

# EXECUTIVE DECISION

made by a Council Officer



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

Executive Decision Reference Number – Executive Decision Reference Number – COD19 25/26

Decision	
1	<b>Title of decision:</b> Purchase of a property for use as a Children's Home
2	<b>Decision maker:</b> David Haley (Director for Children's Services)
3	<b>Report author and contact details:</b> Vivien Lines (Project Consultant) E <a href="mailto:Vivien.lines@plymouth.gov.uk">Vivien.lines@plymouth.gov.uk</a> T +441752308971
4a	<b>Decision to be taken:</b> 1. To purchase a property for use as a Children's Home, at a value of £330,000.
4b	<b>Reference number of original executive decision or date of original committee meeting where delegation was made:</b> Executive Decision: L32 24/25 - Capital Programme Allocation: Development of Children's Homes. (29/11/2024) <a href="https://democracy.plymouth.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=4524">https://democracy.plymouth.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=4524</a>
5	<b>Reasons for decision:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>3. Opening our own children's homes presents an opportunity to reduce the cost and improve the quality of care and outcomes for children in care who need residential placements.</li> <li>4. Added value of the local provision being developed includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential to prevent a child moving into an unregulated arrangement.</li> <li>• Savings from social workers not having to visit children at a distance from Plymouth.</li> <li>• Ability to support children with local health and education services.</li> <li>• Greater potential to support children into foster care or home to their families.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>
6	<b>Alternative options considered and rejected:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Purchase alternative property: Alternative properties have been considered but not deemed suitable.</li> </ol>

	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 and prevent the Council providing a local home for children and young people who need our care.			
<b>7</b>	<b>Financial implications and risks:</b> £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. This is the second property being purchased, using this approved funding. The property price is £330,000. The purchase will be completed in advance of the revenue savings being achieved.			
<b>8</b>	<b>Legal Implications and risks:</b> Due diligence on the property will be undertaken by external solicitors and the Council will not exchange unless it is satisfied that there are no legal impediments on the title to the property which would prevent use as a children's home.  Planning permission for a change of use will be sought – there is a risk that this might not be granted.			
<b>9a</b>	<b>Is the decision a Key Decision?</b> (please contact <a href="#">Democratic Support</a> for further advice)	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Per the Constitution, a key decision is one which:</b>
			<b>x</b>	in the case of <b>capital</b> projects and contract awards, results in a new commitment to spend and/or save in excess of <b>£3million</b> in total
			<b>x</b>	in the case of <b>revenue</b> projects when the decision involves entering into new commitments and/or making new savings in excess of <b>£1million</b> , annually
			<b>x</b>	is <b>significant</b> in terms of its effect on communities living or working in an area comprising <b>two or more</b> wards in the area of the local authority.
<b>9b</b>	<b>If yes, date of publication of the notice in the <a href="#">Forward Plan of Key Decisions</a></b>	N/A		
<b>10</b>	<b>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:</b>	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.		
<b>11</b>	<b>Please specify any direct environmental implications of the decision (carbon impact)</b>	A climate impact assessment has been completed.		
<b>Urgent decisions</b>				
<b>12a</b>	<b>Is the decision urgent and to be implemented immediately in the interests of the Council or the public?</b>	<b>Yes</b>		(If yes, please contact <a href="#">Democratic Support</a> for advice)
		<b>No</b>	<b>X</b>	(If no, go to section 13a)
<b>12b</b>	<b>Reason for urgency:</b>			

I2c	Scrutiny Chair signature:		Date
	Scrutiny Committee name:		
	Print Name:		
<b>Consultation</b>			
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	05/02/2026	
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	Strategic Director: Children's Services
		Date consulted	11/02/26
<b>Sign-off</b>			
I6	Sign off codes from the relevant departments consulted:	Democratic Support (mandatory)	JS75 25/26
		Finance (mandatory)	OW.25.26.131
		Legal (mandatory)	LS/00001312/1/AC/4/12/25
		Human Resources (if applicable)	CS.25.26.020
		Corporate property (if applicable)	JW 0130 11/02/26
		Procurement (if applicable)	N/A

Appendices								
Ref.	Title of appendix							
A	Briefing report part I							
B	EIA							
C	CIA							
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 I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box in 18b below.				
		No						
		Exemption Paragraph Number						
		I	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 I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.							
Title of background paper(s)		Exemption Paragraph Number						
		I	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		16/02/2026		
Print Name		David Haley, DCS						