

CABINET ADDENDUM 2

2.00PM, THURSDAY, 19 MARCH 2026

COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL

Agendas and minutes are published on the council's website www.brighton-hove.gov.uk. Agendas are available to view five working days prior to the meeting date.

Electronic agendas can also be accessed through our meetings app available through [ModernGov: iOS/Windows/Android](#)

This agenda and all accompanying reports are printed on recycled paper

ADDENDUM

ITEM		Page
140	PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT	3 - 14
141	ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS	15 - 18
143	REPRESENTATIONS FROM OPPOSITION MEMBERS	
158	LARGE PANEL SYSTEMS BUILDING AND ESTATES RENEWAL - SECTION 105, REHOUSING POLICY AND LEASEHOLDER OFFER CONSULTATION PROGRAMME (EXEMPT CATEGORY 3)	19 - 30

Representation from Councillor McLeay on Item 156: Middle Street - Statutory Notices.

Brighton & Hove City Council

Cabinet

Agenda Item 140(a)

Subject: Petitions

Date of meeting: Thursday, 19 March 2026

Report of: Director- Governance & Law

Contact Officer: Name: John Peel
Tel: 01273 291058
Email: john.peel@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Ward(s) affected: All

1. Purpose of the report and policy context

1.1 To receive any petitions submitted directly to Democratic Services or any e-Petition submitted via the council's website.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That Cabinet note the petition.

3. Context and background information

3.1 To receive the following petition signed by 7 people at the time of publication:

1) Bampfield Street & Hurst Crescent Controlled Parking Zone

We the undersigned petition Brighton & Hove Council to introduce controlled parking zones (CPZs), also known as residents' parking schemes, on Bampfield Street and Hurst Crescent in South Portslade. These residential streets currently experience significant overcrowding from vehicles, making it increasingly difficult for local residents to park near their homes. Many residents, including those with only one vehicle, struggle to find parking due to some individuals owning multiple vehicles, alongside regular use of the area by tradespeople and commuters who park for free before travelling into Brighton. The lack of parking controls places an unfair burden on residents and negatively impacts daily life. Introducing controlled parking and resident permits would help prioritise parking for local households, reduce congestion, and improve fairness and accessibility on these streets.

Brighton & Hove City Council

Cabinet

Agenda Item 140(b)

Subject: Public Questions

Date of meeting: 19 March 2026

A period of not more than thirty minutes shall be allowed at each ordinary meeting for questions submitted by a member of the public.

The following written questions have been received from members of the public:

1. Vanessa McGeachin - Middle Street Statutory Notices

Could you clarify what proportion of the current budget deficit, which has been cited as a key factor in the decision to close Middle Street Primary School, is attributable to ongoing or one-off payments to staff no longer employed at Middle Street, including the Headteacher?

2. Jane Goldsmith - Middle Street Statutory Notices

Given its heritage as Brighton's oldest school and its central location, close to public transport links - also bearing in mind the recent refurbishment at significant public expense - what are the council's views on repurposing Middle Street, perhaps as a special needs hub serving the entire city community.

3. Oli Sharpe - Middle Street Statutory Notices

It concerns me greatly that the report for item 156 fails to capture the temporary nature of the recent problems at Middle Street School, blaming "governance and finance" rather than the widely known break down in relations between the previous senior leadership team and the school community. The phrase "senior leadership" does not appear once. Nor does the report mention that pupil numbers had been consistently around 190 (90% of PAN) for years, making the school financially viable compared to neighbouring schools. It is only the recent complex HR issues and loss of community trust that led to pupil numbers dropping to 141 and then 71 after rumours of closure circulated. With a PAN of 15, a new senior leadership team, and a 10 year plan to pay off the deficit this much loved school would be viable. Why are these details and options not in the report to council?

Brighton & Hove City Council

Cabinet

Agenda Item 140(c)

Subject: Deputations from members of the public

Date of meeting: 19 March 2026

A period of not more than fifteen minutes shall be allowed at each Cabinet meeting for the hearing of deputations from members of the public. Notification of 3 Deputation(s) have been received. The spokesperson is entitled to speak for 5 minutes.

1. The Potential of Middle Street Primary School

Supported by:

John Dow
Taressa Brennan Dow
Dawn Hayes
Pippa Terry
Rachel McLachlan
Aranzazu Vilas Sarasua
Claire Iacovou
Emma Gallini
Libby Holcombe
Daniel Reeves

Summary of Deputation:

The current discussion has focused heavily on falling pupil numbers and budgets, but numbers alone do not determine a school's long-term future.

National evidence shows around 85% of schools placed in Special Measures recover, often within 2–5 years, when strong leadership and local authority support are in place.

The central question is therefore not simply decline, but whether Middle Street is given the opportunity to recover. The drop from 210 to 135 pupils appears to reflect a confidence shock rather than a permanent demographic shift.

When closure is signalled, parents understandably move children quickly. This can cause rapid falls in numbers that reinforce the case for closure even when underlying demand remains.

Middle Street has historically been a progressive, oversubscribed school with a strong reputation among families. The school provides mainstream SEND support, something many families actively seek and which aligns with the council's wider commitment to inclusive education.

Brighton & Hove City Council

It is home to Brighton's only accredited Beach School, offering a distinctive and valued learning experience.

Middle Street is also the oldest school in Brighton, located in the Old Town Conservation Area and deeply embedded in the city-centre community.

The community response has been strong and constructive: parents, volunteers and local businesses have stepped forward to support the school, with organisations such as IKEA already providing practical help.

Schools like Middle Street are core civic infrastructure. Once a primary school closes, it is extremely difficult to recreate later.

This decision sits alongside the council's own housing strategy, which anticipates around 900 new homes per year until 2030, many aimed at families living in the urban core.

Closing Middle Street would remove the only primary school in the heart of the city at the same time the city is planning to attract more families to live there.

A time-limited recovery plan (3–5 years) would allow confidence to rebuild, improvement to take effect, and new families moving into the area to restore demand.

This is therefore a choice between a short-term response to current numbers, or a long-term investment in community infrastructure for the city centre.

"This decision will shape the city centre for decades. Please choose a future where families can still send their children to a local school."

2. **Deputation to Support Middle Street Primary School**

Supported by:

Peter Evans
Scarlett Ercelikcan
Henry Acford Evans
Alice Russell
Elizabeth Lagrem

Summary of Deputation:

Middle Street Primary School has, like many other schools in the city, experienced falling pupil numbers and rising deficits. But unlike those other schools, Middle Street's problems are not simply a response to shifting demographics, high costs and poor funding.

Brighton & Hove City Council

Look at the data. The deficit grew from around £28,000 in 2021 to over £232,000 by late 2024, largely driven by spending on agency staff — the most expensive way to cover a classroom. The question is why.

The governing board's own minutes give us a clue. By autumn 2023, staff had recorded 82 certified sick days in a single term. The situation had become so entrenched that governors recorded in their own minutes that a staff well-being survey would likely not be seen as anonymous, and that staff would be reluctant to participate at all.

A long-standing member of staff, said publicly that warnings were raised time and time again — but went unheard.

Now to the decline in pupil numbers. This wasn't just a case of smaller pupil numbers at reception entry point. It was due to the scores of parents removing their children mid-year and sending them to the nearest available school to Middle Street or homeschooling.

They did this for predominantly two reasons. Because of staff turnover, many children had no permanent class teacher for years. This had a devastating impact on their education and their well-being.

And then there is safeguarding. Multiple complaints were made to the governors and to the council about keeping the children safe in school. But they were never dealt with properly.

When the IEB finally examined those concerns, they found that many incidents had never even been logged on the school's safeguarding system.

This community deserves answers — and we are calling for an independent external investigation into how this was allowed to happen and to ensure this never happens again.

We are also demanding that the council commits to keeping Middle Street open, and gives this community the second chance it deserves. This is not a school that failed. It is a school that was failed. It must never happen again.

3. **Deputation to Cabinet – Middle Street Primary School**

Supported by:

Ruth Swift-Wood
Gabriella Salvi
Laura Elliott
Victoria Handley
Alice Dewar-Mills

Brighton & Hove City Council

Tom Adams
Emma Rivera Cordero

Summary of Deputation:

Purpose

This note sets out the key concerns of families, children and staff affected by the closure of Middle Street Primary School, covering three areas: transparency of impact data; support for those affected; and the future use of the school building.

Background

Middle Street Primary has served central Brighton as a walkable, secular school for low-income families. Its closure has consequences for children's stability, parents' working lives and community cohesion. The affected community includes a high proportion of SEND pupils, single-parent families and households navigating language barriers – groups who would benefit from targeted Council support through this transition.

Key issues and requests

1. Measuring the Fallout

A single, publicly accessible resource tracking the impact of the closure would help families and staff navigate the transition. It should cover redistribution of pupils, staff redeployment and family resettlement over time. Where possible, data should be disaggregated by socioeconomic group, as SEND pupils, low-income families and staff on temporary contracts may face greater disruption. Information should be in plain language and updated regularly – current IEB minutes are difficult for most parents to access.

2. Proactive Support

Where monitoring identifies groups experiencing difficulty, early intervention is likely to be more effective than waiting for issues to escalate. SEND pupils in particular may need sustained pastoral support both immediately and over the medium term. The following low-cost interventions are requested:

- A named Council contact for every affected family
- A peer support group for displaced staff via existing channels
- Translated guidance documents, produced once and distributed widely
- Briefings to receiving schools on children arriving from Middle Street
- A named officer should take public ownership of these outcomes.

3. The School Building

Transparency: Plans for the site at any stage of development would benefit from being made publicly visible, allowing the community to understand the Council's intentions and contribute where appropriate.

Interim use: Between closure and any formal change of use, the building could be made available to community groups, voluntary organisations or early years providers needing affordable space in central Brighton.

Maintenance: Maintaining the building to a standard that preserves future educational use would keep options open as school place pressures in Brighton & Hove evolve.

Brighton & Hove City Council

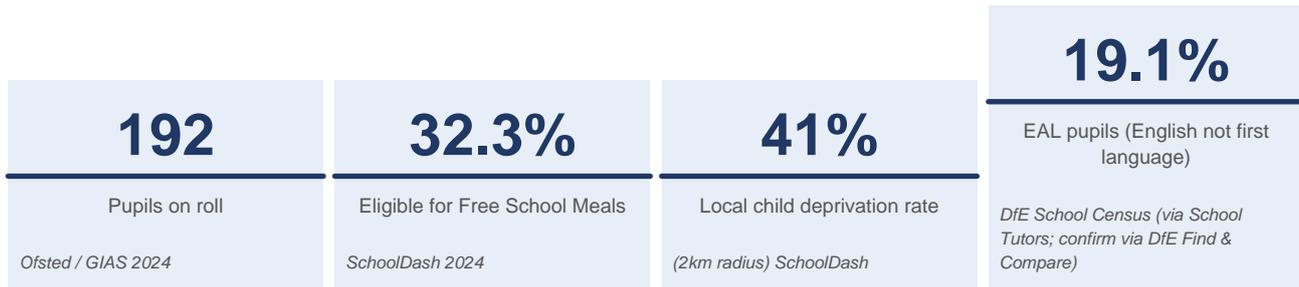
SUMMARY OF REQUESTS

- A single, plain-language public resource tracking the impact of this closure, disaggregated by socioeconomic group where possible and updated regularly.
- A support model using monitoring data to identify those who may need assistance early, with named officers responsible for children, families and staff.
- Transparency about plans for the building, interim community access where feasible, and maintenance to a standard that preserves its potential for future educational use.

Supporting Information:

Please see attached appendix.

SECTION 1 — SCHOOL PROFILE: WHO IS AFFECTED



Middle Street’s free school meal rate of 32.3% is notably higher than the 29.3% average across the ten nearest comparable schools (SchoolDash, 2024), indicating a more socioeconomically vulnerable intake than the immediate peer group. The 41% child deprivation rate within a 2km radius places the school’s catchment among the more deprived areas of central Brighton. Nearly one in five pupils speaks English as an additional language, underlining the need for multilingual communications during transition. Note: EAL and absence figures should be confirmed against DfE Find and Compare Schools data.

SECTION 2 — BRIGHTON & HOVE SCHOOL CLOSURE CONTEXT

Middle Street is the latest in a series of Brighton & Hove primary school closures driven by falling pupil numbers. The city has experienced significant demographic change, with a 22% drop in children aged 0–4 between the 2011 and 2021 censuses (ONS Census 2021; cited in B&HCC; School Closure Consultation, Nov 2023).

The Council’s own forecasts project Reception year demand will fall from approximately 1,970 in 2025 to just 1,787 by 2027 — a drop of nearly 200 places in two years. The city already has over 25% surplus primary capacity.

In this context, closures are likely to continue. Middle Street is not an isolated incident but part of a pattern. The case for a replicable, transparent monitoring framework is therefore not only relevant to this closure — it applies to every future closure the Council will face.

Date	Event
2021	Council report projects 1 in 5 city primary places to be surplus by 2025
Nov 2023	Consultation opens on closure of St Bartholomew’s and St Peter’s
Mar 2024	Council votes to close both schools from Aug 2024
2025	651 projected surplus Reception places city-wide
2026	662 projected surplus Reception places; Middle Street closure
2027	DfE data suggests demand may fall to only 1,787 Reception pupils

Sources: Brighton & Hove City Council school closure consultation documents; DfE admissions data; 2021 Census.

SECTION 3 — DEPRIVATION CONTEXT: CENTRAL BRIGHTON

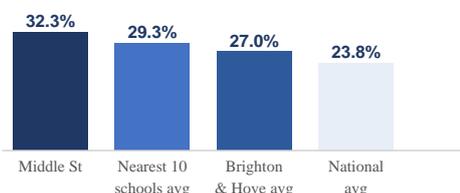
Brighton & Hove has the highest level of income deprivation and employment deprivation of any Local Authority in Sussex. The city contains 15 Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in the most deprived 10% nationally.

One LSOA in St Peter’s and North Laine ward — the ward in which Middle Street sits — was identified in the 2019 Index of Multiple Deprivation as having 80% of children living in income deprivation, the second highest concentration in England (B&HCC; IoD 2019 Briefing, December 2019).

Brighton & Hove also had the third highest rate of homelessness in England at the time of the last major assessment (1 in 78 residents; Shelter, 2021 — the most recent published figure), nearly double the national rate. This is directly relevant to family stability during school transitions: families with insecure housing face compound disruption.

Source: Brighton & Hove IoD 2019 Briefing (B&HCC; Dec 2019); Sussex Community Foundation Tackling Poverty Report; Shelter 2021 (most recent available).

Free School Meal eligibility — comparative



Higher FSM rates signal greater household financial pressure and a reduced ability to absorb transition costs (transport, uniforms, childcare changes).

SECTION 4 — EVIDENCE: TRANSITION RISK FOR VULNERABLE PUPILS

A substantial body of published UK research demonstrates that unplanned or poorly supported school transitions carry measurable risks for wellbeing and attainment — risks that fall disproportionately on SEND pupils and those from lower socioeconomic backgrounds. The following findings are directly relevant to the Middle Street cohort.

Finding	Source	Relevance to Middle Street
SEND pupils experience significantly lower wellbeing and higher rates of exclusion during school transitions than peers	<i>Dr C. Bagnall, Parliament Written Evidence (2024); Education Endowment Foundation (2019)</i>	Middle Street serves a catchment with above-average SEND need; transition support is not optional
The attainment gap between SEND pupils and peers is twice as large as the gap between FSM pupils and peers	<i>Education Endowment Foundation (2019)</i>	32.3% FSM + elevated SEND need compounds risk; both groups require proactive monitoring
Pupils from low socioeconomic backgrounds show greater ambivalence about transition and are at higher risk of exclusion in first years at new school	<i>Bagnall et al. (2023), University of Manchester Policy Blog</i>	Majority of Middle Street catchment falls within high-deprivation LSOAs; early pastoral intervention is evidenced as effective
Difficulties with school transitions are associated with lower educational outcomes, school drop-out, increased depression and anxiety	<i>Multiple systematic reviews incl. Beaton & Quach (2023), ScienceDirect</i>	These are long-term outcomes — the case for monitoring does not end at the point of transfer
Attendance rate at Middle Street is recorded as below the national average, indicating existing vulnerability in the pupil cohort prior to closure	<i>DfE Find and Compare Schools — verify current figure at get-information-schools.service.gov.uk</i>	A cohort with existing attendance challenges is at heightened risk during the disruption of an unplanned school closure

SECTION 5 — THE SCHOOL BUILDING: CONTEXT FOR FUTURE USE DECISIONS

Brighton & Hove's own forecasts show Reception demand falling from 1,970 in 2025 to a possible low of 1,787 in 2027 — but the DfE cautions that only 90% of forecast children will require a place, introducing meaningful uncertainty. Demographic trends are not permanent. The 22% drop in the 0–4 age group recorded in 2021 reflects a specific period; housing development, migration patterns and birth rates can shift materially over a 10–15 year horizon.

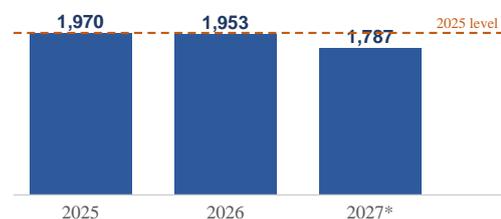
The Council's childcare sufficiency assessment (September 2025) found that demand for places for children with SEND continues to rise, while many early years providers report being unable to meet it. Affordable, accessible space in central Brighton for early years or SEND-specialist provision is in short supply.

The precedent set by St Bartholomew's closure (2024) is instructive: the Council established a transition board with parent representation and additional funding for uniform costs. Successful outreach to parent communities is impactful and approaches like this can be built upon in new ways, such as committing to long-term community use and maintenance of the school building.

Source for transition board: *ITV Meridian / Brighton & Hove City Council news release, 5 March 2024.*

Sources: *B&HCC; School Closure Consultation docs (Nov 2023); B&HCC; Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Sept 2025; B&HCC; School Admissions report to Children, Families & Schools Committee, Oct 2023 (forecast accuracy: 96–99% since 2015).*

Projected Reception year pupils requiring a place, B&HCC



* DfE data suggests 2027 demand may be as low as 1,787. Council forecasts have been 96–99% accurate since 2015.

Childcare gaps identified in B&HCC; Sufficiency Assessment (Sept 2025)

- Rising demand for SEND childcare places, with many providers unable to meet it
- Very limited flexible and emergency childcare availability across the city
- Only 23% of providers open before 8am (down from 48% in 2023)
- Central Brighton identified as an area of higher unmet early years need

These gaps point to potential community uses for the Middle Street building during any interim period.

All data cited in this document is drawn from publicly accessible sources including Brighton & Hove City Council published reports, Ofsted / DfE school data, the 2021 Census, published academic research, and the Sussex Community Foundation. The EAL proportion and attendance figures should be verified against the DfE Find and Compare Schools tool (get-information-schools.service.gov.uk). This document accompanies a five-minute deputation to Brighton & Hove City Council Cabinet, March 2026.

Brighton & Hove City Council

Cabinet

Agenda Item 141(a)

Subject: Member Questions

Date of meeting: 19 March 2026

A maximum period of fifteen minutes in total shall be made available at each meeting of the Executive for questions from Members of the Council.

The questions included on the list of questions referred to above shall be taken as read at the Cabinet meeting. The question will be answered either orally or at the discretion of the Chair by a written answer circulated after the meeting. Officers may assist the Leader or a Cabinet Member with technical answers to questions. No supplementary questions shall be permitted.

The following written questions have been received from Members:

1. Councillor Meadows - Modernising our recycling centre.

While we're happy the aim is to increase Brighton & Hove's woeful recycling rates, we are concerned about borrowing costs. How close is the council to a borrowing ceiling given that we are borrowing for the King Alfred Centre, Withdean swimming pool and are paying off the loan for i360? How resilient are we to future shocks?

2. Councillor Meadows - Environmental Enforcement Centre

There was a budget on 26th February, only two weeks ago. Is the overspend outlined in 6.1 additional overspend from what was outlined in the budget? What is meant by 'structural pressure' (paragraph 6.1)? Did officers not know this extra expenditure was required last month before budget council?

3. Councillor McNair - A Cleaner City Centre

Has the establishment of a new overnight cleansing team (paragraph 3.3) reduced cover from other parts of Brighton & Hove? Will this level of service be rolled out to the rest of the city, including other central areas such as London Road and George Street?
How will the overnight cleansing team handle rough sleepers who might be sleeping in central areas targeted, for example, for graffiti removal?

4. Councillor McNair - Local Authority Bus Grant Delivery Plan 2026-27

Has the council been given any reason as to why funding is being cut by 5% as outlined in paragraph 6.1?

5. Councillor Meadows - Planned Maintenance Budget

What is the purpose of the property condition survey for Old Boat Corner Community Centre at a cost of £4,700? Are there any particular concerns about the building?

6. Councillor Meadows - Pride in Place

Whitehawk and Moulsecoomb were part of the new deal for communities fund of £50mn delivered over 10 years in the 1990s. Whitehawk was given the bulk of that funding which produced little result. What lessons have been learnt from past failures that can be carried forward to this programme?

7. Councillor McNair - Affordable Housing Planning Advice Note

According to paragraph 3.1, 'City Plan Policy CP20 sets a requirement for 40% affordable housing to be provided by developers in schemes of 15 or more homes and requires smaller percentages of affordable housing on site or an in lieu financial contribution in schemes down to 5 homes.' Will reducing the number of houses that are liable to pay a financial contribution from 9 to 5 put an onerous burden on house builders? The development of three houses in Rotherfiled Crescent is one example of the challenges faced with small infill sites. Is this financial contribution in schemes of 5 homes another reason why infill is becoming unaffordable for developers?

8. Councillor Meadows – Annual Procurement forward plan

How are we paying for a £14m expansion of the city's bike scheme? How will this allow other authorities in the southeast to establish their own scheme? Are Brighton & Hove residents subsidising the scheme in other councils?

9. Councillor McNair - Large Panel Systems Building and Estates Renewal

Why are secure tenants of the 8 blocks due to be demolished being helped to buy property (paragraph 3.14), possibly in the private sector? How many tenants do they envisage the £0.4m helping?

10. Councillor Raphael Hill - Modernising our recycling centre

The Hollingdean Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) has a significant visual impact on the Round Hill Conservation Area. A proposal for a green roof and green walls proposed for the MRF were part of the original design intentions but were not formalized as enforceable planning conditions in the approved application BH2006/00900 in June 2006. These features were ultimately not implemented. While I appreciate this report is largely about new machinery, could investment in the MRF also consider ways to include improvements that were part of the original design?

11. Councillor Ollie Sykes - Modernising our recycling centre

Concerning the loan for the capital works, a likely PWLB rate of 4.5% is indicated, giving a financing cost of £0.130m annually over 25 years. The

current PWLB fixed rate is about 6% for infrastructure investment, so where does 4.5% come from and how would a 6% rate affect the business case?

12. Councillor Ollie Sykes - Cleaner City Centre

A roving Field Officer role was piloted a few years ago with elements of similar remit to the City Centre Manager role. What lessons have been drawn from the Field Officer pilot, which was not continued?

13. Councillor Ollie Sykes - LA Bus Grant Delivery Plan

Will there be any consideration of corridor strengthening of the Western Road /Church Road bus corridor which is seeing damage and degradation from heavy vehicles including buses?

14. Councillor Pete West - Modernising our recycling centre

Yet again, another thin cabinet report that proposes significant investment over a long time period yet fails to present a full case; leaving obvious and major questions unaddressed. The financial implications give some indication of the loan and staff cost modelling, but don't consider the income/cost of marketing additionally separated materials. It is only when we read the Risk Implications do we see mention that the investment may offer opportunities for additional income. There are, of course, no figures offered for what that income might be, whether it will be able to help address the further 'pressure funding', or whether it may potentially end up with further cost for reprocessing, storage or disposal of poor value materials. I don't wish to seem cynical, but this report tells us too little to be confident the decision is being based on sound thinking. What are the full costings, please?

15. Councillor Shanks - Community Safety and Crime Reduction Strategy 2026 – 2029

Why was the opposition given no chance to scrutinise this important document, why do we have only administration councillors on this important partnership body. Will you consider giving other voices a seat.

16. Councillor McLeay - Middle Street- Statutory Notices

The proposed closure of Middle Street School is devastating for many families—those currently at the school, those whose children thrived there, and those who were educated there themselves. It has long been a much loved, once oversubscribed school. There is a strong feeling across the community that this closure could have been avoided had the right support been in place. Will Cabinet commit to a comprehensive external and independent investigation, so that any failings can be understood and prevented elsewhere in the city's school system?

17. Councillor McLeay - Large Panel Systems Building and Estates Renewal

What is the current annual availability of 3 and 4 bed council properties, and how does this compare with the projected need arising from decanting the LPS blocks?

18. Councillor McLeay - Large Panel Systems Building and Estates Renewal

The financial implications highlight £0.4m for the Home Ownership Pact pilot, a £7.489m capital allocation for LPS-related work, and an anticipated loss of £2.9m in annual rental income across the eight LPS blocks. Given these pressures, can Cabinet explain how the HRA will absorb these costs while ensuring the programme remains financially sustainable?

Document is Restricted

Document is Restricted

