

# EXECUTIVE DECISION

made by a Cabinet Member



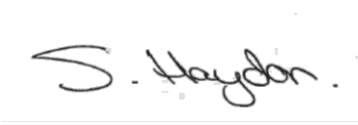
## REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY BY AN INDIVIDUAL CABINET MEMBER

Executive Decision Reference Number – CSLCC06 23/24

Decision				
1	<b>Title of decision:</b> Consultation on a proposed merger of Coroners Services			
2	<b>Decision maker:</b> (Councillor Sally Haydon (Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Libraries, Cemeteries and Crematoria))			
3	<b>Report author and contact details:</b> Ruth Harrell (Director of Public Health) <a href="mailto:ruth.harrell@plymouth.gov.uk">ruth.harrell@plymouth.gov.uk</a>			
4	<b>Decision to be taken:</b> 1. To agree that a business case for the merger of the coronial jurisdictions of Plymouth, Torbay and South Devon and of Exeter and Greater Devon, is given to the Ministry of Justice for consultation more widely.			
5	<b>Reasons for decision:</b> 1. The Chief Coroner has a very clear view that larger coronial areas are more effective, allowing a senior coroner to manage work effectively, giving support staff the opportunity to work as part of a wider team providing enhanced support, resilience and a consistent service for relatives; 2. The Policy of the Chief Coroner and Ministry of Justice is to reduce the number of Coronial Jurisdictions in England and Wales, this being carried out on the retirement of Senior Coroners where appropriate. On the retirement of the Senior Coroner for Plymouth on the 31 March 2023, the Ministry of Justice asked the two jurisdictions to consider the merging of these two jurisdictions; 3. This provides the opportunity to understand the benefits that can be achieved in terms of the service delivered to the local population, within a framework that ensures that the services such as Coroners Court will continue to be provided within Plymouth.			
6	<b>Alternative options considered and rejected:</b> 1. Not considering a merger would be contrary to the direction of travel of the Ministry of Justice and would mean that the potential service improvements might not be realised,			
7	<b>Financial implications and risks:</b> There are no financial implications of the decision to consult.			
8	<b>Is the decision a Key Decision?</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Per the Constitution, a key decision is one which:</b>

	(please contact <b>Democratic Support</b> for further advice) Please type an X into the relevant boxes		x	in the case of <b>capital</b> projects and contract awards, results in a new commitment to spend and/or save in excess of <b>£3million</b> in total
			x	in the case of <b>revenue</b> projects when the decision involves entering into new commitments and/or making new savings in excess of <b>£1 million</b>
			x	is <b>significant</b> in terms of its effect on communities living or working in an area comprising <b>two or more</b> wards in the area of the local authority.
	<b>If yes, date of publication of the notice in the <u>Forward Plan of Key Decisions</u></b>			
<b>9</b>	<b>Please specify how this decision is linked to the Council's corporate plan/Plymouth Plan and/or the policy framework and/or the revenue/capital budget:</b>	A merger may improve the quality and cost-effectiveness of the service.  Coroners are independent judicial post holders and are not employees of the local authority, and are guided by legal frameworks and guidance from the Chief Coroner / Ministry of Justice		
<b>10</b>	<b>Please specify any direct environmental implications of the decision (carbon impact)</b>	None.		
<b>Urgent decisions</b>				
<b>11</b>	<b>Is the decision urgent and to be implemented immediately in the interests of the Council or the public?</b>  Please type an X into the relevant box	<b>Yes</b>		(If yes, please contact Democratic Support ( <a href="mailto:democraticsupport@plymouth.gov.uk">democraticsupport@plymouth.gov.uk</a> ) for advice)
		<b>No</b>	x	<b>(If no, go to section 13a)</b>
<b>12a</b>	<b>Reason for urgency:</b>			
<b>12b</b>	<b>Scrutiny Chair Signature:</b>		<b>Date</b>	
	<b>Scrutiny Committee name:</b>			

	<b>Print Name:</b>		
<b>Consultation</b>			
<b>I3a</b>	<b>Are any other Cabinet members' portfolios affected by the decision?</b> Please type an X into the relevant box	<b>Yes</b>	
		<b>No</b>	x (If no go to section I4)
<b>I3b</b>	<b>Which other Cabinet member's portfolio is affected by the decision?</b>		
<b>I3c</b>	<b>Date Cabinet member consulted</b>		
<b>I4</b>	<b>Has any Cabinet member declared a conflict of interest in relation to the decision?</b> Please type an X into the relevant box	<b>Yes</b>	If yes, please discuss with the Monitoring Officer
		<b>No</b>	x
<b>I5</b>	<b>Which Corporate Management Team member has been consulted?</b>	<b>Name</b>	Ruth Harrell
		<b>Job title</b>	Director of Public Health
		<b>Date consulted</b>	29 November 2023
<b>Sign-off</b>			
<b>I6</b>	<b>Sign off codes from the relevant departments consulted:</b>	<b>Democratic Support (mandatory)</b>	DS 79 23/24
		<b>Finance (mandatory)</b>	DJN.23.24.159
		<b>Legal (mandatory)</b>	LS/00001312/2/ AC/30/11/23
		<b>Human Resources (if applicable)</b>	
		<b>Corporate property (if applicable)</b>	
		<b>Procurement (if applicable)</b>	
<b>Appendices</b>			
<b>I7</b>	<b>Ref.</b>	<b>Title of appendix</b>	
	A	Briefing report for publication	
<b>Confidential/exempt information</b>			

<b>18a</b>	<b>Do you need to include any confidential/exempt information?</b> Please type an X into the relevant box	<b>Yes</b>		If yes, prepare a second, confidential ('Part II') briefing report and indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box in <b>18b</b> below.  (Keep as much information as possible in the briefing report that will be in the public domain)				
		<b>No</b>	x					
		<b>Exemption Paragraph Number</b>						
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>18b</b>	<b>Confidential/exempt briefing report title:</b>							
<b>Background Papers</b>								
<b>19</b>	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. If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.							
<b>Title of background paper(s)</b>		<b>Exemption Paragraph Number</b>						
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Cabinet Member Signature</b>								
<b>20</b>	I agree the decision and confirm that it is not contrary to the Council's policy and budget framework, Corporate Plan or Budget. In taking this decision I have given due regard to the Council's duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between people who share protected characteristics under the Equalities Act (2010) and those who do not. For further details please see the EIA attached.							
<b>Signature</b>			<b>Date of decision</b>	13 December 2023				
<b>Print Name</b>	Councillor Sally Haydon							

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL