

Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny Panel



Date of meeting:	18 February 2026
Title of Report:	CATERed Update and Next Steps
Lead Member:	Councillor Sally Cresswell (Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Apprenticeships)
Lead Strategic Director:	David Haley (Director for Childrens Services)
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Your Reference:	Click here to enter text.
Key Decision:	No
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

To provide an update on the current position with CATERed including the steps that being taken between now and the end of July 2026 when the Company will cease trading. company has made to improve their market position.

Recommendations and Reasons

- I. That the Scrutiny Panel receive the briefing paper for information and note the next steps.

Alternative options considered and rejected

- I. There are no alternative options presented in this briefing note.

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

Value for money and stewardship – PCC stepping in with financial support to keep CATERed solvent and continue to provide meals to children until the end of the 25/26 academic year.

Fairness and cost of living – All children, especially vulnerable groups can continue to access school meals

Responsibility – CATERed's decision to cease will have an impact on schools in the City and PCC will work with Catered to support them to transition to new providers.

Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

A Deed of undertaking is currently in place which means that PCC are underwriting CATERed liabilities from October 2025 to July 2026, enabling the organisation to continue lawful trading and meet its creditor obligations through the end of the academic year. This financial support ensures uninterrupted service delivery. It was originally anticipated that the support to CATERed would be provided as a loan facility. However, following CATERed's decision to cease operations and their resulting inability to repay the loan, PCC now intends

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Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below. Background papers are unpublished works, relied on to a material extent in preparing the report, which disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the work is based.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:

Fin	NA	Leg	NA	Mon Off	NA	HR	NA	Assets	NA	Strat Proc	NA
Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Amanda Davis											
Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes											
Date agreed: 11/02/2026											
Cabinet Member approval: Councillor Cresswell approved via email.											
Date approved: 10/02/2026											