

# EXECUTIVE DECISION

made by a Cabinet Member




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

Executive Decision Reference Number – L16 24/25

Decision	
1	<b>Title of decision:</b> Plymouth and South Devon Freeport: South Yard Innovation Units
2	<b>Decision maker:</b> Councillor Tudor Evans OBE, Leader of the Council
3	<b>Report author and contact details:</b> Catherine Parnall E: <a href="mailto:Catherine.parnall@plymouth.gov.uk">Catherine.parnall@plymouth.gov.uk</a>
4	<p><b>Decision to be taken:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Allocate £6.9m for the project into the Capital Programme funded by £3.344m Local Authority service borrowing and £3.556m PASD Freeport Seed Capital;</li> <li>2. To agree to allocate £3,556m of Freeport Seed Capital Funding into the Capital Programme to continue development of the Oceansgate marine industrial park within the Freeport South Yard Tax Site and to provide potential tenants with tax benefits for locating within the designated Tax Site;</li> <li>3. To authorise the Section 151 Officer to approve relevant funding claims up to the total Seed Capital amount of £3,556m as listed above.</li> </ol>
5	<p><b>Reasons for decision:</b></p> <p>Plymouth City Council is the Accountable Body which will receive and allocate the seed capital to support the delivery of the Freeport Annual Plan.</p> <p>The Accountable Body is responsible for the effective programme management of the Seed capital programme pipeline; which includes the technical appraisal of individual business cases for Seed Capital projects,</p> <p>The decision is necessary in order to meet timeframes set by Department for Levelling Up, Housing &amp; Communities (DLUHC) in order to deliver the proposed activities and spend the funds accordingly and in time. These industrial units will form the centrepiece of the Freeport's <i>Innovation Hotbed</i>, providing industrial units that are well suited for use as workshops and prototyping along with project offices / synthetic testbeds. The Freeport's innovation service offer will support R&amp;D through the Innovation Centre and will assist waterside access along with at sea trials working with partners. As the point of contact and main channel for innovation support it will also work with businesses through a dispersed model wherever they are located.</p> <p>The original cost was £3.256m of seed capital with £3.274m service borrowing. Costs have now increased and a further £0.3m of seed capital is now required to fund the costs of a security fence that is in need of replacement and upgrade. £3.344m is the revised service borrowing cost A further Project Change Request has been prepared to reallocate £0.3m of seed capital from another scheme to plug the seed capital gap.</p>

6	<b>Alternative options considered and rejected:</b> 1.) Do nothing: This would severely affect the ability to spend the allocated amount for this financial year but also to submit the required planning permission to ensure the project remains on track.			
7	<b>Financial implications and risks:</b> The funding is received from Government for the purpose of delivering the Seed Capital Freeport funding and is underpinned by a Memorandum of Understanding and further funding agreements that binds Plymouth City Council and Partners within the Freeport delivery governance into an agreement with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (DLUHC) and further funding agreements between the Accountable Body and projects outlining that the funds are shouldered by the applicant as such is contractually obliged to deliver and spend according to the Fund parameters and requirements.  Projects are subject to Accountable Body processes involving but not limited to procurement regulations, monitoring and governance, as such, failure to follow requirements from either the Accountable Body or DLUHC runs the risk of remedial action. We will maintain robust programme management protocols through regular monitoring and review to ensure that the projects are delivered within the grant terms and conditions. Remedial action will be taken where necessary.			
8	<b>Is the decision a Key Decision?</b> (please contact <a href="#">Democratic Support</a> for further advice)	Yes	No	<b>Per the Constitution, a key decision is one which:</b>
		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> annually
			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 <a href="#">Forward Plan of Key Decisions</a></b>	03/07/2023		
9	<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>	This decision can be linked to the Plymouth Plan Growing City and International City as well as other frameworks including the Climate Emergency Action Plan. This decision would be directly linked to the capital budget and will be managed and monitored in accordance with Plymouth City Council processes.		
10	<b>Please specify any direct environmental implications of the decision (carbon impact)</b>	It will support the development of net zero technologies aligned with the marine and defence sectors by pioneering new solutions through our Innovation Hotbed.		
<b>Urgent decisions</b>				
11	<b>Is the decision urgent and to be implemented immediately in the interests of the Council or the public?</b>	Yes		(If yes, please contact Democratic Support ( <a href="mailto:democraticsupport@plymouth.gov.uk">democraticsupport@plymouth.gov.uk</a> ) for advice)
		No	x	<b>(If no, go to section 13a)</b>

<b>I2a</b>	<b>Reason for urgency:</b>		
<b>I2b</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>	<b>Yes</b>	
		<b>No</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (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>	<b>Yes</b>	If yes, please discuss with the Monitoring Officer
		<b>No</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>I5</b>	<b>Which Corporate Management Team member has been consulted?</b>	<b>Name</b>	Karime Hassan
		<b>Job title</b>	Interim Strategic Director for Growth
		<b>Date consulted</b>	12 September 2024
<b>Sign-off</b>			
<b>I6</b>	<b>Sign off codes from the relevant departments consulted:</b>	<b>Democratic Support (mandatory)</b>	DS47 24/25
		<b>Finance (mandatory)</b>	CH.24.25.030
		<b>Legal (mandatory)</b>	LS.2333.kt.120924
		<b>Procurement (if applicable)</b>	
		<b>Corporate property (decisions involving Council owned land or facilities) (if applicable)</b>	
		<b>Human Resources (if applicable)</b>	
<b>Appendices</b>			
<b>I7</b>	<b>Ref.</b>	<b>Title of appendix</b>	
	A	Part I Supporting Summary Report	

	B	Equalities Impact Assessment ( <i>where required</i> )						
	C	Climate Impact Assessment						
<b>Confidential/exempt information</b>								
18a	<b>Do you need to include any confidential/exempt information?</b>	Yes	x	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)				
		No						
		<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>
18b	<b>Confidential/exempt briefing report title:</b> Part II Business Case			x				
<b>Background Papers</b>								
19	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>								
20	I agree the decision and confirm that it is not contrary to the Council's policy and budget framework, Corporate Plan or Budget. In taking this decision I have given due regard to the Council's duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between people who share protected characteristics under the Equalities Act (2010) and those who do not. For further details please see the EIA attached.							
<b>Signature</b>				<b>Date of decision</b>		1 <sup>st</sup> October 2024		
<b>Print Name</b>		Councillor Tudor Evans OBE (Leader of the Council)						