

Housing and Community Service Scrutiny Panel



Date of meeting:	04 December 2024
Title of Report:	Homelessness Position 2024, including Families, Statutory Homeless Single People and those Rough Sleeping
Lead Member:	Councillor Chris Penberthy (Cabinet Member for Housing, Cooperative Development, and Communities)
Lead Strategic Director:	Gary Walbridge (Strategic Director for People)
Author:	Jackie Kings
Contact Email:	Jackie. Kings@ plymouth.gov.uk
Your Reference:	
Key Decision:	No
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

Purpose of report:

To provide members with an update on the number of temporary accommodation units to be developed at the Royal Building, the number of households in temporary and emergency (B&B and holiday lets) accommodation and the winter arrangements for those rough sleeping. A full discussion with the Cabinet Member for Housing Co-operative Development and Communities, will take place at the February Housing and Community Service Scrutiny Panel Meeting.

Recommendations and Reasons

That the Housing and Community Service Scrutiny Panel notes the report and agrees to receive a full briefing in February.

Alternative options considered and rejected

n/a

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

Keep Young People, Children and Adults Protected/ Focus on Prevention and Early Intervention/ Reduced Health Inequalities and Helping People Feel Safe in Plymouth.

Implications for the Medium-Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications

The use of B&B and holiday lets to meet the Council's statutory homelessness duties continues to place financial pressure on revenue budgets. There are no financial implications as a result of this report.

Financial Risks

An increase in demand for temporary accommodation by statutory homeless households could increase the use of expensive nightly paid accommodation and financial pressure on revenue budgets. There are no financial implications as a result of this report.

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

None

Other Implications: e.g. Health and Safety, Risk Management, Child Poverty:

Access to good quality and suitable temporary accommodation supports the health and wellbeing needs of homeless households and those rough sleeping

Appendices

*Add rows as required to box below

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If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.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

Background papers:

*Add rows as required to box below

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

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

Sign off:

Fin	n/a	Leg	n/a	Mon Off	n/a	HR	n/a	Assets	n/a	Strat Proc	n/a
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Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Gary Walbridge

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

Date agreed: 22/11/2024

Cabinet Member approval: Councillor Chris Penberthy (Cabinet Member for Housing, Cooperative Development, and Communities)

Date approved: 21/11/2024

1. Refurbishment of the Royal Building

The Royal Building was purchased in September 2024 and once refurbished will provide a minimum of 30 family supported temporary accommodation units.

2. Number of Homeless Households in temporary and emergency (B&B and holiday lets) accommodation

	No of households in B&B (including holiday lets)	No of households in temporary accommodation	Total No in B&B(including holiday lets) and temporary accommodation
Sept 2024	207	140	347

The table above shows that overall number of homeless households in temporary and B&B emergency accommodation in September 2024.

3. Rough Sleeping

Supporting Rough Sleepers

The Council’s Homelessness Service works closely with organisations delivering services to rough sleepers. Two dedicated Community Outreach Workers and the Rough Sleeper Team meet with rough sleepers in a range of locations and co-ordinate a multi-agency response.



An all-year Night Shelter called Sleep Safely based at Hamoaze is open and houses 12 individuals.

During very adverse weather where there is a yellow, amber or red weather warning, or/and three consecutive days of below zero degrees, PATH and PCC lead on the delivery of SWEP (Severe Weather Emergency Provision) with organisations working with rough sleepers. During periods of SWEP, the approach is to ensure that each rough sleeper has an offer of accommodation.

- Devonport House can accommodate an additional eight individuals and George House an additional ten individuals.

- SWEP light is also delivered where the weather may affect wellbeing but there has been no weather warning or low temperatures for three nights. There is work being progressed around involving faith groups in this response.