

**QUESTION BY COUNCILLOR**

**Question submitted by:** Councillor Mrs Beer

**To Cabinet Member:** Councillor Penberthy

**Question:**

*Can you confirm where the funds came from to purchase the Royal Building in Plymouth for the homeless to live in? Also please confirm that if this money has been wasted given the fact the refurbishment to home homeless people has been either put on hold or will never happen?*

**Response:** ( for completion by City Council officers and Cabinet Members)

The money to purchase the Royal came from Service Borrowing.

The money has not been wasted, I refer again to the update I gave to Members at the Housing and Communities Scrutiny Panel statement last week, which for ease I have set out again below.

Since we purchased the Royal building, several things have happened that have changed the landscape of temporary housing provision in Plymouth.

With our partners, we were successful in bidding for a total of **£6,436,016** capital money from the Local Authority Housing Fund 3 and the Supported Housing Accommodation Programme with an additional **£2,867,185** of revenue funding to support residents living in these.

- LAHF 3 supported the delivery of 11 temporary accommodation units
- SHAP is supporting the delivery of 74 temporary accommodation units

At the same time, we have supported partners to deliver an additional 70+ units of temporary accommodation at no cost to the Council

All of these schemes needed to be delivered on tight funding timescales, this meant we had to balance priorities to ensure successful completion.

Whilst doing all of this we have also developed our recently announced Housing Partnership with Bournemouth Churches Housing Association (BCHA) which will deliver 22 units of temporary accommodation as well as 39 general needs homes. This will bring a forecast £18,300,000 of external investment into the city at a cost to the Plan For Homes capital programme of £1,000,000.

In total this is over 180 additional temporary accommodation units now being delivered or in the pipeline with over **£9,000,000** of investment from sources outside the Council in addition to the agreement with BCHA. This is an amazing achievement by our officers and partners,

In the meantime, we have been working through building surveys and looking at the standard of the Royal building with partners. We are also sense checking the priority accommodation mix that is now needed in the light of all of this additional activity. We are now ready to move forward with development of proposals for the building and look forward to being able to say more by the end of the year.

**Signed:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Pincher', with a long horizontal flourish extending from the end.

**Dated:** 29<sup>th</sup> October 2025