

EXECUTIVE DECISION

made by a Cabinet Member



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


Executive Decision Reference Number – DL02 25/26

| Decision | |
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| 1 | Title of decision: Plymouth Sound National Marine Park (PSNMP) Mount Batten Pontoon |
| 2 | Decision maker: Councillor Jemima Laing (Deputy Leader) |
| 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"> 1. Approves the Business Case; 2. Allocates £2,093,698 for the project into the Capital Programme funded by Corporate Borrowing; 3. Confirms and allocates £264,000 from Improvements to Corporate Estate Fund to the Capital Programme; 4. Confirms and allocates £136,000 from Health and Safety Fund to the Capital Programme; 5. Delegates the award of the pontoon works contract to Service Director for Economic Development; 6. Delegates the decision of the ownership of the pontoon to the Strategic Director for Growth in consultation with the Mount Batten Board. |
| 5 | Reasons for decision: <p>This Mount Batten Pontoon replacement is part of the Plymouth Sound National Marine Park (PSNMP) project and seeks to deliver a more accessible pontoon to enable the Centre to provide better access to the activities for those with additional needs and ensuring more and more diverse people can engage with the heritage of the Sound.</p> <p>The pontoon will also deliver a new permanent home for the Mount Batten Water Ferry in a more sustainable location and to continue to operate a vital transport link to the Mount Batten Peninsula and repair a PCC asset in terms of the bridgehead where the pontoon operates from.</p> <p>The project seeks the additional funding to deliver a pontoon fit for purpose in the environment based on the extensive investigations works completed, as well as the additional requirements of the Mount Batten Water Ferry and the repair of the bridgehead.</p> |
| 6 | Alternative options considered and rejected: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Do Nothing - Would result in delivery of a minimal pontoon that would deliver some of the needs of the Centre, but would not deliver the Ferry requirements, thus resulting in termination of the Ferry service to the Mount Batten peninsula. Without the bridgehead repairs that new bridge would be fitted to a structure that is not fit for purpose and would likely fail in the near future thus making the pontoon unusable for all users which would likely result in the Mount Batten Centre failing as a going concern. 2. Delivery of the Ferry requirements and bridgehead repairs but not deliver the commercial berths that would provide an ongoing revenue stream to mitigate the maintenance cost of the new pontoon. This |

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| | option would require ongoing revenue cost to maintain an operate the pontoon with not mitigation to of set it. | | | |
| 7 | Financial implications and risks: Total of pontoon project (including commercial berths to generate a revenue income) is £4.2m. PSNMP budget is £1.7m, FM committed £400k, leaving £2.1m budget pressure to be addressed through corporate borrowing. Cost increase due to incorporate water taxi requirements (£650k), bridgehead repairs (300k), eight commercial berths (£730k), plus additional cost as a result of site investigations that have confirmed rock increasing the piling and construction costs for the project. Risks; <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Project costs could increase further due to unknowns at this stage. However included in this proposal is appropriate contingency allowances to mitigate any further costs increase. The pontoon project will be an NEC contract that means only approved compensation events could impact the cost, due to the extensive investigation works already completed and provided at the point of tender therefore would have been allowed for by the contractor.• That the estimated income from commercial berths and pontoon is not achieved either due to lack of dedicated focus to drive income, or due to other external pressures that limit the market available. Clearly assigning the responsibility to drive and secure income from the pontoon would need to be assigned to a suitably qualified resource by the owner of the pontoon. This resource would also need to identify ways to mitigate market pressures should the arise.• Marine works for the pontoon are impacted and delayed by winter storms. Contingency allowance made to cover downtime for crew and jack-up barge, as well as other unknown factors. | | | |
| 8 | Legal Implications (AC): A compliant procurement has been undertaken for the works. Once the ownership of the pontoon has been determined by the Strategic Director for Growth a decision regarding ownership of the pontoon will be published. | | | |
| 9 | Is the decision a Key Decision? (please contact Democratic Support for further advice) | 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 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 | | | |
| 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 | | |

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| | | <p>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 national and internationally all of which encourages more investment and visitors to the city.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 annual for four years or for one full school year. In addition the delivery of a new more sustainable location for the Mount Batten Water Ferry to land is part of Green Investment in sustainable transport routes. • 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. <p>The Mount Batten Centre through its activities which require the more accessible pontoon are an essential delivery partner to achieving the aim of the PSNMP project.</p> | | |
| I | Please specify any direct environmental implications of the decision (carbon impact) | <p>The environmental implications for the PSNMP programme including the Mount Batten pontoon were identified and considered as part of the original business case in approved by the Cabinet in Feb 2024. This decision does not change the environmental implications already considered.</p> | | |
| Urgent decisions | | | | |
| 12a | 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) |
| | Please type an X into the relevant box | No | x | (If no, go to section 13a) |
| 12b | Reason for urgency: | | | |
| 12c | Scrutiny Chair Signature: | | Date | |
| | Scrutiny Committee name: | | | |
| | Print Name: | | | |
| Consultation | | | | |
| | | Yes | X | |

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| I 3 a | Are any other Cabinet members' portfolios affected by the decision? | No | | |
| I 3 b | Which other Cabinet member's portfolio is affected by the decision? | Councillor Tudor Evans OBE (Leader) Councillor Sue Dann (Cabinet member for Customer Experience, Sport, Leisure and HR and OD) Councillor Chris Penberthy (Cabinet member for Housing, Cooperative Development and Communities) | | |
| I 3 c | Date Cabinet member consulted | 25 September 2025 | | |
| I 4 | Has any Cabinet member declared a conflict of interest in relation to the decision? | Yes | X | Discussed with Monitoring Officer, agreed approach for Councillor Laing (Deputy Leader) to take decision. Councillor Evans OBE (Leader has delegated this responsibility to Cllr Laing on 25/09/2025. |
| | | No | | |
| I 5 | Which Corporate Management Team member has been consulted? | Name | | Glenn Caplin-Grey |
| | | Job title | | Strategic Director for Growth |
| | | Date consulted | | 14/08/2025 |
| Sign-off | | | | |
| I 6 | Sign off codes from the relevant departments consulted: | Democratic Support (mandatory) | | JS30 25/26 |
| | | Finance (mandatory) | | ITG.25.26.064 |
| | | Legal (mandatory) | | LS/00001312/1/AC/26/9/25. |
| | | Procurement (if applicable) | | SN/PS/798/ED/0925 |
| | | Corporate property (decisions involving Council owned land or facilities) (if applicable) | | FM/250926/004 |
| | | Human Resources (if applicable) | | N/A |
| Appendices | | | | |
| I 7 | Ref. | Title of appendix | | |
| | A | Briefing report for publication - <i>PSNMP MB Pontoon budget uplift - Briefing Report v2</i> | | |
| | B | Equalities Impact Assessment - <i>250804-PSNMP-MB-EqIA-Mount-Batten-PONTOON</i> | | |
| | C | Climate Impact Assessment - <i>Mount Batten Pontoon_MOU-3478-25_19-05-2025_FINAL (1)</i> | | |
| | D | | | |
| Confidential/exempt information | | | | |
| | | Yes | x | |

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| I 8 a | Do you need to include any confidential/exempt information? Please type an X into the relevant box | No | | | | | | |
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| | | Exemption Paragraph Number | | | | | | |
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| I 8 b | Confidential/exempt briefing report title: 2025 Capital Business Case - PSNMP MB Pontoon_v6.4 (Approved) | | | X | | | | |
| 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 |
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| Cabinet Member Signature | | | | | | | | |
| 2 0 | 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 | | 26/09/25 | | |
| Print Name | | Councillor Jemima Laing (Deputy Leader) | | | | | | |