

# Cabinet

**Monday 14 October 2024**

## **PRESENT:**

Councillor Evans OBE, in the Chair.

Councillor Laing, Vice Chair.

Councillors Aspinall, Briars-Delve, Coker, Dann, Haydon, Lowry, Penberthy and Cresswell.

Also in Attendance: Paul Barnard (Strategic Director for Strategic Planning and Infrastructure), Alison Critchfield (Assistant Head of Legal Services), Jens Gemmel (Interim Chief Operating Officer), Ruth Harrell (Director of Public Health (via Microsoft Teams)), David Haley (Director of Children's Services), Karime Hassan (Interim Strategic Director for Growth), Tracey Lee (Chief Executive), Neil Mawson (Housing Delivery Manager), David Northey (Service Director for Finance), Temilola Salimon (Service Director for Children, Young People and Families), Jamie Sheldon (Senior Governance Advisor), Kirstie Spencer (Head of Health & Safety), Chris Squire (Service Director for HR & OD), Gary Walbridge (Strategic Director for Adults, Health and Communities) and Jonathan Cowie (Chief Executive, Plymouth Community Homes).

The meeting started at 2.00 pm and finished at 4.02 pm.

*Note: The full discussion can be viewed on the webcast of the City Council meeting at [www.plymouth.gov.uk](http://www.plymouth.gov.uk). At a future meeting, the Council 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.*

## 45. **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were made.

## 46. **Minutes**

The minutes from the meeting held on 9 September 2024 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

## 47. **Questions from the Public**

There were no questions from the public.

## 48. **Chair's Urgent Business**

There were no items of Chair's urgent business.

## 49. **Ageing Well: State of Ageing**

Councillor Aspinall (Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care) introduced the item and highlighted the following points:

- a) People were now living longer than ever before, and someone aged 65 in the UK in 2024 could expect to live to 85, which was 10 years longer than their parent's generation;
- b) One in five babies born in 2024 would live to see their 100<sup>th</sup> birthday;
- c) The Ageing World programme sought to support people by keeping them as healthy as possible and helping make Plymouth a place where people with chronic illness or disability were able to maintain their independence;
- d) The term 'older age' meant a stage of life rather than a number, however the programme focussed on people over the age of 50;
- e) The earlier in the ageing process that people received support to stay active and connected, the less the likelihood that they would need health and social care interventions later in life;
- f) Everything Plymouth City Council (PCC) did around ageing well was about empowering people and ensuring Plymouth was a more accessible and inclusive city;
- g) Ageing was not a problem to be solved, but an opportunity and older people were valued assets that made endless contributions to their families, neighbourhoods and the city;
- h) The priorities outlined in the State of Ageing in Plymouth 2024 report gave focus to healthy ageing, creating age-friendly places and spaces, ensuring relevant and good quality work and training opportunities and, making sure that people felt included and connected as they age;
- i) The report gave PCC a framework for the right opportunities and environment for people to thrive as they move into their later years.

Ruth Harrell (Director of Public Health) added:

- j) The Ageing Well programme signalled a commitment from PCC towards age-friendly communities;
- k) People living longer was a global and national phenomenon;
- l) The vision for Plymouth was for age not to be a barrier for people to be able to enjoy an outstanding quality of life;
- m) There were two versions of the State of Ageing in Plymouth 2024 report, one of which was shorter and had been published, the other was longer had included more data;
- n) The report outlined what it was like to age, and be an older person, in Plymouth;

- o) The report included information about population health and well-being, ageing, culture, employment and housing in Plymouth;
- p) The report also incorporated lived experiences and insights that had been found through working with older people to better understand what was important to people as they age;
- q) The priorities for the first phase of the programme were set out in the report as follows:
  - i) Focussing, through Thrive Plymouth, on how PCC could support people to age well. A large portion of this focus was around keeping active, expanding strength and looking at balance;
  - ii) Looking at how businesses could be more supportive to older people and create age-friendly places and spaces;
  - iii) Linking with strategies already in place to create healthy streets;
  - iv) Promoting a Climate Change Ambassador Programme to involve people in nature;
  - v) Work around promoting active travel for the over 50s and looking at Community Transport;
  - vi) Participation and inclusion;
  - vii) Work around the age friendly employer pledge and ensuring there were a wide range of opportunities for older people;
  - viii) Adaptations to housing, including insulation due to concerns about fuel poverty;
  - ix) Tackle ageism and working to challenge negative stereotypes;
- r) On 1 October 2024, a range of organisations across Plymouth had contributed both time and resources to offer a variety of different programmes to older people including:
  - i) The launch of the Ageing Well Hub on the PCC website;
  - ii) Drama and seated dance workshops from Elder Tree and the Theatre Royal;
  - iii) An Information and Advice Fair which had 12 stores and wide range of attendees;
  - iv) A Volunteer Fair with 166 attendees;
  - v) Taster events held by Plymouth Active;
- s) A working group had been set up for Councillors and senior officers;

- t) 10 Years of Thrive Plymouth would be relaunched in the future, with ageing well as a key feature;
- u) Communications were being led by PCC to tackle ageism;
- v) Ongoing conversations and inquiries would happen to ensure information from people regarding what they loved about Plymouth, what they saw as positives and how PCC could improve;
- w) There would be a photo competition inviting images of what it felt like to age well in Plymouth.

In response to questions it was explained:

- x) 24 organisations attended the Volunteer Fair;
- y) Thanks were given to everybody who had participated in Ageing Well programme and the Volunteer Fair.

Councillor Evans OBE (Leader of the Council) added:

- z) There were testimonials in the report which included a 22 year old who had started volunteering and prompted viewers to read them online;
- aa) There were just under 400 people who were entitled to pension credit and were not claiming it as PCC had reached out to them to ensure they had the gateway to additional help if it was needed;
- bb) People claiming pension credit was also aided the local economy as the money was spent in Plymouth.

Cabinet agreed to the following recommendations:

1. To note the State of Ageing in Plymouth 2024 report;
2. To approve the priorities outlined in the report.

## 50. **Health, Safety and Wellbeing Policy**

Councillor Dann (Cabinet Member for Customer Services, Sport, Leisure and HR & OD) introduced the report and highlighted the following points:

- a) The policy was adopted by PCC due to health and safety affecting every employee and Councillor, as well as everybody who used PCC services and the public;
- b) Statistically, more people were affected by their workplace if they did not feel well, which was why PCC had an occupational health service and promoted healthy working environments;

- c) There were eight different tiers in the policy to include health and safety for all responsibilities within PCC;
- d) The Health and Safety Executive provided a cycle, which was as follows: Plan what to do, check to ensure it was being done, act if it is not being done or if anything goes wrong. This ensured constant reviewing of health and safety policies and ensured that as working processes and practices changed, PCC was kept up to date;
- e) There would be a new HR system in place by Easter 2025 which would monitor the training happening across PCC in regards to health and safety.

Chris Squire (Service Director for HROD) added:

- f) Great health, safety and wellbeing in the workplace would result in better outcomes for Plymouth citizens;
- g) All staff had a responsibility to look after their own health, safety and wellbeing as well as those of others;
- h) He would be attending a health and safety tour of Prince Rock Depot with Councillor Dann (Cabinet Member for Customer Services, Sport, Leisure and HR & OD) and Councillor Briars-Delve (Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change).

Kirstie Spencer (Head of Health and Safety) added:

- i) The discussions held at Cabinet had both an indirect and a direct impact on health and safety;
- j) Health and safety was an integral part of people's roles;
- k) The policy was more explicit than previous iterations had been;
- l) Cabinet Members should familiarise themselves with the parts of the policy which relate directly to their portfolios;
- m) The policy was in line with the Health and Safety Executives best practice - 'HSG 65 Managing Health and Safety'.

Tracey Lee (Chief Executive) added:

- n) This was a revision to previous health and safety policies which had in the past been signed off by herself and the relevant Cabinet Member;
- o) The policy ensured maximum visibility and clearly articulated roles and responsibilities.

In response to questions, it was explained:

- p) Accountability was different to responsibility in that responsibilities could be delegated down through lines of management;
- q) The Council ensured there were adequate resources for health and safety;
- r) PCC was a learning organisation which would continually improve, and quarterly updates were given at CMT (Corporate Management Team) to ensure they were adhering to key performance indications and key actions;
- s) The new HR system would mean any individual, with or without a licence, could record an incident, near miss or hazardous situation which would then be escalated to line management for investigation at a proportionate level;
- t) The new system would be used to record training and data against a person's individual account;
- u) Key Performance Indicators for the new system would include ensuring incidents were closed on time, and that they were properly investigated within the set parameters;
- v) Regular conversations took place between each directorate and trade unions to ensure oversight and visibility;
- w) Every portfolio holder would have regular updates with their directorate to have an update on health and safety and properly understand the issues the directorates faced at a strategic level.

Cabinet agreed to the following recommendations:

1. To note the contents of Health, Safety and Wellbeing Policy, specifically Member's accountabilities and responsibilities;
2. To communicate and role-model positive Health, Safety and Wellbeing performance and leadership, and actively improve and maintain individual Health, Safety and Wellbeing competency.

## 51. **Completion of the North Prospect Regeneration Project**

Councillor Evans OBE (Leader of the Council) introduced the item and highlighted the following points:

- a) There had been a celebration event at the Beacon Community Hub in North Prospect, where there was an exhibition of memorabilia in North Prospect and its history, as well as the regeneration process accompanied with photos of videos;
- b) The regeneration of North Prospect had had a positive effect on not only the ward, but the city as a whole;

- c) The regeneration had prompted new business and new opportunities for local people, and had seen the standard of housing improved with heating costs in particular being reduced;
- d) Thanks were given to the people of North Prospect for their resilience during the regeneration;
- e) Thanks were given to Homes England and Plymouth Community Homes.

Councillor Penberthy (Cabinet Member for Housing, Co-Operative Development and Communities) added:

- f) North Prospect, or 'Swilly' as it was known, was developed just after the First World War by the City Council. It was the first Garden Suburb with over 1000 family homes and was described in the paper as 'paradise for 12 shillings a week';
- g) Decline in the area started in the 1960s, and in 1973, the Council changed the name 'Swilly' to North Prospect to try and improve its image;
- h) By the time of the 2001 census, North Prospect had become a place of concentrated and persistent deprivation;
- i) During the housing stock transfer to Plymouth Community Homes in 2009, North Prospect was ranked as one of the most deprived communities in England;
- j) The estate was characterised by challenging housing conditions, with poor original build quality, structural defects, damp, and 60% of the affordable housing failing the decent homes standard;
- k) The aims of the regeneration were about more than replacing buildings, and were a set of actions around reducing crime, increasing education and skills and, improving employment outcomes;
- l) The vision set out included the following points:
  - i) That children and adults were happy and health in that community and that they knew their rights and responsibilities;
  - ii) Community spirit was lively and proud;
  - iii) That the housing and environment was high quality, safe and clean;
  - iv) Crime and antisocial behaviour was not tolerated;
  - v) That the community could raise and fulfil their aspirations, and lead fulfilled lives and have the skills they want and need;
  - vi) That local services were effective, responsive and co-ordinated;

- vii) That there was an improved image for the estate across the city;
- m) The evaluation was funded by PCC, Plymouth Community Homes and Homes England as this was a major project;
- n) There was to be no net loss of affordable housing which posed a challenge for Plymouth Community Homes;
- o) The regeneration was done through close partnership working, including work with Homes England (Supported by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG)), and Plymouth Community Homes;
- p) PCC did what they could as a council, including passing compulsory purchase orders which did not need to be used during all five phases of the regeneration, which was an achievement;
- q) £2.2 million was made available from PCC, and PCC worked with Plymouth Community Homes to secure a further £2.3 million from MHCLG to ensure phase four could happen. Furthermore, PCC worked with Plymouth Community Homes to secure £28,510,798 from Homes England.

Jonathan Cowie (Chief Executive, Plymouth Community Homes) added:

- r) Thanked Councillor Evans OBE (Leader of the Council) and Cabinet Members for their vision 25 years ago;
- s) The regeneration was the largest in the South West at this scale, going from 800 to 1100 new homes, with 300 being fully furnished;
- t) 70% of residents who had moved away had returned to North Prospect;
- u) Since the regeneration there had been a 76% drop in public order offences, and an overall 59% drop in total crime;
- v) There had been a 28% increase away from low incomes and a drop in overall unemployment of 1.3%;
- w) 95% of residents said they feel safe in their new home and community;
- x) There was a 10% increase in young people achieving level four and above;
- y) There was a 17% reduction in premature deaths below the age of 75.

Councillor Evans OBE (Leader of the Council) added:

- z) Jack Dromey (Former Member of Parliament) visited North Prospect Road to see the new homes, and spoke to a resident who informed him that before she was living in South North Prospect Road in an old, damp and distressed property and therefore the children were often too ill to go to school due to lung problems. In the new home she now had a desk, and the children were attending school and doing well.



Cabinet agreed to note the report.

52. **Children's Service Update**

Councillor Laing (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children's Social Care, Culture and Communications) introduced the report, and highlighted the following points:

- a) The report provided an update on financial status and strategic initiatives of PCC's Children's Services as of October 2024;
- b) The report followed up on the Quarter One Financial Monitoring Cabinet report which was presented in August 2024, which identified a projected overspend of £4.692 million, related to placement costs of children in Plymouth's care;
- c) The aim of the report was to inform Cabinet of the current financial pressures, the measures taken to address the challenges and the progress that had been made since the last update;
- d) The report highlighted the significant efforts and achievements in managing placement costs, including successful transitions from children from high cost residential placements to more appropriate and cost effective accommodation;
- e) The report also outlined the ongoing challenges in finding suitable foster care placements and the strategic actions which were implemented to mitigate those issues;
- f) The report discussed the broader implications for the Medium-Term Financial Plan and PCC's commitment to ensuring the safety and well-being of children in their care;
- g) By providing a comprehensive overview of the current financial landscape, and what proactive steps were being taken, the report aimed to support informed decision making and strategic planning within the council.

Temilola Salimon (Service Director for Children, Young People and Families) added:

- h) There was a review of children who were exploring long-term family homes twice a week;
- i) There had been a review of the fostering offer to attract more carers.

Councillor Evans OBE (Leader of the Council) added:

- j) There was a large national variation in standards of childcare provision, with PCC having less in-house provision than other councils;

- k) It was important to understand why there was such a variation between local authorities and their ability to attract carers;
- l) It was useful to review factors such as packages and pay conditions and compare them to the best performing councils to learn and improve.

Councillor Laing (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children's Social Care, Culture and Communications) added:

- m) She would be reaching out to her counterparts across councils where the balance for foster carers was in the local authorities favour to understand what PCC might have been missing, and what about their foster care packages was more attractive;
- n) More independent foster carers were showing an interest in becoming local authority carers.

Councillor Lowry (Cabinet Member for Finance) added:

- o) A request that in the next report, the specific actions around providing in-house residential care were included;
- p) The next report should record the actions that were being taken, and the will of PCC, in delivering residential care.

David Haley (Director of Children's Services) added:

- q) A summit was held in June 2024 which included conversations about both the financial and support packages for foster carers;
- r) Within the Mockingbird programme there were 'constellations' which provided children with extended networks of support, preventing the need for respite foster care.

Cabinet agreed to note the report.

## 53. **Leader's Announcements**

Councillor Evans OBE (Leader of the Council) gave the following announcements:

- a) A letter had been written to Kevin Orford (Acting Chair of NHS Devon) to reflect on a meeting attended by him and Tracey Lee (Chief Executive) in September 2024, where concerns had been raised around unfair treatment of Plymouth in relation to funding in the Devon system;
- b) Plymouth had been under allocated for 10 years for NHS services and this had been recognised by the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) who had taken steps to address it as there were health outcomes in Plymouth which were not good;
- c) The Devon Integrated Care Board (ICB) Fair Shares funding was agreed in October 2023 and left Plymouth 1.8% below the needs based funding assessment, meaning the

underfunding was £10.3 million;

- d) The funding that had been agreed did not take into account the deprivation of Plymouth and did not reflect the inequality of health outcomes;
- e) The request to the Chair of NHS Devon was a proper board level review to consider a policy change to ensure equality and fairness in Plymouth;
- f) Local MPs had been included in the receipt of the letter;
- g) Plymouth were the first Freeport to have committed the £25 million capital allocation on job creation projects;
- h) The MHCLG reported that Plymouth's annual audit was exemplary in terms of process and assurance;
- i) The Freeport was surrounded by theories, including the privatisation of Dartmoor. The Freeport was solely the building of industrial premises in Plymouth and the South Hams;
- j) Money was being allocated for Port improvements at Millbay, Oceansgate innovation barns, Beaumont Way industrial units at Langage Business Park, Princess Yachts and Cattewater Harbour Commissioners;
- k) A major milestone had been reached with the Guildhall refurbishment project as a major contractor had been appointed;
- l) The refurbished Guildhall would provide a city centre music venue, with investments in the interior sound and lighting;
- m) Refurbishments at Tinside had started and were part of the £10 million refurbishment programme. The programme also included the Mount Batten Centre, the Mount Batten Tower, the public realm around Mount Batten, the Garden Battery at Mount Edgumbe and projects at Ernesettle Creek and Firestone Bay;
- n) PCC was working with the National Lottery, the Youth Investment Fund, and the Levelling Up Fund to develop Plymouth's iconic assets and bring back underused, buildings. This would include a new Café Terrace even space and youth hub at Tinside, a bistro, changing facilities and entrance at the Mount Batten Centre, an enhanced public realm and waterfront walkway at the Mount Batten Peninsular, a new public pontoon, the Mount Batten Tower and Mount Edgumbe Garden Battery access and interpretation improvements meaning they would be open to the public on a permanent basis;
- o) Over 300 young people had been involved in youth projects at Tinside;
- p) There would be improvement in facilities for wild swimmers at Firestone Bay and Community facilities at Ernesettle Creek;

- q) In October Plymouth would host the Marine Stewardship Conference (MSC\_ annual conference at The Box. Plymouth had been chosen because of its commitment to the fishing industry;
- r) The MSC wanted to work with PCC on a number of fishing improvement projects in 2025;
- s) Plymouth had hosted Peter Denton (Homes England Chief Executive) and he would bring the whole Homes England Board to Plymouth in November;
- t) He had visited Matthew Pennycook (Minister of State for Housing and Planning) and secured a ministerial meeting for all three Plymouth MPs, himself and Tracey Lee (Chief Executive);
- u) Gareth Bradford (Lead for Crown Estates) had visited to discuss floating offshore wind and potential for Plymouth;
- v) Richard Davies (Vice Chancellor of Newcastle University) had visited Plymouth to discuss civic partnering from a university perspective;
- w) Thanks were given to the local construction companies who came together to aid those who had damage after the bomb was removed from Keyham. 18 local companies volunteered their time, materials and equipment to the value of £40,000.

#### 54. **Cabinet Member Updates**

Councillor Laing (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children’s Social Care, Culture and Communications) gave the following updates:

- a) There was a major exhibition upcoming at The Box, Land, Sea and Sky, which showcased the work of Ingrid Pollard, JMW Turner and Vija Celmins who, although worked more than 200 years apart, were connected through their close observation of nature and skilful use of materials;
- b) The exhibition included three paintings and eight watercolours on loan from the Tate, plus two watercolours and a selection of prints from The Box’s permanent collection;
- c) Often cited as one of the greatest artists of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Turner left a legacy of over 30,000 works on paper, oil paintings and sketchbooks after his death, and his mastery of history, landscape and seascape painting and the themes in his works had continued to inspire other artists since;
- d) 23 of Vija Celmins prints and drawings would also be on display. Born in Latvia in 1938, and now based in New York, Celmins had exhibited all over the world and was best known for her photorealistic paintings and drawings of natural environments;
- e) Land, Sea and Sky was completed by a recent body of work by multimedia artist, photographer and 2022 Turner prize nominee, Ingrid Pollard. The work was acquired

by The Box in 2023 by the Freelands Art Acquisition;

- f) The Freelands Art Acquisition was a unique partnership between Art Fund and Freeland Foundation which helped museums acquire work by contemporary female artists who'd won the Freelands award;
- g) Pollard's 'Three Drops of Blood' drew on two years of research that unearthed folk histories of Devon's botanical gardens and ferns. She travelled across the county exploring how flora and fauna had inspired Devon's historic lacemaking industry. The resulting installation included framed imaged, prints and six unique 'bark boxes';
- h) Pollard was involved in the selection of the Turner prints from The Box's collection and had loaned a large LED work to the exhibition;
- i) The Box would display examples of Devon lace and archival material relating to ferns from its collections;
- j) Plymouth Art Weekend would take place over three days and was a celebration of Plymouth's rich and diverse, creative communities. The theme for 2024 was 'Do It Yourself, Help Each Other Out';
- k) There would be visual art, hands-on workshops and exiting events which showcased Plymouth's home-grown talent, alongside welcoming artists from across the UK to share their work;
- l) The project received Art Council funding as well as city support from The Box and partners, including the City Centre Company, the Royal William Yard and Drakes Circus.

Councillor Penberthy (Cabinet Member for Housing, Co-Operative Development and Communities) gave the following updates:

- m) The housing and homelessness crisis was not just a Plymouth problem, but a national issue caused by decisions made over the past 10 – 14 years by Government;
- n) Many more households were concerned about their security as a result of unaffordable rent increases and the cost of living crisis;
- o) There were over 7,100 households on the waiting list, 200 households in temporary accommodation and 160 in bed and breakfast. Of the 360 in temporary accommodation and 160 in B&Bs, 187 were families with children;
- p) Following the decision in December 2023 to invest in temporary accommodation, PCC had been able to complete the purchase of the Royal Building in town at St Andrew's Cross;
- q) The decisions meant PCC had been able to buy former student accommodation which would be converted into 30, one, two and three bedroom flats for families in temporary accommodation;

- r) Staff would be in offices on site to provide support to ensure the trauma of being homeless is tackled and PCC were able to help people move forward into good solutions;
- s) He visited the Sterling Project which was one of PCC's Plan For Homes sites. It was a redundant doctor surgery owned by the NHS, and a redundant old people's home which was owned by PCC. The land was cleared, and in partnership with Livewest and Alabare, and with funding from Livewest, PCC, Homes England and the MHCLG generation fund, there were 25 new social rent homes, one of which was wheelchair accessible;
- t) PCC had begun consultations for the development of 550 new homes at 'Land at West Park', 150 of which would be affordable homes;
- u) He visited Broadland Gardens to see the low energy and affordable to run open market homes, and plant a tree and unveil a bench in honour of former Councillor Vivien Pengelly who was key in getting the site moving forward;
- v) October was Black History Month and major employers throughout Plymouth were holding events over the month of October;
- w) Access had been agreed with local land owners at Firestone Bay, meaning PCC could have access to build repairs to the tidal pool;
- x) Thanked Alderwoman Sue McDonald who had been steadfast in the pursuit of the reparations of Firestone Bay tidal pool;
- y) The Household Support Fund would be launched for October 2024 to March 2024. PCC were awarded the funding of almost £2.3 million by the Government in September 2024 and that would be spent to provide £13 per week in food vouchers for 13,000 children in receipt of free school meals during the school holidays;
- z) Citizens Advice and Plymouth Community Energy would be continuing to offer the advice guidance and grants under the Household Support Fund;
- aa) PCC would be providing advice and practical support, including the provision of food through a variety of local volunteer community sector support agencies, and children in crisis would have additional support through children's services and, the community connections team in partnership with The Alliance would be seeking to better support homeless people and prevent homelessness through a grant award.

Councillor Haydon (Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Events, Libraries, Cemeteries and Crematoria) gave the following update:

- bb) The library service had secured funding of £3,000 from Nature England, who were partnering with libraries to connect communities with nature. The project would be based in Plympton and the funding would provide 10 pairs of binoculars, bird feeding stations and weekly walks around the park to enable customers to build their connection to nature;

- cc) 3,510 young people registered to go the summer reading challenge in 2024, which was an increase on 2023, and 2,187 completed the challenge;
- dd) Over 1000 people visited the new crematorium park open day which included a tour of the ceremony rooms and ‘behind the scenes’;
- ee) The response to the open day highlighted the compassion behind the scenes, the facilities at the park provided a surreal and peaceful environment and there was respect and dignity;
- ff) PCC would host their annual bonfire night celebration on 5 November 2024 where there would be a firework display, a bonfire, a fair ground and catering on Plymouth Hoe;
- gg) Based on last year’s figure, it was expected up to 23,000 people would visit Plymouth Hoe for bonfire night;
- hh) Plymouth had held the Purple Flag in August 2024, including an evening and early morning showcasing the work PCC did to keep the night-time economy safe. Subsequently, PCC had been reaccredited the Purple Flag;
- ii) There were only 100 Purple Flag destinations across the globe, including the UK, Ireland, Sweden, Malta, New Zealand and Australia, including world renowned tourist destinations;
- jj) The Purple Flag represented a gold standard of management of evening and night-time economy;
- kk) PCC, in partnership with Devon Community Foundation, were open for grants of up to £5,000 for organisations who were doing good work to help women feel safe, or provided services for adults and children who were survivors of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG).

Councillor Lowry (Cabinet Member for Finance) gave the following update:

- ll) £19 million had been spent on providing the Derriford District Centre, which would be complete in October 2024. The District Centre included a new Marks and Spencer, Aldi, gym and dry cleaners;
- mm) The Derriford District Centre had created in excess of 120 jobs for full-time employees;
- nn) As it was PCC owned land, the money the Derriford District Centre would provide in rent and business rates would pay off the debt accrued during the building process.

Councillor Cresswell (Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Apprenticeships) gave the following update:

- oo) Supported internships were available to young people with special educational needs and disabilities and have Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP), aged between 16

and 14;

- pp) Supported internships were structured work-based study programmes where young people were supported by a learning provider;
- qq) Supported internships provided the young person with the opportunity to achieve sustained, paid employment by equipping them with the skills that were needed to work through learning in the work-place;
- rr) They were full-time education and the supported work placements were part of the course;
- ss) The internships normally lasted from six months to a year and should contribute to the long-term careers goals of the young person and match their abilities;
- tt) Supported internships included a personalised study programme which was delivered by the school or college, and gave the opportunity for the young person to study relevant qualifications;
- uu) Over the past 18 months work had been done to grow the number of supported internship placements, and in February 2023 there were only nine placements and one provider. As of October 2024, there were now 75 placements for the academic year 2024/25 and three providers;
- vv) City College Plymouth had taken on 39 supported internships, which was one of the highest entries for a college across the UK;
- ww) In 2023/2024, 97% of supported internships from City College Plymouth went on to a positive next step in terms of employment or further education and 100% of supported internships from Discovery College entered paid employment;
- xx) Plymouth had achieved 89% of employment, education and training status against a self-imposed target of 88% for young people with SEND in the academic year 2023/2024 and therefore this target had been increased to 92% for the new academic year.

Councillor Dann (Cabinet Member for Customer Services, Sport, Leisure and HR&OD) gave the following update:

- yy) 20 legal agreements, totalling £23 million, had been signed off for Brickfields, meaning grant funding could now be obtained for the city and work could start on the site;
- zz) The Brickfields site would provide:
  - i) A new home for Plymouth Argyle Youth Academy;
  - ii) All weather pitches, one of which would be covered;
  - iii) New community changing facilities for all sports people using the site, including the athletics track;



- iv) A new hockey pitch at Stoke Damerel Community College;
- aaa) The hope was that the opening of the new Brickfields site would inspire young people and transform sport within the city;
- bbb) 85 holiday clubs had been co-ordinated across Plymouth by the Active Lifestyles Team, providing nearly 22,000 free places for children eligible for free school meals, looked after children, young carers, children with EHCP's;
- ccc) There were 52 types of clubs including Plymouth Dance, Plymouth Sport, The Zebra Collective and, Hamoaze House.

Councillor Aspinall (Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care) gave the following update:

- ddd) The Plymouth Health and Social Care Careers showcase event happened in October 2024 and there were 426 visitors including groups of Health and Social Care students from Discovery College and City College Plymouth;
- eee) Exhibitors and speaker sessions included the University Hospital Plymouth NHS Trust, Livewell Southwest, adult social care providers, the Complex Lives Alliance, child care providers as well as training providers and higher education institutions;
- fff) Staff in the PCC commissioning service were spending time in adult care homes to hear information about what life was like for people living there, including coffee mornings and talking with residents on a one to one basis and in groups;
- ggg) Key themes included:
  - i) The importance of friends and family members being welcome into the home;
  - ii) Staff kindness and;
  - iii) Maintaining a sense of feeling at home;
- hhh) The Health Watch programme would start in November 2024 and would focus on seeking feedback from those who use PCC health and social care services within care homes;
  - iii) There was a 'voice of the service user' questionnaire that captured feedback in 12 areas and residents and their families could complete these at their leisure.

55. **LGA Update**

Councillor Evans OBE (Leader of the Council) gave the following update:

- a) There would be an update from the LGA conference in due course;

- b) The LGA had been lobbying in the run up to the budget, in particular making the case around broken local government funding;
- c) In 2025, councils would face a funding gap of more than two billion pounds.