

EXECUTIVE DECISION

made by a Cabinet Member



REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY BY AN INDIVIDUAL CABINET MEMBER

Executive Decision Reference Number – ESA02 25/26

Decision	
1	Title of decision: Expanding On Course South West adult skills provision through the Plymouth Centre for Engineering Skills
2	Decision maker: Councillor Sally Cresswell (Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Apprenticeships)
3	Report author and contact details: Tina Brinkworth Tina.Brinkworth@plymouth.gov.uk
4	<p>Decision to be taken:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> To approve Plymouth City Council's in-house adult education provider, On Course South West, in expanding its delivery to incorporate the Plymouth Centre for Engineering Skills. Delegate the TUPE process for approximately 4 FTE staff member to the Head of Skills and Post-16. Accept the initial cost of £100,000 for the purchase of equipment currently within the Centre, this cost will be fully covered by the On Course South West revenue account, so having no loan requirement. Delegate to the Head of Land and Property authority to enter into leasing arrangements within the parameters set out in the Part II document, for the premises at 71 Sisna Park Road, PL6 7AE.
5	<p>Reasons for decision:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Cornwall College Group (CCG) has announced its intention to withdraw from the Plymouth Centre for Engineering Skills at Sisna Park, following guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) to consolidate delivery across fewer campuses. <p>However, the DfE has requested that the provision in Plymouth continues, and CCG have approached Plymouth City Council's in-house adult education provider, On Course South West (OCSW), to take on this delivery. This transition presents a strategic opportunity to expand the Post-16 and Skills offer from OCSW, whilst also ensuring continuity for learners and employers, and advancing the Council's strategic goals in education, economic development, community empowerment and growing post-16 send sufficiency without capital investment. The Centre would then become a dedicated space and curriculum area for provision of post-16 engineering education and training. The Centre is fully equipped for delivery and would provide significant opportunity to grow provision of skills and employment in the city, working towards objectives of The Plymouth Plan (GRO2) and the Plymouth Economic Strategy and move away from provision provided by an unregistered small provider in the city.</p>
6	<p>Alternative options considered and rejected:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Plymouth City Council (PCC) could facilitate a takeover of the Plymouth Engineering Centre by another training provider. This option has no financial risk to PCC and continuity of provision should be maintained if the college/training provider are able manage the transfer. However, it does limit the choice for employers in available apprenticeship providers in the city. Other providers (including those not currently operating in the City) may have limited capacity to takeover this provision resulting in significant interruptions to learning for apprentices and service to employers.

	2. The centre could be closed, resulting in employers having to find new apprenticeship delivery, which would result in significant disruption to learning for apprentices and inconvenience to employers.			
7	Financial implications and risks: Initial costs, including the purchase of equipment has been negotiated and agreed at a payment of £100,000 (the total value of equipment is £115,000), this is forecast to not result in any financial loss and will be taken from On Course South West revenue account (no loan requirements). Projected surpluses in subsequent years mitigate this risk, provided growth targets in apprenticeships and adult education are met.			
8	Legal Implications: Acceptance of learners and continuation of training provisions is within the Council's statutory education related powers under the Education Act 1996 and skills legislation. The transfer of approximately 4 FTE staff will constitute a relevant transfer for the purposes of the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006 (TUPE). The Council must comply with statutory consultation duties and maintain continuity of employment and terms and conditions. The acquisition of equipment must comply with the Council's financial regulations and lawful spending powers under the Localism Act 2011. No procurement obligations arise because this is an asset purchase not a service contract.			
9	Is the decision a Key Decision? (please contact Democratic Support for further advice) Please type an X into the relevant boxes	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.
	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:	The Centre is fully equipped for delivery and would provide significant opportunity to grow provision of skills and employment in the city, working towards objectives of The Plymouth Plan (GRO2) and the Plymouth Economic Strategy. It further aligns to the priorities of the Corporate Plan, specifically through continuing and growing provision of skills which will contribute to Green investment, jobs, skills and better education.		
11	Please specify any direct environmental implications of the decision (carbon impact)	N/A		
Urgent decisions				

12a	Is the decision urgent and to be implemented immediately in the interests of the Council or the public? Please type an X into the relevant box	Yes		(If yes, please contact Democratic Support (democraticsupport@plymouth.gov.uk) for advice)
		No	X	(If no, go to section 13a)
12b	Reason for urgency:			
12c	Scrutiny Chair Signature:		Date	
	Scrutiny Committee name:			
	Print Name:			
Consultation				
13a	Are any other Cabinet members' portfolios affected by the decision? Please type an X into the relevant box	Yes		
		No	X	(If no go to section 14)
13b	Which other Cabinet member's portfolio is affected by the decision?	N/A		
13c	Date Cabinet member consulted	N/A		
14	Has any Cabinet member declared a conflict of interest in relation to the decision? Please type an X into the relevant box	Yes		If yes, please discuss with the Monitoring Officer
		No	X	
15	Which Corporate Management Team member has been consulted?	Name	David Haley	
		Job title	Director for Children's Services	
		Date consulted	27 October 2025	
Sign-off				
16	Sign off codes from the relevant departments consulted:	Democratic Support (mandatory)	JS71 25/26	
		Finance (mandatory)	OW.25.26.111	

	Legal (mandatory)	LS/00001312/1/AC/10/2/26
	Procurement (if applicable)	N/A
	Corporate property (decisions involving Council owned land or facilities) (if applicable)	JW 0129 06/02/26
	Human Resources (if applicable)	CS.25.26.021

Appendices

17 Ref.	Title of appendix
A	Plymouth Centre for Engineering Skills Briefing Report
B	Equalities Impact Assessment
C	Climate Impact Assessment

Confidential/exempt information

18 a	Do you need to include any confidential/exempt information? Please type an X into the relevant box	Y	X	If yes, prepare a second, confidential ('Part II') briefing report and indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box in 18b below. (Keep as much information as possible in the briefing report that will be in the public domain)
		N	O	

Exemption Paragraph Number

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
18 b	D - Plymouth Centre for Engineering Skills – Business Case			X				
	E - Plymouth Centre for Engineering Skills – Additional details			X				

Background Papers

19 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. If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part I 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
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Cabinet Member 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 (2010) and those who do not. For further details please see the EIA attached.						
Signature			Date of decision	11 February 2026			
Print Name	Councillor Sally Cresswell						