

EXECUTIVE DECISION

made by a **Cabinet Member**



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


Executive Decision Reference Number – L05 25/26

Decision	
1	Title of decision: Life Centre Fire Detection System and Public Address and Voice Alarm (PAVA) system upgrades
2	Decision maker (Cabinet member name and portfolio title): Councillor Tudor Evans OBE, Leader of the Council
3	Report author and contact details: Ciara Holmes, Facilities manager (Hard FM) Ciara.holmes@plymouth.gov.uk . 01752 304148
4	<p>Decision to be taken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approves the Business Case; • Allocates £381,879.56 for the project into the Capital Programme funded by Corporate Borrowing; • Authorises the procurement process; • Delegates the award of the contract to the Service Director for HR & OD where they do not already have authority to do so.
5	<p>Reasons for decision:</p> <p>Fire Detection System Upgrade</p> <p>All current devices on the Gent system are the original heads and are in an Amber / red state meaning they need to be replaced. The system has weekly faults causing expensive callouts from contractors to which some issues have been on the system for long periods that they have never fully been resolved. Whilst in general the current coverage is adequate in most areas there are a large number of void spaces above ceilings that lack any detection, which possess a fire detection risk.</p> <p>As the current system is closed protocol, this limits the ability to access the system remotely for management and maintenance and is more costly to maintain as only limited accredited contractors can work on the system.</p> <p>The proposal is to install 6 open protocol Advanced panels with Hochiki devices. As this system will be fully open protocol, it will be able to be worked on by any fire engineer should the contract with the existing Fire Alarm maintenance provider not be renewed. All parts will be readily available from multiple suppliers.</p> <p>The current building is wired as 4 loops throughout, the loop loadings and lengths exceed current requirements, therefore the proposal includes for splitting each of the 4 loops into 14 individual loops to meet the load requirements of BS5839-1 2017 and EN54.</p> <p>PAVA system upgrade</p> <p>The current system Baldwin Boxall is end of life and the original installation has both A and B lines connected into the same line output. The current BS5839-8 requires both lines to be separately powered to</p>

<p>give redundancy should a line output fail so the zone will still have sufficient Sound (DB) levels in the event of a fire alarm.</p> <p>To make the system compliant in line with the requirements of BS5839-8 2017, the proposal includes for replacement all control equipment and the rack for the PAVA. New Vigil 3 controllers to be installed and new cabling installed from the rack to a new touch screen desk mount microphone station on the reception desk.</p>			
<p>6 Alternative options considered and rejected:</p> <p>Option 1 - Abandon project</p> <p>Rejected as it would result in total or part of fire system failure. The Life Centre would have to be closed until system replaced/repaired. If repair is successful there would be no guarantee on longevity. A further failure would mean further closure of life centre. PAVA system would remain non-compliant.</p> <p>Option 2 - Replace failing objects</p> <p>Rejected as areas within the centre would still not covered by fire detection, fire detectors located in wrong location and could reduce detection times. The current PAVA system also does not have sufficient spare amplification should a line output fail to re-route the system to compensate for any failures therefore existing risks cannot be mitigated</p>			
<p>7 Financial implications and risk:</p> <p>Project funded by £381,879.56 of Corporate Borrowing.</p>			
<p>8 Legal Implications</p> <p>None arising from this report.</p>			
<p>9 Is the decision a Key Decision? a (Please contact Democratic Support for further advice)</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 £1 million
		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.
<p>If yes, date of publication of the notice in the Forward Plan of Key Decisions</p>		N/A	
<p>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:</p>		<p>This project supports the corporate priority to focus on prevention and early intervention through addressing the current issues we have with both systems and its deterioration due to age. It also aligns with the corporate priority to keep young people, children and adults protected and to ensure people feel safe in Plymouth.</p>	
<p>11 Please specify any direct environmental implications of the decision (carbon impact)</p>		<p>There is no direct environmental implication to this decision for additional funding.</p>	

Urgent decisions				
12	Is the decision urgent and to be implemented immediately in the interests of the Council or the public?	Yes		(If yes, please contact Democratic Support (democraticsupport@plymouth.gov.uk) for advice)
		No	X	(If no, go to section 13a)
12a	Reason for urgency:			
12b	Scrutiny Chair Signature:		Date	
	Scrutiny Committee name:			
	Print Name:			
Consultation				
13a	Are any other Cabinet members' portfolios affected by the decision?	Yes	X	
		No		(If no go to section 14)
13b	Which other Cabinet member's portfolio is affected by the decision?	Councillor Chris Penberthy (Cabinet Member for Housing, Cooperative Development and Communities)		
13c	Date Cabinet member consulted	12 June 2025		
14	Has any Cabinet member declared a conflict of interest in relation to the decision?	Yes		If yes, please discuss with the Monitoring Officer
		No	X	
15	Which Corporate Management Team member has been consulted?	Name	Ian Trisk-Grove	
		Job title	Service Director for Finance	
		Date consulted	04 July 2025	
Sign-off				
16	Sign off codes from the relevant departments consulted:	Democratic Support (mandatory)	JS15 25/26	
		Finance (mandatory)	ITG.25.26.030	

		Legal (mandatory)	LS/00001312/3/AC/30/6/25						
		Human Resources (if applicable)	N/A						
		Corporate property (if applicable)	N/A						
		Procurement (if applicable)	HG/PS/789/ED/0725						
Appendices									
I 7	Ref	Title of appendix							
	A	Capital Business Case							
	B	Equalities Impact Assessment							
	C	Climate Impact Assessment - LIF-5419-25							
Confidential/exempt information									
I 8a	Do you need to include any confidential/exempt information?		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 I 8b 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
I 8b	Confidential/exempt briefing report title:								
Background Papers									
I 9	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
Cabinet Member Signature									

<div>2 I agree the decision and confirm that it is not contrary to the Council's policy and budget framework, 0 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 and those who do not. For further details please see the EIA attached.</div>			
Signature		Date of decision	
		14 July 2025	
Print Name		Councillor Tudor Evans OBE	