

# Cabinet



Date of meeting:	12 January 2026
Title of Report:	<b>Commemorations and Celebrations – PCC Policy</b>
Lead Member:	Councillor Chris Penberthy (Cabinet Member for Housing, Cooperative Development, and Communities)
Lead Strategic Director:	Tracey Lee (Chief Executive)
Author:	Caroline Marr, Senior Policy Advisor
Contact Email:	Caroline.marr@plymouth.gov.uk
Your Reference:	C&C Policy
Key Decision:	No
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

## Purpose of Report

To seek Cabinet's approval for the Commemorations and Celebrations PCC Policy; this includes lighting buildings, raising flags, moments of silence and books of condolence. The policy sets out the Council's protocol in accordance with the Government's guidance regarding the use of flags and other symbolic gestures in recognition, celebration or sympathy. The application of the principles and criteria set out in the policy aims to ensure the consistent, respectful, and meaningful use of flags and lighting in line with our civic values.

## Recommendations and Reasons

1. Approve the Commemorations and Celebrations policy for implementation

*Reason: The Council receives several requests annually in response to local, national and international events for flag flying or lighting up public buildings. As a welcoming city, flying flags is one way in which the Council commemorates significant events or celebrates the diversity of our city. It is important that the Council is fair and equitable in its decision-making. This policy applies a set of criteria that will enable the consistent, respectful, and meaningful use of flags and lighting in line with our civic values.*

## Alternative options considered and rejected

1. To not review and produce a new policy covering the different ways the Council Commemorates and Celebrates significant days or events.

*Rejected: The previous Flags protocol was produced in 2016 and had limited use. It did not provide the clarity or process needed to help make decisions when requests were made. Several requests are made by individuals or communities throughout the year – there is currently no consistent approach to follow which could lead to unfairness in the decision-making process.*

## Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

The approach and criteria set out in the policy fully reflects the Council's values of democracy, responsibility, fairness and co-operation. In addition, one of the key themes running through the

Plymouth Plan is the ambition to be a Welcoming City where every citizen feels safe and every person who lives in or visits the city will be treated fairly and with respect. Flying flags or lighting buildings is one way in which we commemorate significant events or celebrate the diversity of our city. It is important that we do this in a consistent, fair and meaningfully full way; one which supports our duty to foster and promote community cohesion.

### **Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:**

There are no significant resource implications. Implementation of the policy will be met within existing staff resources. There is a £5k budget held by the Council's Events Team to assist with buying new or replacing old flags.

### **Financial Risks**

It is not anticipated that the proposed policy will cause negative financial impacts.

### **Legal Implications**

The implementation of a Flag Flying Policy gives rise to a number of legal implications including planning and advertisement control under the Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) Regulation 2007, matters of equality and discrimination engaged under the Equality Act 2010 and freedom of expression matters under the Human Rights Act 1998. The application of this policy will ensure the Council is adhering to matters of proportionality, equality and the consistent application of appropriate legislation.

### **Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:**

There are no significant implications.

### **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.*

There are no significant risks associated with the implementation of this policy. The policy sets out a clear and fair process for dealing with requests for flag raising or lighting buildings. The policy will assist the Council to continue to meet its public sector equality duties under the Equality Act 2010.

### **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	Commemorations and Celebrations – PCC Policy							
B	Equalities Impact Assessment							

### **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)						
	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.						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Sign off:

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Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Tracey Lee (Chief Executive)											
Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes Date agreed: 17/12/2025											
Cabinet Member approval: Councillor Chris Penberthy (Cabinet Member for Housing, Cooperative Development, and Communities) Date approved: 17/12/2025											