

Housing and Community Service Scrutiny Panel



Date of meeting:	22 October 2025
Title of Report:	Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Update (Sept 2025)
Lead Member:	Councillor Chris Penberthy (Cabinet Member for Housing, Cooperative Development, and Communities)
Lead Strategic Director:	Gary Walbridge (Strategic Director for Adults, Health and Communities)
Author:	Jackie Kings
Contact Email:	Jackie.Kings@Plymouth.gov.uk
Your Reference:	
Key Decision:	No
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

During Budget Scrutiny 2024/25, it was recommended: 'That 6 monthly updates are provided to the relevant scrutiny committee on delivery of planned savings within homelessness services, where £0.724m additional funding has been required. This report provides an overview of the coordinated response to homelessness and related challenges, for the information and consideration of the Scrutiny Committee.

Recommendations and Reasons

To note the progress made in addressing homelessness and rough sleeping pressures;
To endorse ongoing actions to address homelessness with compassion, resilience, and impact.

Alternative options considered and rejected

Not consider this report – Rejected, as this report responds to a recommendation from Budget Scrutiny 2024/25, and was endorsed by Cabinet.

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

- Plymouth Plan Policy HEA8 - "Focusing on the tackling and prevention of homelessness, including rough sleeping, and its wider impact."
- Also relates to the following in the Corporate Plan: Minimise the impact of the cost-of-living crisis and build more homes – for social rent and affordable ownership.
- 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. This has been managed within the MTFP and uplifted Grant will support this.

Financial Risks

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

Legal Implications

(Provided by Alison Critchfield AC)

As this is an update there are no legal implications arising from this report.

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

None

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

** When considering these proposals members have a responsibility to ensure they give 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.*

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: Homelessness & RS Update							

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	OW. 25.2 6.08 8	Leg	LS/0 0001 075/ 1/AC /10/1 0/25	Mon Off	N/A	HR	N/A	Assets	N/A	Strat Proc	N/A
Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Matt Garrett											
Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes Date agreed: 07/10/2025											
Cabinet Member approval: Councillor Chris Penberthy. Approved by e-mail Date approved: 07/10/2025											