

MOTION ON NOTICE



Date of Council Meeting: 24 November 2025

Title of Motion: Regulation and Oversight of Government-Contracted Temporary Accommodation in Plymouth

Motion Narrative:

Council notes:

1. That Plymouth's private rented sector is under pressure, with growing use of Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) and other properties for temporary and supported accommodation.
2. That some of this accommodation may be arranged by external agencies or central-government contractors without the Council's prior consultation.
3. That Plymouth operates a mandatory and additional HMO licensing scheme under the Housing Act 2004 to safeguard tenants, neighbourhoods, and housing quality.
4. That unlicensed or unregulated use of properties for temporary accommodation can undermine public confidence and place strain on local services.

Council believes:

1. Every HMO or shared property used for temporary or supported accommodation in Plymouth should be fully licensed, inspected, and compliant with planning and safety standards.
2. The Council should be informed and consulted before any external agency uses local housing stock for government-contracted accommodation.
3. Proper funding and cooperation from central Government are necessary to ensure housing standards are met and local services are not adversely affected.

Action Required:

Council therefore resolves to:

1. Request the Cabinet Member for Housing, Co-operative Development and Communities writes to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities & Local Government and to the Home Office requesting:
 - advance consultation with Plymouth City Council before any new placements are made;
 - assurance that all properties used meet the Council's licensing and safety standards; and
 - adequate funding for local monitoring and enforcement.

2. Requests that the Scrutiny Management Board receives reports on:
- a) the scale and nature of government-contracted temporary accommodation in Plymouth, including any HMOs, identifying compliance with licensing and planning requirements.

b) local enforcement capacity following a review by the Cabinet Member for Housing Co-operative Development and Communities of the options for strengthening oversight of all HMOs used for temporary accommodation.

Proposer: Councillor Steve Ricketts

Seconder: Councillor Terri Beer