committed an offence against a child); age, marital status, gender and sexual orientation would not prevent someone from being a suitable adopter; every adoption would come with an adoption support plan to ensure the specific needs of the child were met;
- (j) there had been an increase in adopter approval from 55 to 75 per month however it was not yet tracked the ratio of enquiry to successful application.

Members noted the update.

(Councillor Corvid declared a personal interest under this item)

### 63. Capital and Revenue Monitoring Report Q3

David Northey (Head of Integrated Finance) introduced the Capital and Revenue Monitoring Report Q3; it was highlighted that pages 51 and 52 of the agenda pack were relevant to the Education and Children's Social Care scrutiny panel.

In response to questions raised it was reported that -

- (a) approximately £5m from Government for Children's Services had been accounted for as growth in the 2020/21 budget – funds wouldn't arrive until April;
- (b) several actions were being taken in Children's Services to mitigate risk in the budget – fortnightly review meetings were held with the Children's Portfolio Holder as well as the Portfolio Holder for Finance to discuss overspend, realise savings and reduce pressure on the budget;
- (c) the Fostering Service had been re-designed, there was a new approach to recruitment and the commissioning of crisis bed in the city; these were new initiatives which were all expected to have a positive impact on the budget in the next financial year;
- (d) officers would work to include further detail in future monitoring reports such as mitigating actions, their effectiveness and future projections.

Members noted the update.

#### 64. Work Programme

Under this item the Chair discussed with Members the challenge of coordinating a busy work programme; this was further exacerbated with the cancellation of the November meeting due to purdah and local elections. She highlighted the importance of this area of scrutiny, the necessity of prioritising work which was to be carried forward and the benefit of using the first meeting of the municipal year to tackle important issues.

The following items were added to the work programme:

- (a) Performance Indicators for Children in Care
- (b) Pledge 41
- (c) Pledge 40
- (d) Child Sexual Exploitation Update

It was recommended that the Chair of the Education and Children's Social Care scrutiny panel for 2020/21 does a thorough review of work currently listed on the work programme and prioritises accordingly and uses the first meeting of the year to scrutinise important issues.

### 65. Tracking Decisions

Members noted the tracking decisions document.

### Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee



Date of meeting:	19 October 2020
Title of Report:	ECSC Policy Brief
Lead Member:	Councillor Jon Taylor (Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Transformation)
Lead Strategic Director:	Alison Botham (Director for Childrens Services)
Author:	Caroline Marr (Senior Policy Advisor)
Contact Email:	Caroline.Marr@Plymouth.gov.uk
Your Reference:	ECSC PB 19102020
Key Decision:	No
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

### **Purpose of Report**

To provide Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee with the latest national picture in respect of policy announcements and legislation affecting children and young people.

### **Recommendations and Reasons**

For Scrutiny to consider the information provided in regard to their role and future agenda items.

### Alternative options considered and rejected

N/A

### Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

Delivery of the Corporate Plan and Plymouth Plan needs to take account of emerging policy and the legislative picture.

### Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

N/A

### Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

N/A

### 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. N/A

### **Appendices**

\*Add rows as required to box below

Ref.	Title of Appendix	If some why it is	lall of the s not for p	information Sublication	ion is cor n by virtu	fidential, e of Part	er (if ap you must l of Schec g the relev	lule 12A
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Α	ECSC Policy Brief							

### **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 <u>unpublished</u> 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									
	is not for	publicatio	n by virtue	is confiden of Part 1 o ing the rele	f Schedule				
	I	2	3	4	5	6	7		

### Sign off:

Fin	pl.20. 21.1 08	Leg	lt/354 33/0 6102 0	Mon Off		HR		Asset s		Strat Proc	
Origina	ting Sen	ior Lead	ership Te	eam men	nber: A	lison Bot	ham (Di	rector of	Childre	en's Serv	ices).
Please	Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes										
Date ag	greed: 07	7.10.20									
Cabinet Member approval: Jon Taylor (Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Transformation)											
Date a	Date approved: 07.10.20										

### Page 11

### **POLICY BRIEF**

Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny

19 October 2020



## The information contained within this Brief is correct at the time of publication (Monday 05 October 2020).

### **NEW INQUIRY LAUNCHED**

The House of Commons Education Committee has launched a new inquiry into Home Education. The inquiry will seek to understand the extent to which current arrangements provide sufficient support for home educated children to access efficient, full-time and suitable education, and establish what measures may be necessary in order to facilitate this. It will also explore the impact of Covid-19 on home education, and any particular needs arising from the pandemic.

The Committee will look at:

- Local authority duties
- Whether a register is needed
- Home education benefits and disadvantages
- Support for home education
- Safeguarding wellbeing and academic achievement
- Coronavirus impact

The inquiry is <u>accepting evidence</u> between now and Friday 06 of November 2020.

### GOVERNMENT POLICY, LEGISLATIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWS

Date of publication	Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee				
Full range of guidance that has recently been updated to reflect latest government changes	The following guidance documents have been updated to include sections on managing confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19). <u>Guidance for full opening: special schools and other specialist settings</u> <u>Actions for schools during the coronavirus outbreak</u> <u>Actions for early years and childcare providers during the coronavirus (COVID-19)</u> <u>outbreak</u> <u>Actions for FE colleges and providers during the coronavirus outbreak</u>				
Published 26 August 2020	<u>Face coverings in education</u> (New) All pupils, in all year groups, will return to education full-time from the beginning of the autumn term. This guidance is intended to support early years and childcare providers, schools, including alternative provision, and colleges with new advice on the use of face coverings.				
Guidance updated 25 September	<ul> <li><u>Coronavirus (COVID-19): guidance for children's social care services</u></li> <li>This guidance is about safeguarding and protecting the welfare of vulnerable children. It has been updated this to:         <ul> <li>reflect that the Adoption and Children (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 have expired</li> <li>update with the Adoption and Children (Coronavirus) (Amendment) (No2) Regulations 2020</li> <li>reflect the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (No. 2) (England) (Amendment) (No. 4) Regulations 2020 – the rule of 6.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>				

	The Adoption and Children (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations expired on 25 September. The regulations cannot be used after this date. However, new temporary regulations will continue to provide some flexibility and actions taken under some other provisions will continue to apply after this date, in relation to:
	• Children Act 1989 representations The <u>Adoption and Children (Coronavirus) (Amendment) (No 2) Regulations 2020</u> ('the temporary regulations') temporarily amend a series of 6 regulations. The temporary
	<ul> <li>regulations:</li> <li>allow visits to take place over the telephone, a video link or other electronic communication methods, where face-to-face visits are not possible due to coronavirus (COVID-19)</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>change the rules regarding health assessment in the process for approving adopters and foster carers, as long as assessments are obtained and considered for the final stage and prior to approval</li> <li>suspend the minimum frequency of Ofsted inspections, recognising that assurance visits will be conducted using a risk-based approach.</li> </ul>
	The temporary regulations are intended to be used where the flexibilities are still needed to provide effective support for children involved with children's social care services during the pandemic. Use of these flexibilities requires approval at chief officer level in local authorities and reason for use should be properly recorded and communicated to the other safeguarding partners.
	Ofsted take note of any use of these flexibilities. Providers should be ready to explain why their use was necessary, for what length of time and how any possible longer-term impacts were mitigated. This should be available to share with Ofsted, and others such as Independent Reviewing Officers, as appropriate.
	The records may be used to inform Ofsted's annual engagement meetings with local authorities and in any local authority or provider inspection activity.
	This guidance will remain in place until 31 March 2021.
Testing	
First published 26	Coronavirus (COVID-19): home test kits for schools and FE providers
August - last updated 22 Sept 2020	Guidance for schools and further education (FE) providers on the initial supply of coronavirus (COVID-19) home testing kits for pupils, teachers and staff. Coronavirus (COVID-19) test kits should only be offered in the exceptional circumstance an individual becomes symptomatic and you believe they may have barriers to accessing testing elsewhere.
	Schools can order additional tests kits online. Kits will be supplied in boxes of 10, with one box provided per 1,000 pupils or students.
Mental Health and W	/ellbeing
Press release - 25	£8m programme to boost pupil and teacher wellbeing
August 2020	A new Wellbeing for Education Return programme starting in September will support staff working in schools and colleges to respond to the additional pressures some children and young people may be feeling as a direct result of the pandemic, as well as to any emotional response they or their teachers may still be experiencing from bereavement, stress, trauma or anxiety over the past months.
First published 14 March - last updated14 Sept 2020	COVID-19: guidance on supporting children and young people's mental health and wellbeing

	This advice is to help adults with caring responsibilities look after the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people, including those with additional needs and disabilities, during the COVID-19 pandemic						
First published 09 Sept - last updated 14 Sept	Educational psychologists: support for coronavirus (COVID-19) recovery						
2020	The Department for Education wants to build temporary educational psychologist capacity in England to support schools and colleges returning in September. This guidance is for former educational psychologists who may be interested in temporarily returning to the profession or, practising educational psychologists who may have additional capacity to offer support for a limited period.						
Remote learning and	support						
First published 07 August - last updated	<u>Get laptops and tablets for children who cannot attend school due to coronavirus</u> (COVID-19)						
01 Oct 2020	The Department for Education (DfE) is providing laptops and tablets to schools to help children and families access remote education during coronavirus (COVID-19). We're also helping disadvantaged children who need an internet connection to get internet access. This is in addition to the laptops, tablets and 4G wireless routers distributed between May and July 2020 by DfE for disadvantaged pupils in year 10, care leavers and young people with a social worker.						
Press release – 01 Oct	New remote education support for schools, colleges and teachers						
2020	Extra resources announced to support delivery of remote education, including 100,000 additional devices and increased peer to peer support for teachers						
	The Government has also today published a Temporary Continuity Direction, regarding the provision of remote education in schools, under the Coronavirus Act 2020. The Direction means schools have a duty to provide education to children at home, as they do when children are in the classroom.						
First published 19 March - last updated 23 Sept 2020	<u>Providing school meals during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak</u> Guidance for schools and local authorities on school meals arrangements during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.						
First published 06 July	Education plans from September 2020						
- last updated 11 Sept 2020	This guidance provides information for education providers about Ofsted's phased return to inspection. The guidance has been updated to reflect that Ofsted's inspection of providers on the Childcare Register will resume from 16 September.						
Press release – 11 Sept 2020	School governors and trustees say they are prepared for COVID impact Ofsted and the National Governance Association (NGA) publish a study that shows the business of school governance has continued throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the support provided to governing boards to address the challenges posed by COVID-19 has varied depending on school and area, governors and trustees said. The research explores the views of governors and trustees in the months during lockdown when schools were closed to most pupils. It looks at how those governing responded to COVID-19, as well as the longer-term challenges they face as all pupils return to school.						
First published 29 June - last updated 29 Sept	Attendance in education and early years settings during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak						
2020	This publication provides a high-level national summary of estimates from the Department for Education's education settings survey and local authority early years survey.						

This page is intentionally left blank

# Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee



Date of meeting:	19 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: <u>hannah.west@plymouth.gov.uk</u>
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 1.

### Table I: End of year revenue forecast

Budget	Forecast Outturn	Variance
£m	£m	£m

	Page 16	PLYMO	OUTH CITY COUNCIL
Total General Fund Budget	193.678	194.966	1.288

### **Recommendations and Reasons**

The Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee Panel are asked to note the report

### Recommendations agreed by Cabinet 15 September 2020 -

- I. 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 Mediurm 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:

### Page 17

\* 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	<b>Exemption Paragraph Number</b> (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.							
		I 2 3 4 5 6 7							
Ι	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 <u>unpublished</u> 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)	<b>Exemption Paragraph Number</b> (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.									
	Governm	ent Act 19 <b>2</b>	72 by ticki <b>3</b>	ng the rele	evant box. 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	
Origina	Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Andrew Hardingham (Service Director For Finance)										
Please	confirm	the Stra	tegic Dir	ector(s)	has agre	ed the re	eport? Y	es			
Date a	greed: 02	2/09/202	0								
Cabine	Cabinet Member approval: Councillor Mark Lowry (Cabinet Member for Finance)										
Date a	Date approved: 08/09/2020										

### I. 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 unringfenced 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.

Covid-19 Grant Funding	£m
MHCLG Grant Tranche I	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

### Table 2: One-off Grants Received

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 inelligible and will attract no compensation under the scheme. Ineligible income includes income from Commercial rents and Treasury Management investments.

### Page 19

- 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  $\pounds$ 9.047m. Set out below are the mitigating actions which will reduce the projected outturn position to  $\pounds$ 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.

### Page 20

### PLYMOUTH CITY COUNCIL

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

### OFFICIAL

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 I 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.

Issue	(I) Legacy £m	(2) BAU* £m	(3) Covid19 Income Lost £m	(4) Covid19 Costs Incurred £m	(5) Total £m	Management Corrective Action
<ul> <li>EXECUTIVE OFFICE</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	0.045	(0.047)	0.004	0.037	0.039	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.

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	
Issue	Legacy £m	BAU £m	Covid19 Income Lost £m	Covid19 Costs Incurred £m	Total £m	Management Corrective Action
<b>EXECUTIVE OFFICE – Legal</b> 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	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.
is apportioned Transformation legacy savings. FINANCE Legacy items from the unachieved Transformation programme savings totalling £0.500m remain a						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
pressure. Facilities Management Covid19 pressures: lost income from Guildhall events and cost for additional staffing. There is risk in Papairs and Maintenance (P&M)	0.500	(0.200)	0.093	0.111	0.504	<ul> <li>interest charged on fixed debt remains unchanged</li> <li>but the council is benefiting from the reduction in</li> <li>the cost of short term borrowing. This is</li> <li>reflected in the forecast which is showing</li> <li>£0.500m saving.</li> <li>The remainder of the Finance budget is</li> </ul>
Repairs and Maintenance (R&M) budget which is being monitored.						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.

						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	
CUSTOMER and CORPORATE – Customer Services							
Housing Benefit (£0.985m) additional costs incurred due to the impact of Covid I 9 and pressures related to recovery of overpayments	0.985	(0.516)	0.450	0.911	1.830	A budget review is underway and further details are to follow.	
Covid19 has also impacted on income on Court Fees and Registration. These pressures are currently being offset in part by salary savings.							
CUSTOMER and CORPORATE – Service Centre	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	
Legacy item totalling £0.600m. Other transactional services to transfer into the Service Centre.			0.000	0.000	0.600	programme launched on 20 June. Benefits will be quantified in 2020/21.	
CUSTOMER and CORPORATE – Human Resources & OD	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.	(I) Legacy £m	(2) BAU £m	(3) Covid19 Income Lost £m	(4) Covid I 9 Costs Incurred £m	(5) Total £m	Management Corrective Action
<b>CUSTOMER and</b> <b>CORPORATE – Departmental</b> 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	0.57 <del>4</del>	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	Covid I 9 Costs Incurred £m	Total £m	Management Corrective Action
CHILDREN'S DIRECTORATE						Directorate to identify further plans to mitigate
Savings Plans: £0.957m attributable to Covid19 due to: 1) restructure delays, 2) planned placement reviews stalled as a result of increased demand.						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.
Placements - Independent Sector Providers						
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.	0.000	0.347		3.836	4.290	All placements continue to be reviewed with a view to reduce costs.
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						

placements equating to a full year effect of £1.549m						
Using trend analysis, an increase of +16 placements bimonthly is forecast. Increased costs by year end by £1.279m if realised.						
Education Participation and Skills (EP+S).						
£0.107m lost income; from training courses fees.						
£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.						
PEOPLE – Community Connections						All pressures being reported are Covid19 related.
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. Additional costs for more housing	0.000	(0.326)	0.045	1.178	0.897	The department has been tasked with achieving delivery plans of $\pounds 0.113$ m, as well as $\pounds 0.268$ m 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
Additional costs for more housing and associated staffing; expected						they will achieved in full, however, some of these

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) Covid I 9	(4) Covid19	(5)	
lssue	Legacy £m	BAU £m	Lovid19 Income Lost £m	Covid 19 Costs Incurred £m	Total £m	Management Corrective Action
PEOPLE - Strategic Cooperative Commissioning						
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. The forecast also reflects additional payments relating to Discharge claims from Health. After a period of Adult Social Care (ASC) client numbers dropping, now seeing rises in the numbers of both residential and community clients. Covid19 has also had a large impact on the department, with increased costs to providers, both	0.000	0.114	0.300	1.850	2.264	At the moment, most of the pressures being reported are Covid19 related. 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. 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.

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.	(I) Legacy £m	(2) BAU £m	(3) Covid19 Income Lost £m	(4) Covid19 Costs Incurred £m	(5) Total £m	Management Corrective Action
Office of the Director of Public Health 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. 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.	0.000	0.000	0.121	0.036	0.157	At the moment, all pressures being reported are Covid19 related. 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.
PLACE - Strategic Planning and Infrastructure (SP&I) The monitoring position is heavily influenced by the impact of	0.000	(0.930)	0.914	(0.033)	(0.049)	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:

Covid19 on income and expenditure.						• Freezing recruitment for a number of posts for the rest of 2020/2021 £0.176m;
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.						<ul> <li>Shutting down or intentionally limiting project spend for the rest of 2020/2021 £0.266m plus;</li> <li>One-off capitalisation for 2020/2021;</li> <li>Additional In-Year Fees for Services Provided and External Partnership Income;</li> <li>Negotiating one-off savings where contributions can be offset by reserves held by partnerships;</li> </ul>
						<ul> <li>Postponing the Local Green Space Development Planning Document and stopping non-revenue generating work.</li> </ul>
PLACE - Management Support						
£0.338m Accumulated Place legacy efficiencies target following apportionment of historic Transformation costs.	0.338	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.338	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 Covid 19 impact however this is unlikely to be realised in full.
PLACE - Economic Development	0.000	(0.300)	1.799	(0.364)	1.135	

Г	1 1		
		It is anticipated that National Covernment	
		business grant payments to tenants will enable these PCC delayed invoice payments to be There remains however a significant risk of	made. write
		of business. This level of write off risk has b	een
			It is anticipated that National Government business grant payments to tenants will enab these PCC delayed invoice payments to be There remains however a significant risk of off from tenants who do not recover and go of business. This level of write off risk has be assessed by the Land and Property team for

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)		
Issue	Legacy £m	BAU £m	Covid19 Income Lost £m	Covid19 Costs Incurred £m	Total £m	Management Corrective Action	
PLACE - Street Services Street Scene & Waste (SSW) services: Street Scene and Waste are						<ul> <li>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.</li> <li>The available budget for the service was</li> </ul>	
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.	0.556	0.250	0.529	0.643	1.978	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.	
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.						<ul> <li>The service is looking at a series of measures that will introduce more accountability and tighter controls.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	
Among other things, SSW have BAU pressures of £0.124m, which include vehicle running costs and agency costs as the most significant.						• 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	
Grounds has also brought a pressure of £0.155m in relation to						environment	

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.						
Fleet and Garage: 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.	0.127	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.127	
Highways and Car Parking: 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.	0.000	0.090	6.984	0.025	7.099	The Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry Joint Committee is predicting a shortfall of $\pounds$ 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 ( $\pounds$ 2.1m) of the loss from the Government although at present guidance suggests we will only receive 71p in the $\pounds$ . 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 $\pounds$ 0.4m

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	
Issue	Legacy £m	BAU £m	Covid19 Income Lost £m	Covid19 Costs Incurred £m	Total £m	Management Corrective Action
CORPORATE ITEMS						
There is £3.200m of pressure for The Way We Work (TWWW) programme and Business Support Review as shown in the MTFP.	0.000	3.200	0.000	1.856	5.056	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
Costs totalling £1.856m have already been incurred for the Temporary Mortuary of £1.450m and for PPE equipment including signage.						delivery. EVRS council wide programme; driving out £0.750m this financial year
Climate Emergency Budget						
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	0.000	(0.230)	0.000	0.000	(0.230)	
Health and Safety capital finance budget.						
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.						

	(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	I.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

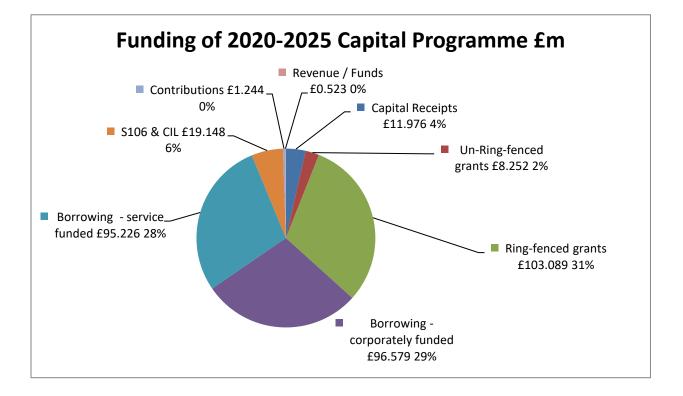
\* Estimate of possible future income to finance future capital projects (funding see Table 2b)

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.

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:	·			<u>,                                     </u>		
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
S106 & CIL	6.883	10.155	0.860	I.250	0	19.148
Other contributions	I.650	0.117	0	0	0	I.767
Total Financing	156.881	121.990	68.614	10.708	2.681	360.874

Table 6a Capital Programme by Directorate



Funding Estimates	2020/21 £m	2021/22 £m	2022/23 £m	2023/24 £m	2024/25 £m	Total £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
S106 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

Table 6b Income Assumptions Funding Estimates

\* 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	I.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).

# Page 41

## Appendix I: Detailed Breakdown of the Capital Programme

	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25	Total
Approved Capital Programme	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Celebrating Mayflower						
Mayflower 400 - A38 Signage	975	-	-	-	-	975
Mayflower 400 – Plymouth Signage	438	-	-	-	-	438
Mayflower 400 – Public Realm	381					
Improvements	301	-	-	-	-	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	196					
Infrastructure	170	-	-	-	-	196
Total Celebrating Mayflower	4,737	-	-	-	-	4,737
Connecting the City						
Mayflower Coach Station	_	8				8
-	- 2	0	-	-	-	2
Electric Car Charge Points	763	-	-	-	-	763
Cot Hill Bridge		-	-	-	-	
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	I,000	-	-	-	-	000, ا
North Prospect Phase 5	128	-	-	_	-	128
Bath Street	1,686	-	-	-	-	I,686
Plan for Homes	1,013	-	-	-	-	1,013
Plan for Homes 3	2,526	2,250	2,250	I,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	I,650	500	15,195

Delivering Oceansgate						
Oceansgate Remediation/separation	778	-	-	-	-	778
works						
Oceansgate Phase I Direct	80	-	-	-	-	80
Development Oceansgate Phase 2 Direct						
Development	5,134	-	-	-	-	5,134
Oceansgate Phase 2 Infrastructure	I,I74	_	_		-	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 TI	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	-	-	I,088
Street Lighting Column Replacement	875	I,858	1,910	I,963	2,017	8,623
Local Safety Schemes & Street Furniture	1,190	206	212	-	-	1,608
Footway Resurfacing	I,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

OFFICIAL

Page 43

Mount Edgcumbe 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	-	-	-	-	42
Plymstock School Expansion	1,375	-	-	-	-	I,37
Total Ensuring Good Quality School Places	1,802	-	-	-	-	1,802
Growing the Economy						
Social Enterprise Fund	217	-	-	-	-	21
Langage Development Phase 2	290	-	-	-	-	29
Langage Development Phase 3	2,661	10	-	-	-	2,67
Other regeneration Investments	27,171	-	-	-	-	27,17
City Business Park	195	-	-	-	-	19
39 Tavistock Place	30	-	-	-	-	3
Co-operatives and Mutuals	270	187	249	209	164	I,07
ED Loans	I,580	-	-	-	-	I,58
Total Growing the Economy	32,414	197	249	209	164	33,23
Improving neighbourhoods and delivering community infrastructure / facilities						
Barne Barton general amenity improvements	164	-	-	-	-	16
Active Neighbourhoods	6	-	-	-	-	
Infrastructure Works at Honicknowle	26	-	-	-	-	2
Derriford Community Park	415	-	-	-	-	41
Play Pitch Projects	737	-	-	-	-	73
Central Park Improvements & Sports Plateau	1,010	-	-	-	-	1,01
Improving Outdoor Play	199	82	-	-	-	28
Tennis Improvements	88	-	-	-	-	8
Brickfields Athletics	597	10	-	-	-	60
Environmental Improvements	242	-	-	-	-	24
Swimming Pools	22	-	-	-	-	2
Children Centres	250	-	-	-	-	25
Total Improving neighbourhoods and delivering community infrastructure / facilities	3,756	92	0	0	0	3,84

Securing Growth in Derriford and						
Northern Corridor	10 ( 42	21 5 40				41.101
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	I,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

# Page 45

A38 Manadon Junction	2,241	299	-	-	-	2,540
Plymouth Major Road Network	275	275	-	-	-	550
Eastern Corridor Strategic Cycle Network	I,065	I,468	-	-	-	2,533
Total Securing Growth in the Eastern Corridor	6,002	2,601	0	0	0	8,603
Transforming Services						
Street Services Information	78	_	_	_	_	78
Management System						
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	805					805
Plant Upgrade	605	-	-	-	-	005
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

# Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee



Date of meeting:	19 October 2020
Title of Report:	Return to School Recovery Plan
Lead Member:	Councillor Jon Taylor (Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Transformation)
Lead Strategic Director:	Alison Botham (Director for Childrens Services)
Author:	Judith Harwood
Contact Email:	Judith.harwood@plymouth.gov.uk
Your Reference:	AB.JH.19102020/1
Key Decision:	No
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

### **Purpose of Report**

To provide an update to Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the Return to School Recovery Plan in respect of school transport, how exams and vocational assessments will take place in 2021, how schools are ensuring education continues when children and young people are told to self-isolate and an update on the health and wellbeing programme.

### **Recommendations and Reasons**

For the Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee to receive the report for consideration.

### Alternative options considered and rejected

Not applicable- report is for information only

### Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

Corporate Plan – 'A Caring Council' – Improved Schools where pupils achieve better outcomes Plymouth Plan – HEA2 – 'Delivering the best outcomes for children, young people and families'.

### Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

There are no financial implications arising from this advisory report.

### **Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:**

No direct carbon/environmental issues 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.

#### **Appendices**

\*Add rows as required to box below

Ref.	Title of Appendix	If some why it is	/all of the s not for f	information information in the second s	<b>Paragraph Number</b> (if applicable) information is confidential, you must indicate publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A ernment Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.				
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	

#### **Background papers:**

Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below. Background papers are <u>unpublished</u> 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)							
		publication	n by virtue	is confiden of Part 1 o ing the rele	f Schedule			
	I	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Plymouth Standards Partnership Recovery and Implementation Plan								
Plymouth Standards Partnership Recovery and Improvement Diagram								

### Sign off:

Fin	djn 20.21. 112	Leg	lt/354 48/07 1020	Mon Off		HR		Assets		Strat Proc	
Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Judith Harwood											

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

Date agreed: 07/10/2020

Cabinet Member approval: Councillor Jon Taylor approved by email

Date approved: 07/10/2020

This page is intentionally left blank

## **RETURN TO SCHOOL**

### Education, Participation & Skills update October 2020



### Background

All schools re-opened at the start of term, albeit some had a phased opening for year groups. The back to school campaign emphasised safe opening and attendance was higher than expected.

The DFE are constantly reviewing and re-issuing advice and guidance for schools, particularly the information relating to actions required in the event that there are confirmed cases at a school. Schools in Plymouth are following guidance carefully and diligently.

### Suspected and confirmed cases in Plymouth schools.

Where schools have confirmed cases of Covid we are working with all alongside Public Health (PH) and Public Health England (PHE) to manage the situation. Since the return in September, and at the time of this report, 12 schools have reported a positive case amongst staff or pupils. The picture can change rapidly and we collect daily detailed information from schools on the number of suspected cases and staff who are self-isolating. The figures suggest that around 800+ children have been asked to self-isolate due to contact with a confirmed case or suspected case. In most cases just one bubble is affected at any one time, but the course of action is determined in consultation with PH and according to the school's risk assessment. In several cases no bubble has been affected as the member of staff had not been in contact with pupils.

The impact is felt on keyworkers and across front line services either because of the requirement to self-isolate or in order to undertake childcare.

### Testing

The availability of tests, and the speed with which they are returned, is a significant issue for schools.

Several measures are being put in place to address the situation:

- Colleagues in PH and PCC Commissioning are working with the CCG to put in place adequate resource.
- Across PCC, the CCG and Livewell, we have created local, innovative solutions
- Livewell and PCC are considering whether swabbing can be done at school sites or nearby in a community centre
- Schools are being encouraged to order replacement kits from the DFE site which they were able to do from 16<sup>th</sup> September
- Public being encouraged to provide feedback on Covid-19 testing process so that the Council can highlight areas for improvement to the government based on the experiences of Plymouth residents.

We continue to urge parents via schools and messaging to persist in trying to get a test. We have written to all parents and have asked schools to put the message on their website too. The letter includes information about testing, symptoms and self-isolation as well as reminding parents that the return to school has been a good start for most.

### Transport and public spaces

We have details of the opening times and any staggered opening times for most secondary schools. Working with the bus companies, we have negotiated 6 additional buses who can circle the school routes and collect any pupils who were unable to get on their usual bus. No other route closures have been notified to us. These 6 buses are deployed and we have the ability to procure more should they be required. Public transport has coped well and there have been few comments or complaints from parents. Our plan allowed us to respond quickly and negotiate routes where there were difficulties.

Colleagues from Civil Enforcement have monitored busy bus stops to observe social distancing and the entry and exit from buses. Again there have been few issues reported. We believe there will be continue to be capacity as bus usage by the public remains low in the city. We do not know how many parents have elected to transport their child themselves or encourage walking/cycling. Many pupils in the city travel more than 3 miles to school due to the specialist nature of provision and so it is unlikely that walking or cycling will be a viable option for many.

A small number of schools and parents have reported issues with crowding at the school gate or irresponsible socialising/mixing in local parks. We are working with colleagues to identify these locations and have a 'presence' from time to time to remind parents about social distancing.

### **Recovery and Improvement Plans**

The Plymouth Standards Partnership (PSP) has sought bring about a coherent approach to recovery and improvement by compiling a robust 'umbrella plan' that incorporates renewed focus on the breadth of school improvement, alongside clear strategies to address the 'new' needs of disadvantaged and SEN/D pupils and specific aspects arising from the COVID-19 crisis and the return to full-time schooling. Plymouth Secondary schools have a dedicated plan, working with the Plymouth Commission and incorporating the three strands; a working group of Plymouth Primary Headteachers, working in partnership with a PCC advisor have determined the implementation plan for their phase; and the Plymouth Special School Headteachers working in partnership with another PCC adviser have determined the implementation plan for their schools. All partners are represented in the Plymouth Standards Partnership (PSP) and progress and challenges will be reported and addressed in the PSP meetings that occur each term.

### Catch up learning

Schools are being offered a catch up premium of £80 per pupil for most schools, to assist with programmes of learning to support pupils who require additional support. It is recognised that many of these will be pupils who have not been in school since March 2020. In primary schools some year groups returned from 1<sup>st</sup> June. Attendance monitoring and soft intelligence showed that many disadvantaged pupils were not those considered eligible and take up of remote learning was very limited.

Ofsted have announced that they will be conducting assurance visits to schools between September 2020 and March 2021. The main focus of the visit will be to ascertain from school leaders what is being done to support catch up for **all** pupils. There will be a focus on disadvantage. Whilst schools with poor outcomes and inadequate inspection grade will be prioritised, all schools may receive a visit. This, alongside work we do as a city, will provide invaluable insight into what needs to be commissioned to accelerate learning and support disadvantaged pupils.

Ofsted have visited one of our maintained primary schools and the Headteacher has shared her positive experience with other colleagues. EPS are providing information and support for all maintained school headteachers to ensure that they are prepared, with necessary data and have to hand, information required by the Inspectors.

#### Skills4Plymouth –Resurgam

We have launched the next phase of the Skills Launchpad to employers and schools in preparation for the development of the Schools hub and Employer hub. We are now able to secure further buy in and productive work on destinations as part of the Youth Hub development.

In preparation for the launch of Kickstart, we have gathered the latest information on 16-24 year olds in receipt of benefits so that we can work with the Gatekeepers already identified to match potential work placements with young people. PCC will offer placements to young people where possible.

### Wellbeing for Education Return

PCC has received additional grant funding to work with local partners and to tailor and deliver wellbeing and mental health training and support for education settings. It is recognised that's school staff may need additional support to recognise and understand the range of children and young people's reactions and know how to support them, their parents and carers, and their colleagues.

The Wellbeing for Education Return project seeks to better equip education settings to support children and young people's wellbeing, resilience and recovery in the context of COVID-19 and associated measures.

There are two elements to the project:

- A national training package, which will provide guidance and resources for education staff on responding to the impact of COVID-19 on the wellbeing of students
- The Local Authority will put in place one or more local experts who will work with partners and deliver to leads in education settings, and provide ongoing advice and support until March 2021.

The delivery of this project will be undertaken by The Zone Plymouth. The Zone has been engaging with and supporting schools and settings across the city for 4 years via Progeny, in partnership with the wider system, supporting the Emotional Health and Wellbeing of Whole School Communities. The project aims to equip nominated education staff with the knowledge and skills to introduce and contextualise clear, coherent information and resources to their settings' staff and to support and enable discussions with children and young people, parents and carers.

The Zone Plymouth will also provide ongoing support to maintained schools and academies through the Autumn and Spring terms (2020/21). The initial training will take place during the 2 weeks prior to October half term, with an opportunity for each setting to have one delegate attend.

### GCSE, AS and A level examinations

On 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2020, Ofqual published a consultation seeking views on the proposed changes to the GCSE, AS and A level examinations scheduled for Summer 2021, and the arrangements for non-exam assessments undertaken by students who will be taking exams in Summer 2021.

The consultation closed on 16 July 2020. Ofqual received 28,972 responses. On 3<sup>rd</sup> August, following the consultation, Ofqual determined the following actions:

Overall, exam boards **should not**:

- Change the length, number or format of the exam papers, unless it is to accommodate specific changes to the exam and assessment arrangements.
- Make greater use of optional questions in exams, unless it is to accommodate subject specific decisions.

For specific subjects, exam boards **should:** 

- Change how they assess content in GCSE Geography, History and Ancient History
- Change how they assess GCSE English literature to allow for some choice in the content.
- Remove the requirement for centres to make declarations appertaining to the mandated number of days of fieldwork in GCSE, AS and A level Geography. Retain the non-exam assessment in Geography at A level. Exam boards should be flexible in their requirement for students, at all levels, to use primary data.
- Remove the requirement for centres to make declarations appertaining to the mandated number of days of fieldwork in GCSE, AS and A level in Geology and AS and A level Environmental Science.
- Adjust the observational activity required for GCSE Astronomy.
- Report the assessment of spoken language as an endorsement for Modern Foreign Languages.
- Allow for a range of adjustments to accommodate potential public health requirements eg. GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition; GCSE, AS and A level Music; and GCSE Physical Education.

The consultation considered issues of fairness, volume of content, subject specific matters, different approaches in GCSE, AS and A level, exam paper length and format, changes to the exam timetable and overall impact of the changes designed to reduce the pressure on teachers and students during the academic year 2020/21.

There was general support for a delay to the exams, to allow more time for teaching, but respondents were less positive if that meant a subsequent delay in the publication of results. Ofqual are currently consulting with the exam boards on the changes to the regulatory framework necessary to implement the decisions arising from the consultation. Ofqual, whilst planning for exams and assessments to take place in 2021, recognise that there could be further disruption and will continue to develop contingency measures and explore different options.

### Vocational, technical and other general qualifications

Learners taking vocational and technical qualifications have also experienced lost teaching time.

Ofqual launched a consultation on the assessment and awarding of Vocational, Technical and other General Qualifications in 2020 to 2021, on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2020.

The consultation closed on 14 August 2020. On 7<sup>th</sup> September, following the consultation, Ofqual determined the following actions:

- To enable awarding organisation to assist with mitigating the impact of disruptions to teaching, learning and assessment through adaptation of qualifications and assessments.
- To introduce a second version of the Extraordinary Regulatory Framework(ERF) called the Extended ERF, to be applied to all qualifications except GCSE, AS and A levels and apprenticeship end-point assessments.
- To make no provision for the issue of calculated results
- To retain ERF (May 2020) to enable eligible learners to receive a calculated result and permit appeals for qualifications awarded under the May ERF.
- Not prescribe a single approach to VTQs, but to issue statutory guidance to inform awarding organisation to support a consistent approach.
- Support awarding organisations to develop parity for similar qualification types
- Detail specific guidance of Special Consideration of the impact of the ongoing pandemic in the statutory guidance.
- Permit awarding organisations to adapt qualifications and assessments taken in international markets, providing this does not undermine the validity of the qualification.
- Certificates should be issued as normal with no reference to results being determined under the Extended ERF arrangements.
- Not to supplement the appeals process with any additional guidance around appeals in 2020 and 2021.

• To require awarding organisation to maintain records of decisions made when adapting assessments and qualifications; and have regard to any advice provided in the form of a Technical Advice Notice.

### Summary of exams and assessments in 2021

- At this time, it is intended that subject to some adjustments to content and activity, all exams and assessments will take place in the summer 2021 for GCSE, AS and A level.
- Vocational and technical exams scheduled to take place in 2021, will also take place, with some modifications to content and activity.
- At this time, there is no intention to award calculated grades for academic, vocational or technical exams.
- The calendar for examinations in Summer 2021 has not yet been agreed.

### Remote Learning

As part of the ever changing DFE guidance for schools opening, there has been increasing information about the requirements for remote education.

On 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020, the DFE published a 'good practice guide' for staff responsible for the curriculum and its delivery in schools, although non-statutory, it outlines how schools can meet the expectations set out in the guidance for full opening.

Schools are being asked to plan for disruption to schooling throughout 2020-21. The DFE recognise that remote education, although not without challenges, has been a great innovation arising from the pandemic and subsequent closure of schools.

Schools are expected to have the capacity to offer immediate remote education for classes or groups who are required to self-isolate for a short period of time, or where there are local restrictions requiring pupils to remain at home.

It is expected that remote learning fits seamlessly into the school curriculum and the DFE will be publishing further support for planning a sequenced curriculum that can be adapted for remote delivery during the autumn term.

Many schools who have developed effective remote learning have utilised a range of interactive platforms such as Microsoft Teams or Google Classroom. This has enabled schools to create virtual classrooms. Examples are evident from both primary and secondary schools, such as Yealmpstone Primary and Sir John Hunt Community Sports College.

Schools can apply for government funded support to access free-to-use digital education platforms such as G Suite for Education or Office 365 for Education. These platforms can also be used in both the live and virtual classrooms and beyond the individual lesson context and are effective for professional development and staff briefings.

Some subjects such as Physical Education are very difficult to teach remotely. However, schools can use video demonstrations if appropriate and encourage their pupils to take regular physical exercise to maintain fitness.

There are practical problems, such as a lack of devices. Schools are encouraged to distribute school owned equipment accompanied by a user agreement or contract; and remind pupils that access is possible through large-screen technology. The DFE continue to roll out devices and consider further requirements. Affected pupils can be supported to come into school to use school resources within any rules in force at the time. Text books can also be used at home to provide structure to learning, supplemented with other forms of communication to keep pupils on track or answer questions about work.

In a snapshot of the Ofsted visits this term, Ofsted have found that remote learning is not yet aligned to the regular curriculum, but the DFE have already outlined plans to address this.

In Plymouth, we do not yet have an overall picture of our remote learning capabilities, but anecdotally we are aware that some of our schools are completely able to offer remote learning and others have very little expertise or capacity at this time.

## Plymouth Standards Partnership Recovery and Improvement Plan (August 2020)

Aim: To compile and implement a robust recovery plan that incorporates renewed focus on the breadth of school improvement, alongside clear strategies to address the 'new' needs of disadvantaged and SEN/D pupils and specific aspects arising from the COVID-19 crisis and the return to full-time schooling.

Strand 1	Strand 2	Strand 3
Renewed focus on	Meeting the 'new' and existing needs of	COVID-19 specific issues for
School Improvement	disadvantaged and SEN/D pupils	schools, individuals and services

#### **Overarching Key Performance Indicators (KPI):**

- School leaders demonstrate commitment to the PSP Recovery and Improvement Plan through the memorandum of agreement/understanding.
- Effective due diligence, strategic planning and implementation of improvement strategies in all schools, supported by the LA, PC and TSSW, results in improving outcomes for all pupils and an increase in schools (academies and maintained schools) judged to be good or better by Ofsted (when routine inspections return).
- The elements that contribute to a self-improving school system (including specific workstreams) are re-established, relaunched and implemented at all levels.
- Established projects that are proven to impact positively on the outcomes for disadvantaged pupils are reinstated and expanded.
- Schools are supported to determine and implement specific interventions that will narrow the gap in learning for their disadvantaged pupils.
- All schools have ready access to national and local guidance to facilitate safe practice during each phase of the repopulation of schools and future operations.

Key: PEB – Plymouth Education Board PSP - Plymouth Standards Partnership PLA – Plymouth Local Authority PC – Plymouth Commission TSSW – Teaching Schools South West RSC Regional School's Commissioner

Strand 1 – KPI	Strand 2 - KPI	Strand 3 - KPI
<ul> <li>School improvement visits to Primary, Secondary and Special Schools by PLA officers, the Office of the RSC, PC contractors and NLEs deployed through TSSW provide evidence of: <ul> <li>Robust, accurate and precise self-evaluation in all schools;</li> <li>Aligned and prioritised improvement and implementation plans, linked to SEF, using evidence-based school improvement strategies to achieve pre-defined impact;</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	The gap between the outcomes for disadvantaged pupils and their non-disadvantaged peers is amongst the highest in the country. Re-establish and build upon successful projects that have a proven positive impact on narrowing the attainment gap for disadvantaged pupils Restate the underlying causes of deprivation in the city to as a means to: - understand unique and common challenges faced by the city	<ul> <li>All schools receive effective communication about managing the COVID-19 restrictions, including government and PLA guidance: <ul> <li>Signposting school leaders to all relevant documentation;</li> <li>Maintaining safe working practices for pupils and adults in the school environment;</li> <li>Safeguarding pupils being educated at home;</li> <li>Additional support for vulnerable families</li> <li>MAT CEO and LA schools meetings to continue</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

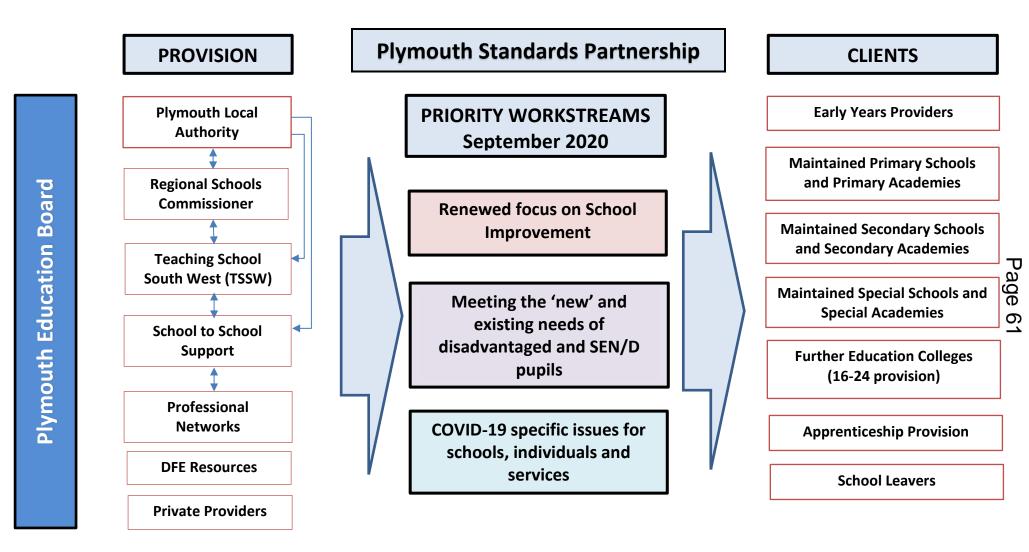
Strand 1- contd	Strand 2 – contd	Strand 3 - contd
<ul> <li>Supporting links and external relationships that underpin the self-improving school system</li> <li>The developing elements of the self-improving school system are re-established:         <ul> <li>Activity and accountability is defined for schools through a cross-agency agreement</li> <li>Networks, leadership training and coaching resumes</li> <li>School-to- school support is reinstated</li> <li>The development of a strategy group to oversee the implementation of the PC workstream</li> <li>The TSSW offer (including and launch of traded services commence</li> </ul> </li> <li>The activity of specific workstreams and support mechanisms, such as the PLA, PC and the work of the TSSW and are reinstated and seen to have a positive impact on school improvement by:                 <ul> <li>Implementing the graduated approach to inclusion</li> <li>Providing individual school support</li> <li>Sharing best practice and examples of evidenced based change</li> <li>Brokering training for school leaders</li> </ul></li></ul>	<ul> <li>target and evaluate intervention with greater accuracy</li> <li>Revisit the aims, activity and outcomes of the Plymouth Oracy Project and through PC, extend for secondary pupils.</li> <li>Establish/re-establish guided reading in all schools (including secondary through PC)</li> <li>Schools are supported to utilise existing and any additional pupil premium/disadvantaged funding to achieve greatest positive impact and prevent disadvantaged pupils from falling further behind:         <ul> <li>Supporting individual schools to develop an evidenced based plan (an implementation strategies) to best meet the needs of their pupils</li> <li>Providing examples of best practice for supporting nurseries and Early Years settings to address the additional challenges faced by the youngest children</li> <li>Early Years team provide advice and guidance for implementation of the Early Years support package to help close the gap in language acquisition</li> <li>Supporting headteachers to utilise the post-Covid 'Catch-up Premium' to best advantage by sharing good practice within and beyond the city; facilitating the sharing of good practice between Trusts</li> <li>Providing focused support for Looked After Children and (if funding is extended) those on the Child Protection Register</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul> <li>communicate and implement temporary changes to EHC assessments and plans</li> <li>POD hosted communication platform to support reopening and ongoing advice and guidance</li> <li>Ongoing dialogue with school leaders to ensure that advice is relevant and required</li> <li>Schools are supported to meet the government expectations for repopulating schools:         <ul> <li>Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 (01 June 2020)</li> <li>Year 10 and Year 12 (15 June 2020)</li> <li>Special School pupils (by priority)</li> <li>Alternative Provision to mirror mainstream</li> <li>Other year groups (as per government timeline)</li> <li>Whole school opening (Sept 2020)</li> <li>signposting medical and public safety advice</li> <li>providing risk assessments and planning support at each phase</li> <li>reviewing risk assessments and securing additional support</li> <li>providing guidance on statutory responsibilities that have changed as a result of COVID-19 eg. attendance coding</li> <li>sharing good practice and ideas for effective implementation of government guidance</li> <li>POD hosted communication platform to support reopening and ongoing advice and guidance</li> <li>Weekly TEAMS surgery for Headteachers with PLA officers</li> <li>PLA manned inbox for Headteacher questions to be answered and shared daily</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Strand 1- contd	Strand 2 - contd	Strand 3 - contd
<ul> <li>Supporting school improvement at MAT level</li> <li>Addressing city-wide issues that impact on the school improvement of individual schools eg. mobility and disadvantage</li> <li>Improving communication and collaborative working with all schools regardless of designation by establishing a culture of working together</li> <li>Data sharing is used to establish patterns of performance and need across the city, securing collaborative school improvement practice and support:         <ul> <li>TSSW performance data sharing initiative is utilised by all schools (removing the need for the PLA analysis of first release information)</li> <li>Identification of city-wide improvement needs and establishment of collaborative activity to address specific issues – eg. Emerging issues from the data book for EYFS, KS1, KS2 and KS4</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Case studies of effective intervention provision modelling operational solutions are shared with all Plymouth Schools</li> <li>Special Schools and the parents/carers of children with special educational needs/disabilities are supported to achieve a safe and appropriate return to full time schooling:         <ul> <li>Educational Psychology service circulate support for pupils, parents/carers and teachers to address anxieties around return to school, subsequent behaviours and appropriate interventions</li> <li>If additional funding is made available from the government, schools are supported to find appropriate alternative provision for pupils with behavioural or health issues</li> <li>SEN team to work with schools to appropriately identify pupils for whom attendance at school is a priority (due to key transitions/life chances/ development).</li> <li>SEN team to work with schools and parents/carers to ensure that home</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Schools with additional challenges that could hamper a return to full-schooling, are offered Leadership support to ease the transition: <ul> <li>DFE support for named schools that fit their criteria for additional support</li> <li>PLA support for schools that have been identified by PLA as having additional challenges (eg. new or absent Headteacher)</li> </ul> </li> <li>Schools are supported to address practical challenges that inhibit effective schooling for individuals, class groups or the school as a whole: <ul> <li>Education Welfare Officer support for schools</li> <li>with high levels of absence and supporting the 'At Risk' pupils</li> <li>Supporting schools with low levels of 'take-up' from vulnerable pupils</li> <li>Establishing a means for colleges to identify students with additional English and Mathematics needs</li> <li>Providing estates and Health and Safety advice and support for schools struggling to make the environment safe</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Support schools in their preparation for Ofsted visits and when Ofsted inspections resume</li> <li>PLA to continue to provide briefings from Ofsted on the new framework.</li> <li>TSSW to provide support for senior and middle leaders for effective inspection preparation</li> <li>Support for schools experiencing the Ofsted non-judgement visits throughout the autumn 2020 term</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>tuition and therapies that can take place at home are available for children with SEN/D who are unable to attend school.</li> <li>Services and provision that addresses the needs pupils (other than when at school) are expanded where possible and facilitators work collaboratively to best meet the needs of disadvantaged and vulnerable pupils:</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Summer 2020 school leavers are supported to engage in further education, employment or training to prevent high levels of 'NEET' by:</li> <li>Publicising access to the Youth Hub to support school leavers (Y11 and Y13) into academic and vocational training; traineeships and apprenticeships; jobs and work experience</li> </ul>

Version 5 31/08/20

<ul> <li>Re-establishing the Early Help Creative Solutions Panel to support the EHAT process.</li> <li>Out of hours digital access is available to all disadvantaged pupils</li> <li>Information about summer school provision and childcare provision is made available to all schools to ensure parents understand how and where provision is available.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Supporting schools to respond to parental challenges appertaining to centre grades and Ofqual standardisation</li> <li>Supporting schools to navigate the Autumn 2020 examination series</li> <li>Schools are supported through a period of challenge, in respect of staffing by:         <ul> <li>Limiting or consolidating requests for information by the Council and the Department for Education</li> <li>Providing summary information of key documents related to government guidance</li> <li>Public sharing of frequently asked questions and documents to support the September opening and operational changes</li> <li>Supporting the use of volunteers by providing guidance material and HR advice to schools</li> <li>Brokering links between schools</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
---	--

# Plymouth Standards Partnership Recovery and Improvement Plan (August 2020)



This page is intentionally left blank

# Education and Children's Social Care Overview and 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 Helen Rickman, Democratic Advisor on 01752 398444.

Date of meeting	Agenda item	Prioritisation Score	Reason for consideration	Responsible Cabinet Member / Officer
	Finance – breakdown Children's Services. Month 4 monitoring report	Report required	Assess financial situation	Cllr Lowry
	Children in care – numbers/cost	Verbal Update	Assess numbers/costs	Cllr Laing
19 October 2020	Return to school recovery plan – update on health and wellbeing programme. Impact of Covid 19 (day to day for schools). School transport to be covered. Regular update	Report	Assess the impact of Covid 19	Cllr J Taylor
	Policy Update	Report		
	Update on progress since JTAI	ТВС	Assess improvement via improvement plan	Cllr Laing
30 November	In house fostering/ impact of service re- design.	ТВС	Assess the impact of the service re-design	Cllr Laing
2020	Covid impact – standing item. Covid related relaxation of regs. (policy)	ТВС	Update since previous meeting – impact on service area	

Date of meeting	Agenda item	Prioritisation Score	Reason for consideration	Responsible Cabinet Member / Officer
	Participation – work of young safeguarders and Listen and Care Council	ТВС		CIIr Laing
	Skills for Plymouth	ТВС		Cllr J Taylor
6 January	Youth provision across the city (Jean/ Matt)	ТВС		Cllr Laing
2021	Finance update	ТВС		Cllr Lowry
	Covid update	ТВС		
	Covid update			
3 March				
2021				
		ltems to be sch	neduled	
	S	elect Committe	e Reviews	I
To be scheduled				
	Join	t Select Commi	ttee Reviews	

## Annex I – Scrutiny Prioritisation Tool

		Yes (=1)	Evidence
Public Interest	ls 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