

EXECUTIVE DECISION

made by a Cabinet Member



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


Executive Decision Reference Number – L03 25/26

| Decision | |
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| 1 | Title of decision: Plymouth Sound National Marine Park (PSNMP) Levelling Up Funding (LUF) Grant, Funding Switch and Budget Increase |
| 2 | Decision maker: Councillor Tudor Evans OBE (Leader of the Council) |
| 3 | Report author and contact details: Sharon Mercer (Head of Strategic Programmes); Sharon.Mercer@plymouth.gov.uk ; +441752308808 |
| 4 | Decision to be taken: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Approves the Business Case Change Request to include fund switch of £2.5m, replacing Corporate Borrowing with LUF3 funding; Allocates an additional £1.750m for the project into the Capital Programme funded by LUF grant funding as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LUF Capacity & Capability Funding 2024/25 - £0.050m LUF3 – Accelerating Plymouth Waterfront - £1.700m |
| 5 | Reasons for decision: <p>The Levelling Up round 3 (LUF3) funding has now been secured and the MOU has been signed. Using LUF3 funding will enable PCC to reduce its Corporate Borrowing commitment. An additional £1.7M for the project is required to remove PSNMP Tinside refurbishment project budget pressures.</p> |
| 6 | Alternative options considered and rejected: <p>1. – Do Nothing</p> <p>The ‘Do Nothing’ option has been rejected as it would mean that PCC would refuse the LUF3 grant funding for the Waterfront regeneration project being delivered by the PSNMP. Rejecting this funding would result in additional PCC capital borrowing being required to deliver the budget required for the project in terms of the additional funding, and existing corporate borrowing commitments of £2.5m would be maintained and the opportunity to remove this commitment would be lost.</p> |
| 7 | Financial implications and risks: <p>Fund switch of £2.5m, replacing Corporate Borrowing with LUF3 funding.</p> <p>PSNMP had a fund raising target of £2.5m, this target was being underwritten by Corporate Borrowing. By securing £4.2m of LUF Grant the fundraising target has been met and the need for the underwrite can be removed.</p> <p>Allocation of an additional £1.750m for the project into the Capital Programme funded by LUF grant funding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LUF Capacity & Capability Funding 2024/25 - £0.050m |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LUF3 – Accelerating Plymouth Waterfront - £1.700m <p>PSNMP Tinside refurbishment project budget pressures will be removed by accepting additional funding to the project from the LUF grant.</p> <p>There is a small risk that retrospective claims for works completed to date will not be acceptable to be claimed against this Grant. This is considered a very small risk as confirmation has been received that retrospective claims are acceptable, and all expenditure is consistent with the grant expenditure types as defined during the grant process.</p> | | | |
| 8 | Legal Implications: (For completion by Legal Officers) None | | | |
| 9 | Is the decision a Key Decision? <p>(please contact Democratic Support for further advice)</p> <p>Please type an X into the relevant boxes</p> | Yes | No | Per the Constitution, a key decision is one which: |
| | | | X | in the case of capital projects and contract awards, results in a new commitment to spend and/or save in excess of £3million in total |
| | | | X | in the case of revenue projects when the decision involves entering into new commitments and/or making new savings in excess of £1million annually |
| | | | X | is significant in terms of its effect on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards in the area of the local authority. |
| | If yes, date of publication of the notice in the Forward Plan of Key Decisions | N/A | | |
| 10 | 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: | The PSNMP programme is key strategic priority for the Council and links to the following Corporate Plan priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make Plymouth a great place to grow up and grow old. This project seeks to enhance both Plymouth as a city and its citizens wellbeing by reconnecting people to the ocean and all the wellbeing benefits that brings. Being the home of the UK's first National Marine Park brings huge prestige to the city that raises the profile of the city nationally and internationally all of which encourages more investment and visitors to the city. Green Investment, Jobs, Skills and Better Education are delivered within the PSNMP project. Investment in local business, Inspire element will focus on Skills development and schools programme that seeks to engage with every primary school in Plymouth either annually for four years or for one full school year. Spending Money Wisely is a clear aim of the project. All ideas for the programme were tested in the development phase and capital plans were developed to RIBA 3 to ensure only the essential items were included and this was done through many rounds of review and value engineering to develop the solutions that represent the best value of money. | | |

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| I 1 | Please specify any direct environmental implications of the decision (carbon impact) | The environmental implications for the PSNMP programme were identified and considered as part of the original business case in approved by the Cabinet in February 2024. This decision does not change the environmental implications already considered. The climate impact assessment is attached. | | |
| Urgent decisions | | | | |
| I 2a | Is the decision urgent and to be implemented immediately in the interests of the Council or the public? Please type an X into the relevant box | Yes | | (If yes, please contact Democratic Support (democraticsupport@plymouth.gov.uk) for advice) |
| | | No | X | (If no, go to section I 3a) |
| I 2b | Reason for urgency: | | | |
| I 2c | Scrutiny Chair Signature: | | Date | |
| | Scrutiny Committee name: | | | |
| | Print Name: | | | |
| Consultation | | | | |
| I 3a | Are any other Cabinet members' portfolios affected by the decision? Please type an X into the relevant box | Yes | X | |
| | | No | | (If no go to section I 4) |
| I 3b | Which other Cabinet member's portfolio is affected by the decision? | Councillor Lowry (Cabinet Member for Finance) | | |
| I 3c | Date Cabinet member consulted | 19 March 2025 | | |
| I 4 | Has any Cabinet member declared a conflict of interest in relation to the decision? Please type an X into the relevant box | Yes | | If yes, please discuss with the Monitoring Officer |
| | | No | X | |
| I 5 | Which Corporate Management Team member has been consulted? | Name | Glenn Caplin-Grey | |
| | | Job title | Strategic Director for Growth | |
| | | Date consulted | 05 June 2025 | |
| Sign-off | | | | |

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| 16 | Sign off codes from the relevant departments consulted: | Democratic Support (mandatory) | JS03 25/26 | | | | | | |
| | | Finance (mandatory) | OW.25.26.007 | | | | | | |
| | | Legal (mandatory) | LS/00001312/1/AC/9/5/25 | | | | | | |
| | | Procurement (if applicable) | N/A | | | | | | |
| | | Corporate property (decisions involving Council owned land or facilities) (if applicable) | N/A | | | | | | |
| | | Human Resources (if applicable) | N/A | | | | | | |
| Appendices | | | | | | | | | |
| 17 | Ref. | Title of appendix | | | | | | | |
| | A | PSNMP Business Case Change Request 250313 v2 | | | | | | | |
| | B | Equalities Impact Assessment | | | | | | | |
| | C | Plymouth Sound National Marine Park Horizons project_PLY864 CIA Report | | | | | | | |
| Confidential/exempt information | | | | | | | | | |
| 18a | Do you need to include any confidential/exempt information? Please type an X into the relevant box | Yes | | 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 18b below. (Keep as much information as possible in the briefing report that will be in the public domain) | | | | | |
| | | No | X | | | | | | |
| | | Exemption Paragraph Number | | | | | | | |
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | |
| 18b | Confidential/exempt briefing report title: | | | | | | | | |
| Background Papers | | | | | | | | | |
| 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. | | | | | | | | |
| Title of background paper(s) | | Exemption Paragraph Number | | | | | | | |
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | |

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| PSNMP Business Case v1.0 (01/02/2024) | | | | | | | |
| PSNMP Committee Report 240212 v2 - Approved | | | | | | | |
| LUF MOU signed PCC + MHCLG | | | | | | | |
| Cabinet Member Signature | | | | | | | |
| 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. | | | | | | |
| Signature | |  | | Date of decision | | 24 June 2025 | |
| Print Name | | Councillor Tudor Evans OBE (Leader of the Council) | | | | | |