



### Cabinet

Minutes of a meeting held at County Hall, Colliton Park, Dorchester,  
Dorset, DT1 1XJ on Wednesday, 6 March 2019.

#### Present:

Jill Haynes	(in the Chair) Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Health and Care
Steve Butler	Cabinet Member for Safeguarding
Andrew Parry	Cabinet Member for Economic Growth, Education, Learning and Skills
Tony Ferrari	Cabinet Member for Community and Resources
Daryl Turner	Cabinet Member for Natural and Built Environment
Peter Wharf	Cabinet Member for Workforce

#### Members Attending:

Jon Andrews, County Councillor for Sherborne Town  
Hilary Cox, County Councillor for Winterborne  
David Harris, County Councillor for Westham  
Nick Ireland, County Councillor for Linden Lea

#### Officers Attending:

Mike Harries (Chief Executive), Helen Coombes (Transformation Programme Lead for the Adult and Community Forward Together Programme), Grace Evans (Monitoring Officer), Jim McManus (Chief Accountant), Sarah Parker (Executive Director, People (Children)), Matthew Piles (Service Director of Environment, Infrastructure and Economy), Andy Reid (Assistant Director - Schools and Learning) and Lee Gallagher (Democratic Services Manager).

(Notes:(1) In accordance with Rule 16(b) of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules the decisions set out in these minutes will come into force and may then be implemented on the expiry of five working days after the publication date.  
Publication Date: **Tuesday, 12 March 2019.**

(2) These minutes have been prepared by officers as a record of the meeting and of any decisions reached. They are to be considered and confirmed at the next meeting of the Cabinet to be held on **Wednesday, 27 March 2019.**)

#### Apologies for Absence

11 An apology for absence was received from Cllr Rebecca Knox.

#### Code of Conduct

12 There were no declarations by members of disclosable pecuniary interests under the Code of Conduct.

#### Minutes

13 The minutes of the meeting held on 16 January 2019 were confirmed and signed.

#### Public Participation

##### 14 Public Speaking

Public questions were received at the meeting in accordance with Standing Order 21(1) from David Redgewell, South West Transport Network/Bus Users South West to the Cabinet Member for Natural and Built Environment in relation to Bus Services and Rail Station Access. The questions and answers are attached to these minutes as an annexure.

There were no public statements received at the meeting in accordance with Standing Order 21(2).

#### Petitions

There were no petitions received at the meeting in accordance with the County Council's Petition Scheme.

#### **Cabinet Forward Plan**

- 15 The Cabinet considered the draft Forward Plan, which identified key decisions to be taken by the Cabinet on or after the next meeting. It was noted that the lead Cabinet Member for the Bridport Care Village item was Cllr Jill Haynes and not Cllr Tony Ferrari.

#### **Noted**

#### **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Transport Policy Update**

- 16 The Cabinet considered a joint report by the Cabinet Member for Economy, Education, Learning and Skills and the Cabinet Member for Natural and Built Environment which provided an update on SEND transport following the Cabinet meeting held on 5 December 2018 regarding a new approach and reassurance for families and councillors.

Cllr Andrew Parry explained that there was a visionary opportunity to understand and develop SEND transport provision to suit individual needs for users and in some cases provide greater or full independence though broader options being made available, with a primary focus on the social impact upon service users. The next stage would be to undertake a pilot scheme and for data to be obtained regarding the logistical, welfare and financial aspects of the service. It was clarified that people who had the most needs would continue to receive the highest level of support.

A question was received from Cllr Nick Ireland in relation to engagement regarding Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Transport. The question and answer are attached to these minutes as an annexure. In addition to the answer provided, it was noted that a relationship had been established with the Dorset Parents Campaign for SEND Children and that a meeting was due to be held on 8 March 2019.

#### **Noted**

#### **Adoption of the Management Plans for the Cranborne Chase & Dorset Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs)**

- 17 The Cabinet considered a report by the Cabinet Member for Natural and Built Environment on the production and adoption of five-year Management Plans for the Cranborne Chase AONB and the Dorset AONB. It was noted that the Plans would be considered by Dorset Council later in the year.

#### **Resolved**

1. That the Dorset AONB Management Plan be adopted.
2. That the Cranborne Chase AONB Management Plan be adopted.

#### Reason for Decision

To ensure that the statutory responsibilities in relation to the Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty were met.

#### **Recommendations from Committees**

- 18 The following recommendations were considered:

### Regulatory Committee - 24 January 2019

- 18a The Cabinet considered a recommendation in relation to a Puffin pedestrian crossing on B3145 Bristol Road, at the northern end of Sherborne, in facilitating the crossing of the road by a controlled means, across the main route to Wincanton and the A303 trunk road.

#### **Resolved**

That the provision of a Puffin pedestrian crossing in Bristol Road, Sherborne, on the basis of the amended scheme shown on drawing number HI 1178-08-01-Orig at Appendix 3 to the report and taking account of the observations made by the Committee, be supported.

#### **Reason for Decision**

To provide a crossing point by a controlled means to facilitate pedestrian movements and improve road safety following requests from local schools and support by Sherborne Town Council.

### Regulatory Committee - 24 January 2019

- 18b The Cabinet considered a recommendation in relation to a proposed resident's parking scheme for Stourbank Road, Christchurch to provide for limited parking for 1 hour, with no return within 1 hour, Monday to Friday, 8am – 6pm, except for resident permit holders.

#### **Resolved**

That the parking scheme with limited waiting for 1 hour, Monday to Friday 8am – 6pm, no return within 1 hour, in Stourbank Road, Christchurch except for resident permit holders be progressed as advertised.

#### **Reason for Recommendation**

Prior to advertising the proposal, 71% of residents in Stourbank Road supported the petition and was supported by Christchurch Borough Council. Dorset County Council policy states at least 60% was required. Therefore, the necessary criteria for the implementation of resident's parking schemes had been met and the percentage threshold well exceeded. Stourbank Road led to Twynham School entrance, used by vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians. The school had a sixth form and, as a result, both pupils and teachers were using local roads to park throughout the day time, often inappropriately.

### Overview and Scrutiny Management Board – 29 January 2019

- 18c The Cabinet considered the findings and recommendations following the Children's Services Inquiry Day held on 15 January 2019. Cllr David Harris, Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board, highlighted that the review was undertaken on a cross party basis with Chairmen of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees. The report would also be considered by the Shadow Executive Committee at its meeting on 11 March 2019.

Cllr Harris summarised the recommendations and welcomed progress which had been made on a number of areas already, which included:

- A further £5.8m funding had been allocated by the Shadow Dorset Council to the Children's Services budget for 2019/20.
- The induction arrangements included specific reference to SEND, which would be delivered at a high level initially and then on more detail after the elections.
- That the SEND transport review report considered earlier in the meeting started to address the priority for service provision to have an in-depth review.
- Communications and timelines suggestions had been recognised and were integral to ongoing development.

It was acknowledged that as the County Council would no longer exist after 31 March 2019, there was a need to ensure that the work continued and that the Executive Director, People (Children) was asked to keep progress moving forward into the new Council. Consideration of social care needs as part of the rationalisation and management of assets for Dorset Council was also highlighted as a particular area of focus. Cllr Butler clarified that Children's Services did not stop when the new Council started and that existing strategic plans, improvement plans, partnership working and developing new ways of working would continue.

In relation to partnership working, Cllr Haynes indicated that there was a high level of consideration given to adults by the Systems Partnership Board, and that there was a need to ensure that there was more of a focus on the whole-life of service users. She indicated that she would raise the issues contained within the recommendations at the next meeting in April 2019.

Cllr Harris was congratulated for managing the Inquiry Day and reporting back on the outcomes. Appreciation was also expressed to all participants of the Inquiry Day.

### **Resolved**

That the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board be supported and that the Executive Director, People (Children's) be asked to continue to address the areas outlined within the recommendations for Dorset Council.

### **Panels and Boards**

19 The Cabinet received the following minutes from panels and boards:

#### **Tricuro Executive Shareholder Group - 20 December 2018**

19a Cllr Jill Haynes, as Chairman of the Tricuro Executive Shareholder Group, clarified that minute 6 had been subsequently updated at the following meeting of the Group held on 5 February 2019 which replaced the recommendation with a resolution.

### **Noted**

#### **Dorset Waste Partnership Joint Committee - 17 January 2019**

19b **Noted**

#### **Joint Public Health Board - 4 February 2019**

19c Cllr Jill Haynes confirmed that the Joint Public Health Board would continue to operate for a further year and would be discussed by the new Dorset Council in due course.

### **Noted**

#### **Tricuro Executive Shareholder Group - 5 February 2019**

19d **Noted**

#### **Dorset Police and Crime Panel - 7 February 2019**

19e **Noted**

### **Questions from County Councillors**

20 The Cabinet received a question from Cllr Jon Andrews to the Cabinet Member for Finance in relation to Pensions Asset Investment. The question and answer are attached to these minutes as an annexure.

**Exempt Business****21 Resolved**

That in accordance with Section 100 A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 to exclude the public from the meeting in relation to the business specified in minute 22 as it was likely that if members of the public were present, there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 3 and 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act and the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information to the public.

**Bridport Gateway Care Campus Development - Recommendation to Award**

**22** The Cabinet considered an exempt report by the Cabinet Member for Health and Care in relation to the Bridport Gateway Care Campus Development. A summary of the history leading to this point was provided, which included consideration of a number of options and alternatives over many years and now arrived at a fantastic result.

It was noted that there was an imperative to progress the work and that as such delegations would be required to enable this to happen, and that the report would be considered by the Shadow Executive Committee at its meeting on 11 March 2019.

Members commended the report and congratulated officers for their excellent work. It was also recognised that this project was the first of a number of similar projects in other areas across Dorset.

**Resolved**

1. That the preferred bidders identified in the Cabinet Member's exempt report be appointed as set out, and contract negotiations be commenced.
2. That the decision to proceed on the basis of a 125 year lease, with a peppercorn rent for the initial 35 year period aligned with the service contract be approved.
3. That the buy-out of an option agreement between the County Council and Dorset Development Partnership on the land to the north of Flood Lane, Bridport and furthermore to dispose of the land to the north of Flood Lane, Bridport and the former Fisherman's Arms site off South Street, Bridport be approved on terms to be agreed by the Director of Environment and Economy at Dorset County Council.
4. That the County Council's general powers of competence be used to undertake these disposals at below market financial value, acknowledging the significant non-financial value that this development offers the Council.
5. That delegated authority be granted to the Director of Adults and Communities and the Chief Finance Officer to make decisions regarding the final Award of Contract to preferred bidders.

**Reason for Decisions**

1. The preferred bidders recommended achieved the highest aggregate score(s).
2. This approach to a final contract was determined to deliver the best overall financial benefit to the Council ensuring compliant procurement.
3. These sites were determined to be the preferred combination of sites for this use.
4. The contribution of Dorset County Council through the sale of the land at a market reduced price enabled long term value for money to be delivered for Dorset Council to discharge its social care and housing responsibilities. This was demonstrated through the affordable rent and bed prices within the contracts agreed.
5. The decision to award Contracts would need to be taken during May 2019, in the period following conclusion of local government elections and formation of the Cabinet for Dorset Council. This would ensure the full design, planning and build stage will progress according to the timescales set out in the Building Better Lives programme.



Public Statements and QuestionsAgenda Item 4**Questions from David Redgewell, South West Transport Network/Bus Users South West to the Cabinet Member for Natural and Built Environment in relation to Bus Services and Rail Station Access**Questions:

We welcome the setting up of the new Dorset Council. There is a need to provide bus services between Bridport - Beaminster and Crewkerne with the service 6 (Bridport – Beaminster, operating as one journey extended to/from Yeovil) currently operating only Mondays to Fridays. The 40 service, operated by Dorset County Council (DCC) should also operate as a through service.

1. What discussion is happening between First Group subsidiaries (First Wessex and Buses of Somerset) and the council regarding bus services as some people are missing bus connections with the current timetables i.e. caused by late running?
2. What progress is being made with the X51 service (Sundays and evenings) and services to Dorchester South, Bridport, Axminster, Yeovil and Bristol?
3. What proposals are there for disabled access at Dorchester West and Wareham where currently you have to use the level crossing? There is a need for a lift and disabled toilet.
4. Are Dorset County Council going to help fund their part of the Westbury - Weymouth Community Rail Partnership railway line?

Answers:

1. A new timetable has been registered with a start date of Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April. This will operate between Bridport and Crewkerne. Most through journeys between Bridport and Crewkerne will be provided by either Buses of Somerset or First Wessex, removing the need to change at Beaminster. The last journey in either direction will involve a change at Beaminster but there will be a guaranteed connection in each direction. Tickets purchased on both services are interchangeable.
2. Service X51 is commercially run by the bus company and they decide on the timetable and provide a level of service that is viable. Dorset County Council does not provide subsidy for any evening or weekend routes. The Council would be willing to discuss any aspirations with the bus company but ultimately, the company will make a commercial decision as to the level of service they provide. Following clarification of the question, the same principal would apply to the connections at Weymouth between rail and service X53.

It is possible that the transport strategy and policies will be reviewed under the new Dorset Council.

3. Dorset County Council, as part of a local partnership, have been working with Network Rail to build an Equality Act compliant ramp from Williams Avenue to the northbound platform for some years. The proposal is currently subject to a planning application, see link below, and if successful it is hoped to construct the ramp in 2019. All is subject to funding and legal agreements.

[https://planning.dorset.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=DCAPR\\_137607&activeTab=summary](https://planning.dorset.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=DCAPR_137607&activeTab=summary)

Lifts at Wareham Station are being considered by Network Rail and South Western railway and a bid has been put to the Department for Transport for Access for All funding. It is my understanding that we should hear if the bid has been successful by late Spring. The query regarding disabled toilets should be directed to South Western Railway.

4. Dorset County Council is, and continues to be, a funding partner of the Heart of Wessex Community Rail Partnership. The new Dorset Council will have to decide whether or not it wishes to continue as a funding partner for a community rail partnership on this line.



Member QuestionsAgenda Item 6**Question from Cllr Nick Ireland to the Cabinet Member for Economy, Education, Learning and Skills and the Cabinet Member for the Natural and Built Environment in relation to Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Transport**Question:

Whilst I welcome the fact that Dorset County Council recognised that no community engagement had taken place with respect to the previous paper that was withdrawn in December, I am concerned that the recent history of such engagement has been less than successful.

For example, the recent Dorset Parent-Carer Council survey received 35% less responses in 2019 than in 2017 (and that was only a consequence of the survey's existence being advertised by a third-party at the last minute).

Can DCC commit to engaging with those community groups which are already known to them both in the evidence gathering and consultation periods, and specifically the Dorset Parents Campaign for SEND Children?

Answer

Thank you Cllr Ireland for your question.

Officers continue to open up a variety of lines of communications with families of children who identify as meeting the SEND criteria. This is in order that both this authority and our successor, are well placed to maintain and develop relationships with families, assisting them in their awareness of services and support available.

The recently launched e-bulletin service is a great example of the fresh approach being adopted which already has a reach to an estimated 2,000 families. The Communications Team continue to work closely with officers and use a mix of traditional media and social media platforms to increase awareness of activities, services and policy for SEND provision.

From the information I have available, the DPCC Survey in 2017 received 262 responses when submissions closed on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017. The 2019 Survey should really be viewed in 2 parts. The first conducted by the DPCC received 171 responses before the submissions closed on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2019. I have been informed that the decision to end submissions earlier was due to the Ofsted/CQC Revisit and the commissioning of their own survey.

The second survey by Ofsted/CQC took place during February 2019. It has been estimated that in excess of 400 completed surveys were received – an encouraging result for engagement and participation.

The Dorset Parent Carers Council, continues to play an important role as a valued partner, as a respected source for all families seeking information, support or advice. I am sure they will be happy to discuss the nature of their work directly with Cllr Ireland and I am confident, they would appreciate his support.

## Agenda Item 10

### **Question from Cllr Jon Andrews to the Cabinet Member for Finance in relation to Pensions Asset Investment**

#### Question:

My question is on the audit and governance of our pensions asset investment company CBRE. How is audit and governance on CBRE carried out and what findings are available from such audits?

The reason for asking such a question is that on Monday the 4<sup>th</sup> of February I had a phone call from a business owner in Northampton. His question was around the old Maplins store in Northampton which he has been trying to acquire for the last 9-10 months to no avail. All this time and since the demise of Maplins the building has been empty and Dorset county Council own it. So that's at least 10 months income that the DCC pension has missed out on, hence my question.

CBRE manage this asset on the Council's behalf or that is what I am led to understand.

#### Answer:

The Council, as administering authority for Pension Fund, employs a number of specialist external investment managers, including CBRE Global Investors who manage the Pension Fund's property investments.

CBRE provide a quarterly report to the Pension Fund Committee that includes an update on performance, and an overview of the main control measures and risks, such as vacancy rate, together with CBRE's strategy for mitigating these risks. These reports also provide a comparison of CBRE against the market on a wide range of measures, including vacancy rates. CBRE attend annually at least one meeting of the Pension Fund Committee, and they are in regular contact with officers. CBRE provide an externally reviewed and audited annual controls report to all their clients, including the Council, that outlines their key investment, IT, and operational controls. Controls and performance against a wide variety of measures (including vacancy rates) are reviewed and scrutinised within CBRE by their Investment Oversight Committee.

The vacancy rate of the Pension Fund's property portfolio has been consistently and significantly below the market average as measured by Investment Property Databank (IPD). As at 31 December 2018, the Pension Fund's vacancy rate was 2.1% (of Estimated Rental Value) compared to the market average of 7.0%.

As the specific detail of Cllr Andrews' query is commercially sensitive I will ensure that he is provided with more information outside of the meeting.