

EXECUTIVE DECISION

made by a Council Officer




REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY BY AN INDIVIDUAL COUNCIL OFFICER

Executive Decision Reference Number – COD11 25/26

Decision	
1	Title of decision: Purchase of a property for use as a Children's Home
2	Decision maker: David Haley (Director of Children Services)
3	Report author and contact details: Vivien Lines (Project Consultant) E. Vivien.lines@plymouth.gov.uk T +441752308971
4a	Decision to be taken: 1. To purchase a property at for use as a Children's Home, at a value of £575,000
4b	Reference number of original executive decision or date of original committee meeting where delegation was made: Executive Decision: L32 24/25 - Capital Programme Allocation: Development of Children's Homes. (29/11/2024)
5	Reasons for decision: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Plymouth City Council becoming a provider of residential care for children is part of a programme of work responding to pressures securing sufficient value for money homes locally for children in care in line with need. 2. Like many Local Authorities nationally, PCC has become reliant on the independent sector for a significant volume of fostering and residential provision for children in the care of the Local Authority. At the same time, the independent sector has demonstrated that it is not able to provide sufficient high-quality and value for money placements to meet the needs of our young people. 3. Opening our own children's homes presents an opportunity to improve the cost and quality of care and outcomes for children in care who need residential placements. 4. Added value of the local provision being developed includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential to prevent a child moving into an unregulated arrangement. • Savings from social workers not having to visit children at a distance from Plymouth. • Ability to support children with local health and education services. • Greater potential to support children into foster care or home to their families.
6	Alternative options considered and rejected: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Purchased alternative property: Alternative properties have been considered but not deemed suitable.

	2. Not to buy a property for use as a children's home: Rejected as this will result in the Council continuing to spend high costs on external care providers.			
7	Financial implications and risks: £2,000,000 of Service Borrowing was approved into the Capital Programme in November 2024 for the purchase of two homes, to be used as Children's Homes (Executive Decision: L32 24/25 - Capital Programme Allocation: Development of Children's Homes). This is the first property being purchased, using this approved funding. The property price is £575,000. The purchase will be completed in advance of the revenue savings being achieved.			
8	Legal Implications and risks: Due diligence on the property has been undertaken by external solicitors and the Council is satisfied that there are no legal impediments on the title to the property which would prevent use as children's home. Planning permission for a change of use will be sought – there is a risk that this might not be granted.			
9a	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.
9b	If yes, date of publication of the notice in the Forward Plan of Key Decisions	N/A		
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:	A commitment to keeping children safe is included in the Council Plan. The Council's MTFP includes the costs and savings delivered from the opening of homes.		
11	Please specify any direct environmental implications of the decision (carbon impact)	A climate impact assessment has been completed as part of Executive Decision: L32 24/25		
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 for advice)
		No	X	(If no, go to section 13a)
12b	Reason for urgency:			

I2c	Scrutiny Chair signature:		Date	
	Scrutiny Committee name:			
	Print Name:			
Consultation				
I3a	Which Cabinet Member's portfolio does this decision relate to?	Cllr Jemima Laing (Deputy Leader of the Council, and Cabinet Member for Children's Social Care, Culture and Communications).		
I3b	Date Cabinet Member consulted	11/12/2025		
I3c	Are any other Cabinet members' portfolios affected by the decision?	Yes		
		No	x	(If no go to section I4)
I3d	Which other Cabinet member's portfolio is affected by the decision?	N/A		
I3e	Date other Cabinet member(s) consulted	N/A		
I4	Has any Cabinet member declared a conflict of interest in relation to the decision?	Yes		If yes, please discuss with the Monitoring Officer
		No	x	
I5	Which Corporate Management Team member has been consulted?	Name	David Haley	
		Job title	Director Children's Services	
		Date consulted	02/12/2025	
Sign-off				
I6	Sign off codes from the relevant departments consulted:	Democratic Support (mandatory)	JS48 25/26	
		Finance (mandatory)	ITG.25.26.098	
		Legal (mandatory)	LS/00001312/2AC/4/12/25	
		Human Resources (if applicable)	CS.25.26.020	
		Corporate property (if applicable)	JW 0128 08/12/25	
		Procurement (if applicable)	N/A	

Appendices									
17	Ref.	Title of appendix							
	A	Briefing report part 1							
	B	EIA – Childrens Homes (14/11/24)							
Confidential/exempt information									
18a	Do you need to include any confidential/exempt information?		Yes	X	If yes, prepare a second, confidential ('Part II') briefing report and 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 in 18b below.				
		No							
			Exemption Paragraph Number						
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7
18b	Confidential/exempt briefing report title: Briefing Report Part 2				X				
Background Papers									
19	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 1 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
Council Officer Signature									
20	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 and those who do not. For further details please see the EIA attached.								
Signature				Date of decision		11/12/2025			
Print Name		David Haley (Director Children's Services)							