

## City Council

**Monday 15 September 2025**

### **PRESENT:**

Councillor Ms Watkin, in the Chair.

Councillor Tofan, Vice Chair.

Councillors Allen, Allison, Aspinall, Bannerman, Mrs Beer, Blight, Mrs Bridgeman, Coker, Cresswell, Dann, Dingle, Evans OBE, Freeman, Gilmour, Goslin, Haydon, Hendy, Holloway, Krizanac, Laing, Lawson, Lugger, McCarty, McLay, McNamara, Moore, Morton, Murphy, Ney, P.Nicholson, S.Nicholson, Penberthy, Penrose, Poyser, Raynsford, Ricketts, Simpson, M.Smith, Sproston, Steel, Stephens, Stevens, Taylor, Tippetts, Tuohy and Wood.

Apologies for absence: Councillors Briars-Delve, Cuddihee, Finn, Loveridge, Lowry, Noble, Reilly and R.Smith.

The meeting started at 2.00 pm and finished at 7.47 pm.

*Note: The full discussion can be viewed on the webcast of the City Council meeting at [www.plymouth.gov.uk](http://www.plymouth.gov.uk). At a future meeting, the Council will consider the accuracy of these draft minutes, so they may be subject to change. Please check the minutes of that meeting to confirm whether these minutes have been amended.*

## 22. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting that took place on 02 June 2025 were agreed subject to the following amendments to minute 23, Questions by Councillors:

	From	To	Subject
1	Cllr Lugger	Cllr Briars-Delve	Given issues with contractors, and other factors causing delay, could the Cabinet Member provide an update regarding progress of the Central Park Ponds project?
	Response: PCC had been let down by a previous contractor who had not been fulfilling the contract. A new contractor had now been appointed however, they required a three week period to mobilise the necessary resources on site. It was hoped that the project would be completed by the end of the summer period.		
2	Cllr Wood	Cllr Stephens	Thank you for responding to my Members written question on the formal pedestrian crossing facilities that I requested for St. Edwards Primary School and Manadon Vale Primary School. I am disappointed to read your response that neither location justifies formal pedestrian crossing facilities, and that

			neither school has raised the need for a crossing. This contrasts to my many conversations with parents, residents and teachers, including with a teacher who is leading the 'Safer Journey to School' campaign and has met several times with Fred Thomas MP and council officers to address the dangerous junction. Will the executive member reflect on his previous answer and agree to meet with me, fellow ward members and officers to agree to drive forward these much needed crossings please?
	Response: I would be happy to meet with you and Councillor colleagues in the ward, alongside the Road Safety Officer for them to share their previous conclusions and further conversations.		
3	Cllr Ney	Cllr Evans OBE	I have received many emails from Southway residents requesting transparency with the upcoming Mayoral referendum. One has asked about the claims online by the Labour supported 'Plymouth Knows Better' campaign regarding the £1.5 million costs. Could you disclose details of how these costs have been calculated and can you confirm whether it was council officers or politicians who calculated the costing?
	I am not sure this question is for me as I am the Leader of Plymouth City Council and am not running the campaign. The questions would have been better addressed to the people who were running the campaign. I can tell you however, that there is a page on the website which explains how the £1.5 million figure was arrived at, and it was posted on social media a couple of days ago.		
4	Cllr Sproston	Cllr Stephens	For eight years, resident of Charlton road have been asking for the right turn off Tavistock road to be re-instated. In the two years I have been elected, I have fought for these residents, and made a promise to return that. Hundreds of local residents have had their daily commutes extended, and quite often get stuck in traffic needlessly causing excessive frustrations and road emissions. I understand the size and complexity of the project, and appreciate the hundreds of hours spent on complex planning and negotiations. The residents and

			myself would like to know where the Council is in regards to this issue and when will we finally see these roadworks begin and the project started?
	Response: I am pleased to say there has been positive progress with third party land owners that will enable an essential link to be built that will retain access for residents during the construction of the Charlton Road scheme. These enabling works are due to start this summer and will bring significant benefits of a reduced construction programme and reduced impact on resident and wider users of the A386. We are finalising details of the construction programme and expect to proceed to contract shortly, allowing us to deliver our promise to resident in the Budshead ward to enable traffic controlled access from the south of Tavistock Road.		
5	Cllr Cuddihee	Cllr Penberthy	Numerous wards across the city have been visited by Travellers over the course of the last 12 months. This has caused tensions with residents. Would the Cabinet member agree to meet with myself and other councillors to have a discussion about refreshing and reviewing the council's current strategy in relation to Travellers?
	Response: A briefing session on this topic was provided to all members a fortnight ago, and members were offered the opportunity for discussion. If there are numerous members interested, we will re-run the session.		

For: (45) Councillors Allen, Allison, Aspinall, Bannerman, Mrs Beer, Blight, Mrs Bridgeman, Coker, Cresswell, Dann, Dingle, Evans OBE, Freeman, Gilmour, Haydon, Hendy, Holloway, Krizanac, Laing, Lawson, Lugger, McCarty, McLay, McNamara, Moore, Morton, Murphy, Ney, P. Nicholson, S. Nicholson, Penberthy, Penrose, Poyser, Ricketts, Raynsford, Simpson, M Smith, Sproston, Stephens, Steel, Stevens, Taylor, Tippetts, Tuohy, and Wood.

Against: (0)

Abstain: (0)

Absent/Did not vote: (2) Councillor Ms Watkin and Tofan.

## 23. **Declarations of Interest**

The Monitoring Officer gave all Councillors a general dispensation in relation to item eight, the Independent Remuneration Panel.

## 24. **Appointments to Committees, Outside Bodies etc**

The Council noted the following changes:

- Councillor P. Nicholson replaced Councillor Loveridge on the Housing and Communities Services Scrutiny Panel.

## 25. Questions by the Public

Councillor Evans OBE proposed and Councillor Hendy seconded to suspend standing orders to extend the period of time for the item to enable all questions to be heard.

For: (45) Councillors Allen, Allison, Aspinall, Bannerman, Beer, Blight, Bridgeman, Coker, Cresswell, Dann, Dingle, Evans OBE, Freeman, Gilmour, Haydon, Hendy, Holloway, Krizanac, Laing, Lawson, Lugger, McCarty, McLay, McNamara, Moore, Morton, Murphy, Ney, P. Nicholson, S. Nicholson, Penberthy, Penrose, Poyser, Ricketts, Raynsford, Simpson, M. Smith, Sproston, Stephens, Steel, Stevens, Taylor, Tippetts, Tuohy, and Wood.

Against: (0)

Abstain: (0)

Absent/Did not vote: (3) Councillors Goslin, Tofan and Ms Watkin.

The following question was asked by Mr Gregg Black

**Question:** With the Labour Government cutting funding to the Restoring Your Railway Fund, do you support developing a Plymouth Metro between a new Plympton station and Tavistock to cut carbon emissions and boost public transport use?

**Answer:** Yes, the Council is 100% supportive of developing a Plymouth Metro. We are currently exploring feasibility funding with government, and the concept is included in the Plymouth Plan and Peninsula Transport. This includes a new Plympton Station and reopening the line to Tavistock.

The adopted Plymouth Plan Policy GRO4 is to use transport investment to drive growth. More specifically the policy states that it will deliver targeted integrated transport measures to help support the sustainable growth of Plymouth including working with partners to promote improved and more resilient local rail services, through developing and communicating the Plymouth / Devon Metro concept, reinstating the Tavistock to Plymouth branch line and investigating the need for new rail stations such as Plympton.

Plymouth City Council is a partner within Peninsula Transport, the sub-national Transport Body for the south-west region responsible for setting transport strategy and for communicating agreed major transport priorities to Government. It has also identified as a priority, metro type rail services including the reopening of the branch line to Tavistock and opening a new station in Plympton as credible and deliverable schemes capable of being transformational in transport terms to the Plymouth Travel To Work Area. Plymouth City Council will be working with Peninsula Transport and other key strategic partners in developing these

schemes.
The following question was asked by Mr Danny Bamping
<b>Question:</b> Can Cllr Mark Lowry confirm if he made a formal, recorded, reasoned and published decision as per the law and legislation to change the name of Sir John Hawkins Square (to Jack Leslie Square) in June 2020?
<b>Answer:</b> As the questioner has previously been informed, Councillor Lowry did not take a decision in June 2020 to rename Sir John Hawkings Square. Following receipt of a request for the renaming of John Hawkings square, Councillor Lowry approved the commencement of the renaming process, in accordance with the Council's published Street Naming and Numbering Policy. There was no decision to be taken at this stage. The renaming process proceeded in accordance with the Policy until it was discontinued following a hearing in the Magistrates Court.
The following question was asked by Mr Stoneman
<b>Question:</b> You explained the £72 million pension deal that was done to the date saved £9 million in interest. Which projects were delayed or cancelled as the money was originally borrowed for infrastructure projects and what is the cost of these delays to date?
<b>Answer:</b> I can confirm this money was not borrowed for infrastructure projects – funding for this transaction took place separately from that needed for the delivery of our capital programme, and therefore no projects were delayed or cancelled as a result.
The following question was asked by Alderman Mahony
<b>Question:</b> Regarding the Manadon Interchange Scheme – The Issue is the A386 (Outland Road) in both directions. Could this be improved by an on/off a38 slip-road westbound at Honicknowle Lane which would take traffic off outland road, ham drive and St. Peter's Road, being less disruptive and better value?
<p><b>Answer:</b> Changes to the A38, as part of the Strategic Road Network, would require the involvement and approval of National Highways. Their input would be essential in assessing the technical feasibility, safety implications, and strategic fit of any proposed junction modification and any proposal for a new junction on the A38 would need to comply with the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB).</p> <p>While the proposal for a new interchange at Honicknowle would have clear local benefits, the DMRB states that where junctions on all-purpose roads are spaced less than 2km apart, a weaving assessment is required. Preliminary measurements indicate that the distance from the Honicknowle Lane overbridge to both the Manadon and St Budeaux junctions is under 2km. This proximity raises concerns about potential weaving conflicts, which could adversely affect safety and operational performance. Specifically, Note 3 of the DMRB guidance highlights the</p>

likely interaction between merge and diverge movements when junctions are spaced closer than 2km and so a proposed new junction at Honicknowle Lane would not meet this requirement.

A further consideration is that a new grade-separated junction between Manadon and Weston Mill would be very expensive and most likely be significantly more costly than the proposed A38 Manadon Interchange scheme. It is considered unlikely, therefore, that a bid for a new junction at Honicknowle would be met favourably by National Highways or the Department for Transport who would need to provide the majority of the funding.

## 26. **Announcements**

The Lord Mayor presented a series of awards recognising outstanding achievements across the city.

- a) The first award was the Disability Confident Leader Status Level 3, the highest tier of the UK Government's disability inclusion initiative. The award was presented to the Council for its commitment to recruiting, retaining, and developing disabled people. Shaun Badmin and Claire Scoffield accepted the award on behalf of the Council;
- b) The Old Town Street and New George Street regeneration project was awarded Infrastructure Project of the Year and Integration and Collaborative Working at the Constructing Excellence South West Awards. The project revitalised the area, creating jobs, supporting small businesses, and enhancing local skills. Martin Ivatt and Catherine Arthurs accepted the award;
- c) Broadland Gardens won Residential Project of the Year (35 homes and under) at the Mitchelmores Property Awards. Judges praised the creative use of modular pod extensions, which allowed homes to adapt to occupants' changing needs. Joe McCarthy and Tim Thomas accepted the award;
- d) The Park Bereavement Service Project received Client of the Year at the Constructing Excellence South West Awards. The judges commended the client's passion, attention to detail, and prioritisation of bereaved families' needs;
- e) The North Prospect Regeneration Project won Best Project and Best in the Region at the RTPI South West Awards for Planning Excellence. The 15-year regeneration initiative was delivered in partnership with Plymouth Community Homes. Carly Francis and Neil Mawson accepted the award;
- f) Theresa Brooks received the Rising Star Award from the Empty Homes Network for her innovative work in tackling long-term empty homes in Plymouth;
- g) The Housing Delivery Team won the Meeting the Challenge Award at the Empty Homes Network for their innovative approach to addressing long-term empty properties. Theresa Brooks accepted the award;
- h) The Supporting Internships Project won the Diversity and Inclusion Award at the LGC Awards. The Discovery College's 100% success rate was highlighted as a model

of structured, individualised support and strong partnerships. Tina Brinkworth and Jane Hunt accepted the award;

- i) The Your Future Programme won the Silver Award for SEND and Inclusive Practice at the Pearson National Teaching Awards. The initiative supported young people aged 19–25, and some aged 16–18, with education, health care plans, and additional learning needs through a combination of short breaks, qualifications, and life experiences;
- j) Plymouth's Habitat Bank won the Environmental Services Award at the LGC Awards. The initiative created a local market for biodiversity units, helping developers meet planning requirements while delivering environmental and community benefits. Chris Avent and Caroline Haynes accepted the award.

Councillor Tudor Evans OBE made the following announcements:

- k) A series of major announcements affecting Plymouth over the past 12 months. He stated that these announcements reflected completely game-changing levels of investment from national Government, including:
  - i. £4.4 billion investment in defence;
  - ii. 7,000 new jobs linked to the dockyard;
  - iii. 25,000 additional job opportunities projected by 2035;
  - iv. Plymouth featured as a case study in the new Industrial Strategy;
  - v. The Babcock Defence Dividend bringing 2,000 employees into the city centre;
  - vi. Plymouth recognised as the national centre for marine autonomy;
  - vii. Arrival of new businesses such as Helsing;
  - viii. A Memorandum of Understanding with Homes England for 10,000 new homes;
  - ix. £519 million investment in strategic transport infrastructure;
  - x. Over £300 million investment in public transport infrastructure;
  - xi. £4 million public investment in the Civic Centre;
  - xii. A new city centre college campus focused on blue-green skills;
  - xiii. The opening of the first phase of the Armada Way scheme;
  - xiv. Development of a new health hub and the start of the Community Diagnostic Centre;
  - xv. £73 million investment through the Freeport;
  - xvi. £3 billion investment at Derriford Hospital.
- l) The announcement by the Secretary of State for Defence, John Healey, that Plymouth would be one of five UK defence growth deal areas, receiving an initial share of £250 million over five years. He noted that Plymouth was the only city included in the deal, with other areas being Wales, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and South Yorkshire;
- m) The newly launched Team Plymouth (formerly the Growth Alliance Plymouth) would strengthen collaboration between the Ministry of Defence, Babcock, the university sector, businesses, and the Council to foster innovation and high quality jobs. The strategic partnership aimed to position Plymouth as a leader in defence, marine autonomy, and advanced manufacturing;

- n) The defence growth deal investment would support initiatives including:
  - i. Strengthening local skills initiatives with a focus on STEM outreach and training in electrical engineering, renewable energy systems, nuclear operations, and autonomy;
  - ii. Driving innovation through the Advanced Marine Technology Hub at the University of Plymouth;
  - iii. Investing in local infrastructure to support the wider defence ecosystem;
  - iv. Supporting the partnership with Homes England to deliver 10,000 new homes.
- o) Paid tribute to Tracey Lee (Chief Executive) and Amanda Ratsey (Economic Development) for their work on these projects over the past two years;
- p) Completion of the £23 million investment at ABP Port and commencement of a £5 million investment in shore power;
- q) Near completion of the Community Diagnostic Centre;
- r) Signing of a new agreement between University Hospitals Plymouth and Plymouth Science Park for a health campus;
- s) Progress on direct development at Langage in the Freeport;
- t) Completion of the Tinside refurbishment and on-site at Mount Batten Centre;
- u) Completion of Derriford District Centre;
- v) Announcement of a new Beryl Cook show in January 2026;
- w) Hosting of Jeremy Deller's "Hello Sailor" at Tinside and Trafalgar Square;
- x) Support for the fishing industry and a summer of events, including the upcoming Greasy Pole competition.

Councillor Cresswell (Cabinet Member for Education, Apprenticeships and Skills) made the following announcements:

- y) Opening of three school-based nurseries in September and one additional nursery (Boringdon) in January 2026;
- z) Two new private nursery settings were also due to open in January 2026, providing 277 early years childcare spaces;
- aa) Development of resources to support practitioners and families in relation to attendance across early years settings;



- bb) Collaboration with the Department for Education on national attendance campaigns;
- cc) Positive trends in educational attainment across all key stages, with disadvantaged pupils outperforming national benchmarks.

Councillor Dann (Cabinet Member for Customer Experience, Sport, Leisure and HR and OD) spoke on behalf of Councillor Briars-Delve (Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change) and provided the following announcements:

- dd) Grass cutting improvements, with six full cuts in 2025 compared to three in 2023 and complaints around grass cutting had halved;
- ee) Investment in new ride-on mowers and manual weed removal;
- ff) Flood preparedness, including gully clearance and emergency response to extreme rainfall on 28–29 August;
- gg) Food waste collection project progressing towards a full business case, with phased rollout starting March 2026, before a full rollout in the summer of 2026. There would be ten specialist food waste vehicles with nine weekly rounds with lots of kitchen curb side caddies and communications to Plymouth residents.

Councillor Stephens (Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Infrastructure) made the following announcements:

- hh) There were significant flooding impacts from the August 2025 storm, with 311 reports of flooding and 115 properties affected. It was reported that there was 56mm of rain between 10pm on 28 August and 1am on 29 August, including 42.3 mm of rain in a single hour between 11am and midnight;
- ii) The Council had routinely inspected 12,900 gullies and emptied 8,840 as part of the planned cyclical cleaning activity;
- jj) The teams responsible closely monitored weather forecasts and would attend the 50+ known hotspots ahead of any heavy rain expected;
- kk) The Council attended 61 emergency out of hours call outs;
- ll) On-going flood alleviation projects, included:
  - I. Trefusis Park flood relief scheme (completion expected April 2026).
  - II. Western Mill Village property flood protection (installation due October).
  - III. St. Leven flood relief project (public consultation planned for autumn 2025).
  - IV. Stonehouse tidal flood study (completion expected November 2025).
  - V. Arnold's Point tidal flood alleviation scheme (construction planned to start spring 2026).
- mm) The Royal Parade bus improvement scheme was progressing well with activities focussed on area's in front of the shops;

- nn) Plymotion supported bus users in late August and early September to help school students ahead of the new term;
- oo) Cot Hill works were underway with the second phase being two weeks ahead of schedule. This would mean changes to traffic management that were planned for 06 October would be in place for 22 September 2025;
- pp) Improvements to public transport links to the Park Crematorium, with Stagecoach service 19 to begin serving the new stop from 21 September.

Councillor Aspinall (Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care) made the following announcements:

- qq) There had been the launch of the 'Plymouth Protects' vaccination campaign to encourage uptake of flu and COVID vaccines to help protect residents during the winter months;
- rr) Plymouth would be celebrating the International Day of Older Persons on 01 October 2025, with the theme 'Building Belonging';
- ss) There would be an event at Tinside Lido on 02 October to mark the Lido's 90th anniversary and also to promote social connections for older people;
- tt) Adult Safeguarding Week would take place between 17–21 November 2025), with the theme being prevention. Activities to raise awareness of abuse, neglect, and exploitation would take place;
- uu) Residents who were worried that an adult was experiencing abuse or neglect could either report this via [www.plymouth.gov.uk/reportabuse](http://www.plymouth.gov.uk/reportabuse) or call the council on 01752 680000.

Councillor Laing (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children's Social Care, Culture and Communications) made the following announcements:

- vv) Foster for Plymouth had launched its third constellation in Cornwall with the programme supporting 25 fostering household and over 40 children. The mockingbird model provided an extended family model to support fostering families through a constellation consisting of a central hub him supporting several satellite homes or other foster carers;
- ww) The Box celebrated its fifth birthday on 05 September 2025, with over 1,700 attendees and positive public engagement.

## 27. **Capital Monitoring Report Quarter I**

Councillor Evans OBE (Leader of the Council) introduced the report which was seconded by Councillor Allen.

Following a contribution from Councillor P. Nicholson, Council agreed to:

1. Approve the revision to the capital budget for 2025-2030 to £351.063 mil as shown in table 2, with reconciliation and detail of the movements in the quarter set out in tables 1 and table 4.
2. Note the performance against prudential indicators for quarter one of 2025/26, detailed in section 4.

For: (37) Allen, Allison, Aspinall, Bannerman, Blight, Coker, Cresswell, Dann, Dingle, Evans OBE, Freeman, Gilmour, Goslin, Haydon, Hendy, Holloway, Krizanac, Laing, Lawson, Lugg, McCarty, McNamara, Moore, Morton, Murphy, Penberthy, Penrose, Raynsford, Simpson, M Smith, Sproston, Stephens, Steel, Stevens, Taylor, Tuohy and Wood.

Against: (0)

Abstain: (9) Councillors Mrs Beer, Mrs Bridgeman, McLay, Ney, P. Nicholson, S. Nicholson, Poyser, Ricketts and Tippetts.

Absent/did not vote: (2) Councillors Tofan and Ms Watkin.

## 28. **Independent Remuneration Panel Recommendations**

Councillor Ms Watkin (Lord Mayor) introduced the report which was seconded by Councillor Tofan (Deputy Lord Mayor).

Council agreed to:

1. Accept the recommendations set out in the Independent Remuneration Panel report regarding the amendment to the current Special Responsibility Allowances for Opposition Group Leaders and related matters, as follows:

a. Approve the implementation of a tiered opposition group leaders allowance structure as follows:

- Groups of 2-6 members: Leaders receive 10% of Basic Allowance (£1,370)
- Groups of 7-11 members: Leaders receive 50% of Basic Allowance (£6,850)
- Groups of 12+ members: Leaders receive 75% of Basic Allowance (£10,275)
- Largest group premium: Additional 25% of Basic Allowance (£3,425) for Leaders of the largest opposition group(s), subject to maximum of three groups.

b. Approves the discontinuation of the following SRAs:

- Leader of the Largest Minority Party (£13,700)
- Deputy Leader of the Largest Minority Party (£6,851)
- Leader of Other Minority Parties (£1,000).

c. Agree that the new opposition group leaders' allowance arrangements were backdated to 01 May 2025.

2. Approve amendments to the (Councillor Allowances Scheme at Appendix Two) to incorporate the new opposition group leaders' allowance provisions, replacing existing opposition allowance arrangements.

3. Note that the Independent Remuneration Panel would conduct a comprehensive review of Committee Chair and Vice Chair allowances, reporting back to Council in time for the Municipal year 2026/27.

For: (46) Councillors Allen, Allison, Aspinall, Bannerman, Mrs Beer, Blight, Mrs Bridgeman, Coker, Cresswell, Dann, Dingle, Evans OBE, Freeman, Gilmour, Goslin, Haydon, Hendy, Holloway, Krizanac, Laing, Lawson, Lugger, McCarty, McLay, McNamara, Moore, Morton, Murphy, Ney, P. Nicholson, S. Nicholson, Penberthy, Penrose, Poyser, Raynsford, Ricketts, Simpson, M Smith, Sproston, Stephens, Steel, Stevens, Taylor, Tippetts, Tuohy and Wood.

Against: (0)

Abstain: (0)

Absent/did not vote: (2) Councillors Tofan and Ms Watkin.

29. **Motions on notice**  
30. **Plymouth Highway Maintenance Amendments**

Councillor Wood introduced the motion which was seconded by Councillor Lugger.

Following contributions from Councillors Tippetts, P. Nicholson, Poyser and Stephens, the Council agreed to request the Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Transport to:

1. Investigate the means of amending the Pothole Repair Policy, Highway Inspection Manual and Term Maintenance Contract to encourage the council's Highway Maintenance Contractors, when attending a highway defect, to proactively repair other defects in the vicinity;
2. Seek evidence to confirm the cost of this approach;
3. Seek evidence to confirm whether this change of approach will improve the standard of the highway network.

For: (46) Allen, Allison, Aspinall, Bannerman, Mrs Beer, Blight, Mrs Bridgeman, Coker, Cresswell, Dann, Dingle, Evans OBE, Freeman, Gilmour, Goslin, Haydon, Hendy, Holloway, Krizanac, Laing, Lawson, Lugger, McCarty, McLay, McNamara, Moore, Morton, Murphy, Ney, P. Nicholson, S. Nicholson, Penberthy, Penrose, Poyser, Raynsford, Ricketts, Simpson, M. Smith, Sproston, Steel, Stephens, Stevens, Taylor, Tippetts, Tuohy and Wood.

Against: (0)

Abstain: (0)

Absent/did not vote: (2) Councillor Tofan and Ms Watkin.

31. **Introducing a fair system of assessing trees suitable for a Tree Preservation Order**

Councillor Mrs Bridgeman introduced the motion which was seconded by Councillor P. Nicholson.

Councillor Dann proposed an amendment which was seconded by Councillor Stevens.

*(Council was adjourned for 10 minutes to consider the amendment)*

Following contributions from Councillors Morton, Goslin, Lugger, McLay, P. Nicholson, Penberthy and McCarty on the amendment, the Motion was carried.

For: (39) Councillors Allen, Allison, Aspinall, Bannerman, Blight, Coker, Cresswell, Dann, Dingle, Evans OBE, Freeman, Gilmour, Goslin, Haydon, Hendy, Holloway, Krizanac, Laing, Lawson, Lugger, McCarty, McNamara, Moore, Morton, Murphy, Penberthy, Penrose, Poyser, Raynsford, Simpson, M Smith, Sproston, Steel, Stephens, Stevens, Taylor, Tippetts, Tuohy and Wood.

Against: (0)

Abstain: (7) Councillors McLay, Mrs Beer, Mrs Bridgeman, Ney, P Nicholson, S. Nicholson and Ricketts.

Absent/did not vote: (2) Councillors Tofan and Ms Watkin.

*(Council was adjourned until 5pm)*

Council agreed to:

1. That trees in Plymouth that are worthy of protection should be considered for Tree Protection Orders irrespective of land ownership if they meet the criteria for placing a TPO in that they have significant amenity value and are at imminent risk. The Regulations (The Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation) (England) Regulations 2012) state that TPOs should not be served on trees that are under good arboriculture management but states that trees will be served a TPO if the tree is at risk;
2. To ensure that Plymouth City Council accept applications for TPOs on its own significant amenity value and imminent risk trees on council land from members of the public to be considered under the same principles and eligibility criteria as those applied to trees on private land;
3. Request the Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change to prepare and publish a Tree Management Principles document to ensure the council is open and transparent in how PCC trees will be managed maintained and protected, published within six months;
4. To guarantee that where and when Plymouth City Council land is being sold or has a change of use, there is a tree assessment, any PCC owned trees that meet the TPO

criteria on such land are identified and will have a TPO added before the sale of the site.

For: (45) Councillors Allen, Allison, Aspinall, Bannerman, Mrs Beer, Mrs Bridgeman, Coker, Cresswell, Dann, Dingle, Evans OBE, Freeman, Gilmour, Goslin, Haydon, Hendy, Holloway, Krizanac, Laing, Lawson, Lugger, McCarty, McLay, McNamara, Moore, Morton, Murphy, Ney, P. Nicholson, S. Nicholson Penberthy, Penrose, Poyser, Raynsford, Ricketts, Simpson, M Smith, Sproston, Steel, Stephens, Stevens, Taylor, Tippetts, Tuohy and Wood.

Against: (0)

Abstain: (0)

Absent/did not vote: (2) Councillors Tofan and Ms Watkin.

32. **No to any Asylum Hotels in Plymouth**

Councillor Ricketts introduced the motion which was seconded by Councillor P. Nicholson.

Councillor Taylor provided an amendment to the motion which was seconded by Councillor M. Smith.

*(Council adjourned for 15 minutes to consider the amendment)*

Following contributions from Councillors Ricketts, Mrs Beer, P. Nicholson and Steel on the amendment the motion was passed.

For: (37) Allen, Allison, Aspinall, Bannerman, Coker, Cresswell, Dann, Dingle, Evans OBE, Freeman, Gilmour, Goslin, Haydon, Hendy, Holloway, Krizanac, Laing, Lawson, McCarty, McLay, McNamara, Moore, Morton, Murphy, Penberthy, Penrose, Poyser, Raynsford, Simpson, M Smith, Sproston, Steel, Stephens, Stevens, Taylor, Tippetts and Tuohy.

Against: (6) Mrs Beer, Mrs Bridgeman, Ney, P Nicholson, S Nicholson and Ricketts.

Abstain: (2) Lugger and Wood.

Absent/did not vote: (3) Councillors Blight, Tofan and Ms Watkin.

Council agreed that The Leader of Plymouth City Council writes to the Home Secretary The Rt Hon Shabana Mahmood MP congratulating her on her appointment and:

1. Welcoming the Labour Government's commitment to end the use of asylum hotels by 2029 and the Prime Minister's wish to do this faster
2. Acknowledging that Labour Government policy means that Plymouth will not see asylum seeker housed in our hotels as they never have been
3. Noting that hotels are not appropriate places for asylum seekers to live, offering neither dignity nor proper support

4. Confirming that Plymouth stands ready to work with Government to ensure asylum seekers are supported into more suitable accommodation.

For: (37) Allen, Allison, Aspinall, Bannerman, Coker, Cresswell, Dann, Dingle, Evans OBE, Freeman, Gilmour, Goslin, Haydon, Hendy, Holloway, Krizanac, Laing, Lawson, McCarty, McLay, McNamara, Moore, Morton, Murphy, Penberthy, Penrose, Poyser, Raynsford, Simpson, M Smith, Sproston, Steel, Stephens, Stevens, Taylor, Tippetts, Tuohy.

Against: (6) Mrs Beer, Mrs Bridgeman, Ney, P Nicholson, Ricketts, S Nicholson

Abstain: (2) Lugger and Wood.

Absent/did not vote: (2) Councillors Tofan and Ms Watkin.

### 33. **Giving Plymouth Children the Best Start in Life**

Councillor Evans OBE (Leader of the Council) moved a motion to suspend standing order to allow more time to conclude the business of the Council meeting which was seconded by Councillor Hendy.

This motion was carried.

For: (45) Allen, Allison, Aspinall, Bannerman, Mrs Beer, Mrs Bridgeman, Coker, Cresswell, Dann, Dingle, Evans OBE, Freeman, Gilmour, Goslin, Haydon, Hendy, Holloway, Krizanac, Laing, Lawson, Lugger, McCarty, McLay, McNamara, Moore, Morton, Murphy, Ney, P. Nicholson, S. Nicholson, Penberthy, Penrose, Poyser, Raynsford, Ricketts, Simpson, M Smith, Sproston, Steel, Stephens, Stevens, Taylor, Tippetts, Tuohy and Wood.

Against: (0)

Abstain: (0)

Absent/did not vote: (3) Councillors Blight, Tofan and Ms Watkin.

Councillor Holloway introduced the motion which was seconded by Councillor McCarty.

Councillor Tippetts provided an amendment which was seconded by Councillor McLay.

*(Council adjourned for 15 minutes to consider the amendment)*

The motion was not allowed by the Monitoring Officer and Council returned to the substantive motion.

Following contributions from Councillors Mrs Beer and Creswell, Council agreed to commit to:

- I. Welcome the expansion of childcare and early years provision, recognising its positive impact on Plymouth families.

2. Work with schools and providers in the city to fully promote and support take-up of new entitlements, including breakfast clubs and nurseries.
3. Map local childcare and nursery capacity to identify where pressure is greatest and ensure future expansion targets those communities.
4. Ensure even more families are aware of and can access Family Hub support, building on the existing network and supporting the rollout to more parts of the city.
5. Request a report back to Cabinet and the Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny Panel in one year on the roll-out of 30 hours childcare in Plymouth, including take-up, impact, and any local capacity challenges, and share these findings with the Education Secretary.

For: (41) Allen, Allison, Aspinall, Mrs Beer, Mrs Bridgeman, Coker, Cresswell, Dann, Dingle, Evans OBE, Freeman, Gilmour, Goslin, Haydon, Hendy, Holloway, Krizanac, Laing, Lawson, Lugger, McCarty, McNamara, Moore, Morton, Murphy, Ney, P Nicholson, Penberthy, Penrose, Poyser, Raynsford, Simpson, M Smith, Sproston, Steel, Stephens, Stevens, Taylor, Tippetts, Tuohy and Wood.

Against: (0)

Abstain: (0)

Absent/did not vote: (6) Bannerman, McLay, Ms Watkin, Ricketts, S Nicholson and Tofan.

#### 34. **Flags in Plymouth**

Councillor Penberthy introduced the motion which was seconded by Councillor Sproston.

Following contributions from Councillors Wood, Laing, Cresswell, Lugger, Stevens, Ricketts, Tippetts,

Council agreed to:

- I. Reaffirm its commitment to this stance and our support for the national government guidance on flag flying.

For: (40) Councillors Allen, Allison, Aspinall, Mrs Beer, Mrs Bridgeman, Coker, Cresswell, Dann, Dingle, Evans OBE, Freeman, Gilmour, Goslin, Haydon, Hendy, Holloway, Krizanac, Laing, Lawson, Lugger, McNamara, Moore, Morton, Murphy, P. Nicholson, Penberthy, Penrose, Poyser, Raynsford, Ricketts, Simpson, M Smith, Sproston, Steel, Stephens, Stevens, Taylor, Tippetts, Tuohy and Wood.

Against: (0)

Abstain: (0)

Absent/did not vote: (8) Councillors Bannerman, Blight, McCarty, McLay, Ms Watkin, Ney, S. Nicholson, Tofan



35. **Questions by Councillors**

	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>Subject</b>
1	Cllr Tippetts	Cllr Penberthy	Would the Council consider waiving the street naming fee for developers who chose to name streets after fallen members of the armed forces with a demonstrable connection to Plymouth?
			Response: The Council maintained a register of proposed names submitted by the public, and developers could choose from this list or propose their own. Street naming costs were not high and it was reasonable for the costs to be met by developers. I would support such proposals if brought forward.
2	Cllr Mrs Bridgeman	Cllr Evans OBE	Can we have an update on Plymouth airport by the next Council meeting?
			Response: The Council was in discussions with the leaseholders and once the discussions had concluded, I will report back to Council.
			Supplementary: Is there a timeline?
			Response: I cannot answer the question about that as the discussions were on-going.
3	Cllr Wood	Cllr Stephens	Why had £12.88 million had been committed to progress the Manadon Roundabout proposals before the public consultation report was published?
			Response: Some of that money was to enable consultation information to be shared and response shared with other people. Part of the funding supported consultation activities and that the report would be published in autumn 2025, followed by a response and further consultation in summer 2026 when the council would be able to incorporate the information from its extensive surveys and feedback from the consultation. Part of that money was funding the next steps and its routine expenditure built into the strategic plan.
			Supplementary: The whole point of consultation is a scheme can be amended to suit the responses received. Now we know the outline business case for the proposed scheme that mattered was submitted to the Department for Transport in October 2021 and it didn't include the Budshead Way or Meavy Way proposals of which I have objected to through consultation. Would you be able to explain whether following the consultation report the council is considering removing those elements of the proposal and instead amending the Manadon roundabout scheme to include traffic light sequencing along Tavistock Road and Outland Road as without this joined up traffic management approach the scheme would be less effective.
			Response: The consultation report would include next steps which would include your suggestion and others which will be considered and responded to.

4	Cllr P. Nicholson	Cllr Haydon	Can we have an update on arranging a full Council briefing with the Chief Constable and the Police and Crime Commissioner.
	Response: I made the request but I'm still awaiting a response and will chase this up.		
	Supplementary: Under Local Government Re-organisation (LGR) the way that local government interacts with partners is quite key. So actually our partnership working I suggest, is sporadic around Plymouth. It is important that the police engage with the city council directly with us and not expect us to go to the local café or library when they request us to go, so we actually get more joined up working moving forward.		
5	Cllr Raynsford	Cllr Haydon	Noise was the biggest issue raised amongst my residents causing great anger. Bikers seem to forget that southside street and the barbican are dense residential areas as well as being tourist hotspots. Groups of bikers gather on Sundays and Thursdays on mass and then rev their way along what is effectively an echo chamber. I'd like to thank the Police for their random checks on MOT's and exhaust but I would like to ask Cllr Haydon if she would write to the Police and Crime Commissioner requesting prioritisation for a noise camera targeting individual bikes for a suitable site in the city.
	Response: Yes, I'm more than happy to write to the Commissioner s this doesn't fall under the local authority it is the police that deals with it.		
	Supplementary: If we could look at as a council whether there are any other measures we can bring forward in terms of talking to the organisers of these events because I really would like to see bikers behaving in a more respectful and considerate way.		
	Response: Yes certainly and when we look at our events we have things such as bike nights.		
6	Cllr Holloway	Cllr Laing	I have recently been contacted by a nurse from the organ donation team at Derriford Hospital to ask whether Plymouth could play its part in this years organ donation week which runs later this month where Council's are being invited to light up landmarks in pink. Lighting up Smeaton's Tower in pink would be a powerful and visible symbol of Plymouth's commitment to organ donation. There are over 8,000 people waiting for a life saving organ transplant across the country. Are we able to light up Smeaton's Tower?
	Response: I'd be very happy for Smeaton's Tower to be lit up pink to mark the start		

	of organ donation week and to make sure it's signposted through the council social media channels. That way we can do as much as we can to highlight the importance of everybody having that very difficult but vital discussion about organ donation and also to thank the organ donation team at Derriford hospital for the extraordinary work they do.		
7	Cllr Wood	Cllr Evans OBE	In our City Council meeting on 17 March 2025, you referred to stated that Plymouth was a profoundly urban and suburban area and were we to take in South Hams and West Devon it would, and I quote transform Plymouth from being a thriving city into a rural backwater in no time. Do you think referring to areas surrounding Plymouth as a rural backwater when the council was seeking to expand into the South Hams was a correct phrase to use?
	Response: I certainly don't remember referring to South Hams and West Devon as a rural backwater. I did refer to the city council as changing in character if it went from an urban area to a vastly rural area, but I'm not familiar with those words you've just quoted to me, I'm happy to see them in writing.		
	Supplementary: They were absolutely spoken, I checked the video, so would you agree with me that as per what you said in the EGM in January that we should respect the traditions of the communities that we took into the city and we will have to do that again. So would you agree that the phrase rural backwater should not be used to describe West Devon and South Hams?		
	Response: I think I've just heard you again say what I said and I didn't say that the South Hams and West Devon were rural backwaters. What I said was taking in large parts of our neighbourhoods would actually run the risk of us becoming one. So it's not the same thing.		
8	Cllr Allison	Cllr Laing	How has The Box been extending Plymouth's cultural offer and engaging families and young people over the summer?
	Response: 6,144 people participated in organised activities over 19 days across the summer between one and three activities each day. Compare this to 3,991 the previous year over 18 days. I even took part in one, put myself outside of my comfort zone and did a pottery ceramics workshop and I would encourage anybody to take part in these workshops because they can really spark something creative in all of us.		
	During the workshop 756 people were asked if they had been to one of the family activities before and 40% of those who answered said they hadn't, so that really shows very strong growth and its wonderful that we are getting so many first time visitors and participants.		
9	Cllr	Cllr	In 2020 I set up a petition to reopen a railway station in

	Poyser	Stephens	<p>Plympton which had gathered 1,700 signatures. In June 2023 I proposed a motion to set up a working group to open a railway station in Plympton.</p> <p>Can Plympton councillors receive a briefing from yourself about progress made to date with planning the reopening of Plympton railway station and when can we expect that to happen?</p>
	Response: I'll be quite happy to discuss with you. As well as it coming under the Growth agenda for Plymouth city council, its also a part of Peninsula Transport Board to and I refer you to the statement that Councillor Evans OBE said earlier on.		
	Supplementary: Can we receive a briefing?		
	Response: Yes.		
10	Cllr Tippetts	Cllr Evans OBE	<p>With the on-going Local Government Reforms we saw that the conservatives on Devon County Council tried to cancel the elections that happened in May 2024. Can you confirm that the May 2026 local elections would proceed despite local government reforms.</p>
	Response: The local government elections in 2026 would continue as there was no reason that it shouldn't. Are you standing then?		
	Supplementary: I can confirm I'm not standing, I'm just asking a question on behalf of the residents I represent who want the opportunity to go out and vote because they care about or city and they care about our democracy.		
	Response: I'm very confident the people of Compton will vote Labour again, they have been robbed of their Labour councillor.		
11	Cllr Allen	Cllr Stephens	<p>What support was available for electric vehicle (EV) drivers without off-street parking?</p>
	<p>Response: I will be going down to phoenix street in Stonehouse to see one of the recently installed pop-up electric chargers. Working with Urban Fox Plymouth City Council has trialled a charge point that is flush to the ground so there's no trip hazard, no obstacle and when its needed it just rises out of the ground for the person to charge their car.</p> <p>Following the success of the trail, the new equipment that is now operational includes design features that supports ease of use for disabled motorists and users, ensuring equitable access to EV charging near to residents homes which has never been more important, especially for those people without off street parking. There is no cost to the council and we received 5% of gross revenue excluding VAT that they generated. This collaboration underlined the commitment of the Council to provide EV charging equipment right across the city as part of its EV infrastructure</p>		

	strategy.		
	Supplementary: Will this be rolled out wider across the city if this is a success?		
	Response: If it is a success the will of the council will be to extend them to all, so residents have more opportunity to own EV vehicles.		
12	Cllr Raynsford	Cllr Stephens	What measures were in place to prevent parking machine scams involving QR codes?
	<p>Response: Plymouth City Council had signs in all its car parks stating that we did not use QR codes. Parking machines were checked daily and I'm aware that three weeks ago parking enforcement received a report that a QR code had been attached to a parking machine. Within an hour of that being reported the fake QR code had been removed.</p> <p>I'm confident that the parking enforcement team and officers are robust in their checks on this issue and the public should feel reassured. Perhaps we should consider some communications which could be shared with residents to reassure them of this issue.</p>		
13	Cllr Nicholson	Cllr Evans OBE	Is the Leader aware that Councillor Rebecca Smith, also Member of parliament for South West Devon was campaigning against Plymouth's stance on local government reorganisation, where Plymouth should be held at its current border. Would he agree with me that the member of parliament should really be consulting the whole Constituency of south west devon including Plympton and Plymstock where there are some cross border issues that have never really been resolved by Devon County Council or South Hams?
	Response: Its not place to instruct the MP for South West Devon in this regard. I was disappointed that Councillor Rebecca Smith hasn't made her views known to this council chamber, having missed all the debates and all the votes on this subject since we first raised the issue. I would suggest that some of her Plympton constituents who are concerned about this should write directly to her, asking why she is campaigning for something that's to the detriment of Plymouth.		
	Supplementary: Thank you for your response. Would you go further to agree though that some of the cross-border issues affecting Plympton in particular, but Plymstock to some extent would be better sorted by a re-organised Plymouth City Council than an abolished city council and those matters addressed by Torbay or Newton Abbott or some far distant location elsewhere in Devon.		
	Response: In a rare outburst of unanimity, I couldn't help but agree with you there due to the craziness of having a street in Plympton, where one end of the street had their bins collected by Plymouth City Council and another being collected by South Hams and the people in South Hams had more bins to deal with compared to those		

	<p>living at the other end of the street.</p> <p>We don't know yet, but if we were unsuccessful because people like Councillor Smith, MP had campaigned successfully against, we could end up with a massive neighbour and you may have to take your requests to Okehampton or somewhere else. What we do know for sure, is the abolition of the district councils and what we do need to be concerned about is what happens in those discussions with neighbours for the future. So that's why the proposition that we made, I think is modest but its in Plymouth's interests. I also believe its in the interests of the people who are living in those surrounding areas because they'll get a far better service in Plymouth from Plymouth City Council than they would from a unitary Devon which had no experience of operating in those services.</p>		
14	Cllr Coker	Cllr Stephens	<p>As a Devonport Councillor for the last 20 years who had been actively supporting public transport for Devonport residents, I would like to thank you and the Labour Government for funding a weekend bus service for Mount Wise residents and I request more publicity.</p>
	<p>Response: I will be delighted to that as you arranged for the 19 bus service linking the city centre, Plympton and Plymstock which will be calling at the crematorium soon. You also provided leaflets to some of the Plympton Councillors to deliver to residents in our areas to promote that bus service and I know it's a welcome service.</p> <p>Equally I think we could do the same to you and I appeal to every councillor in the chamber, every officer to take a bus ride in the next three weeks on one of the CityBus or Stagecoach buses.</p>		

*Please note that questions, answers, supplementary questions and supplementary answers have been summarised.*