

# MOTION ON NOTICE



PLYMOUTH  
CITY COUNCIL

**Date of Council Meeting:** 26 January 2026

**Title of Motion:** Prioritising Plymouth Residents in Council Housing

**Motion Narrative:**

That this Council:

1. Notes the announcement of the UK Government asking for expressions of interest for the asylum pilot scheme, which provides funding to local councils to build or refurbish properties for temporary housing of asylum seekers and be leased back to the Home Office.
2. Recognises that Plymouth faces a chronic housing shortage, between 1st April 2024 and 1st April 2025 7,768 applicants were on the Devon Choice social housing waiting list. The number of households in temporary accommodation (all forms of temp) was 443 in Aug 2025.
3. Believes that limited council housing resources should first address the needs of Plymouth residents, particularly those in urgent housing need, before committing properties to government asylum housing schemes.
4. Expresses concern that participation in the pilot scheme could divert limited housing resources away from local residents, potentially lengthening waiting times for those in urgent need.

**Action Required:**

Council therefore resolves

1. That Plymouth City Council will not take part in any government pilot schemes for asylum housing, to ensure that council resources remain focused on meeting local housing demand.
2. To request that the Cabinet Member for Housing, Co-operative Development and Communities communicates this decision by letter to the Secretary of State for the Home Office and for Housing, Communities and Local Government to confirm that Plymouth City Council will prioritise housing provision for local residents.

**Proposer:** Councillor Steve Ricketts

**Seconder:** Councillor Carol Ney