

Cabinet

Minutes of a meeting held at County Hall,
Colliton Park, Dorchester on 6 November 2013.

Present:

Spencer Flower (Chairman)
Robert Gould (Vice-Chairman)
Toni Coombs, Hilary Cox, Peter Finney, Jill Haynes and Rebecca Knox.

John Wilson, Chairman of the County Council, attended under Standing Order 54(1).

Members attending

Ronald Coatsworth, County Council Member for Bride Valley (Minutes 460-462)
Barrie Cooper, County Council Member for Blandford (Minutes 460-462, 482-484 and 509-511)
Janet Dover, County Council Member for Colehill and Stapehill (Minutes 453-454 and 460-462)
Fred Drane, County Council Member for Lytchett (Minutes 460-462)
Ros Kayes, County Council Member for Bridport (Minutes 460-462)
Mike Lovell, County Council Member for Purbeck Hills (Minutes 460-462)
David Mannings, County Council Member for Lodmoor (Minutes 463-465)
Margaret Phipps, County Council Member for Commons (Minutes 460-462)
Daryl Turner, County Council Member for Marshwood Vale (Minutes 460-462)
David Walsh, County Council Member for Gillingham (Minutes 460-462)
Peter Wharf, County Council Member for Egdon Heath (Minutes 460-462)

Members of other Councils in accordance with the Open Door Protocol


Bill White, Weymouth and Portland Borough Councillor for Radipole ward (Minutes 463-465)
Jacqui Cuff, West Dorset District Councillor for Piddle Valley ward (Minutes 463-465)

Officers Attending: Debbie Ward (Chief Executive), Catherine Driscoll (Director for Adult and Community Services), Mike Harries (Deputy Director for Environment, and Head of Dorset Property), Paul Kent (Director for Corporate Resources), Jonathan Mair (Monitoring Officer), David Phillips (Director of Public Health), Helen Squibb (Deputy Director for Children's Services), Jonathan Slater (Senior Public Relations Officer), Fiona King (Public Relations Officer) and Lee Gallagher (Democratic Services Manager).

For certain items, as appropriate:

John Alexander (Policy and Performance Manager), Dave Ayre (Head of Countryside and Business Development), Les Gardner (Head of Early Intervention Services), Andrew Martin (Head of Dorset Highways Operations), Richard Pascoe (Head of ICT and Customer Services) and Jan Stevenson (Passenger Transport 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: **12 November 2013.**

(2) The symbol () denotes that the item considered was a Key Decision and was included in the Forward Plan.

(3) 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 **4 December 2013.**)

Apology for Absence

448. An apology for absence was received from Miles Butler (Director for Environment).

Code of Conduct

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

Minutes

450. The minutes of the meeting held on 2 October 2013 were confirmed and signed.

Matters Arising**Minute 423.2 - Children's Services - A review of Universal Services to Children and Families**

451. The Cabinet Member for Communications and Education asked that in addition to confirming the timescales for the review at the last meeting she would also like to receive information on the communications and consultation plan.

Cabinet Forward Plan

452. The Cabinet considered the Cabinet Forward Plan, which identified key decisions to be taken by the Cabinet and items planned to be considered in a private part of the meeting. The current plan was published on 8 October 2013 and included items on the agenda for this meeting. It was noted that the next Forward Plan included items to be considered on or following the Cabinet meeting on 4 December 2013 and was published on 5 November 2013.

Noted**Panels and Boards**

453.1 The minutes of the following Panels and Joint Committees were submitted:-

- (i) Executive Advisory Panel on Sustainable Purchasing – 12 September 2013
- (ii) Executive Advisory Panel on Member Development – 24 October 2013
- (iii) Dorset Olympic Board – 11 October 2013
- (iv) Dorset Waste Partnership Joint Committee – 26 September and 24 October 2013
- (v) Dorset Health and Wellbeing Board – 11 September 2013

453.2 In relation to the minutes of the Executive Advisory Panel on Member Development, the Cabinet Member for Communications and Education, on behalf of the Chairman of the Panel, introduced the report and summarised the proposed changes to the Member Development Policy, Strategy and Programme. It was also noted that a new Member Gateway webpage would be launched at the Council meeting on 14 November 2013 which would introduce a digital by default approach for members to be used as an information hub (an updated draft of the gateway was tabled at the meeting).

453.3 The Chairman of the Council sought clarification of the proposal for six monthly review and development meetings between members and group leaders, noting that he would no longer need to attend the meetings, and asked whether members would have the opportunity to review and comment on the record of each meeting. It was confirmed that members would be given the opportunity to review the record and that the review meetings would consist of a main review and a follow up meeting each year rather than two full review meetings.

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453.4 The Cabinet Member for Environment asked for clarification to be included with the strategy in relation to measures of success. The Cabinet Member for Communications and Education confirmed that success measurement would be sensitive and would be based on whether members were able to fulfil their role at the Council and in relation to communities.

453.5 The Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group signalled her support for the arrangements but asked that the strategy be slightly amended to reflect the new review and development meetings, which was agreed.

453.6 In relation to the minutes of the Dorset Olympic Board, the Cabinet Member for Communities and Public Health confirmed that the Board had now completed its work but there had been some ongoing concern regarding the distribution of the £744k outstanding funding which would now be managed by the voluntary sector against a set of criteria which would provide a framework for organisations to bid for project funding. It was noted that this message would be passed to the County Council Member for Weymouth Town in response to his concern.

453.7 In relation to the minutes of the Dorset Waste Partnership, the Cabinet Member for Environment provided an overview of the issues that the Joint Committee had recently considered and drew attention to the draft estimates that had been recommended to the Cabinet highlighting that there was still a lot more work to be done to arrive at the final budgetary position and savings forecast, bearing in mind that the current budget for the service was £29M per year.

Resolved

454.1 That the minutes be received.

454.2 That the following recommendation from the Executive Advisory Panel on Member Development be agreed, subject to the amendments outlined in the minute above:-

Recommendation 34 – Interim Report and Recommendations

34.1 *That the interim report of the Panel attached to these minutes as an Annexure, be submitted to the Cabinet on 6 November 2013 for approval.*

34.2 *That the report also be considered by Group Leaders at their meeting on 11 November 2013.*

454.3 That the following recommendation from the Dorset Waste Partnership Joint Committee be agreed:-

Recommendation 153 – Draft DWP Estimates for 2014/15

153. *That the draft revenue estimates for 2014/15, as revised with an overall total budget of £29,652,457, be sent to Partner Councils for consideration and response by 7 December, as required by the Inter-Authority Agreement.*

454.4 That the following recommendation from the Dorset Health and Wellbeing Board be agreed:-

Recommendation 33 – Funding Transfer from NHS England 2013/14

33. *That the Dorset County Council's Cabinet agree the use of funds to be included in the Section 256 agreement.*

Meeting Future Challenges

455.1 The Cabinet considered a report by the Cabinet Member for Corporate Resources which provided an update on the progress of the Meeting Future Challenges (MFC) programme. This included a summary of the programme for 2013/14, and progress on delivering the actions in order to realise savings.

455.2 The Cabinet Member for Corporate Resources indicated that the MFC programme would soon be replaced by the Forward Together transformation programme

and that the current monitoring of savings and targets would be updated accordingly. It was noted that from the current 140 savings projects only 13 were rated as amber and 3 were red. Of these projects the delays were mainly due to timescales in delivery of savings with a low number that were unachievable.

455.3 Members recognised that the current challenge groups would continue to work to identify savings and changes in the way services worked, but would be refocused and strengthened in Forward Together. It was acknowledged that all groups would need to work towards a 'one council' approach and depart from the previous silo thinking.

Noted

Corporate Performance Monitoring Report – First Quarter 2013-14

456.1 The Cabinet considered a report by the Cabinet Member for Corporate Resources in relation to corporate performance monitoring for the first quarter of 2013-14. The report contained analyses of the Council's progress against its corporate aims and presented the Corporate Balanced Scorecard. Overall, performance indicators in the Budget and Corporate Plan had an average "green" (on target) rating. The percentage of indicators meeting or exceeding their targets was 69% with 85% of actions either on course or complete.

456.2 The Cabinet Member for Corporate Resources explained that performance monitoring reports would be undergoing a reformatting exercise to capture more up to date information to report to committees in the future, which would encapsulate more raw data and trend information, including benchmarking. This had been raised as a concern at a recent meeting of the Adult and Community Services Overview Committee.

Noted

Medium Term Financial Plan

457.1 The Cabinet considered a report by the Cabinet Member for Corporate Resources which provided an update on major national and local issues facing the Council and how they would affect financial planning over the next three years.

457.2 The Cabinet Member for Corporate Resources reported that since 2010 the Council had saved £60M which was the equivalent of 21% of the budget, and that there was a further £50M to save over the next three years, of which £13.6M would need to be saved in the current financial year. He also explained that further developments would need to be taken into account in relation to budget forecasts, including any possible Council Tax Freeze Grant for 2014/15 which would not be known until December 2013.

457.3 Concern was raised by the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care that the use of reserves to reduce borrowing could limit the Council's ability to increase funding required for transformational change. Officers clarified that this would not be the case and that the use of the reserves in this way would not affect the transformation programme.

457.4 Cabinet Members took the opportunity to highlight the significant budget pressures across their portfolios including out of county placements for looked after children, residential placements for adults, highways condition and highways maintenance. The Leader of the Council confirmed that all budget pressures would be given appropriate corporate priority in the budget setting process.

Resolved

458.1 That the comments made in the minute above be noted for consideration in the development of the Medium Term Financial Plan.

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458.2 That the application of the £3M of reserves that are no longer needed for their original purpose, to reduce borrowing, as set out in para 3.26, be approved.

458.3 That the request for capital funding to replace the Corporate Fleet on a rolling basis, with a programme to be agreed by the Fleet Management Group, through Asset Management Group as set out in para 3.29, be approved.

458.4 That the application of a proportion (to be confirmed) of the current £3M vehicle replacement funds to reduce borrowing as set out in para 3.28, be approved.

458.5 That the application of the £75K SEN Reform Grant to the Children's Services Directorate budget to fund costs of system development this year, as set out in para 4.2, be approved.

Reason for Decisions

459. To enable work to continue refining and managing the County Council's budget plan for 2014/15 to 2016/17 and beyond.

Supported Local Bus Services

460.1 The Cabinet considered a report by the Cabinet Member for Environment to reduce subsidised bus routes to make savings of £850k following previous consideration by the Cabinet on 17 July 2013 and further consultation with Town and Parish Councils on the impact of the proposed changes.

460.2 The Cabinet Member for Environment summarised the work undertaken to date and highlighted that following the outcome of the consultation, proposals had been made for Dorchester and Poundbury routes and the remaining proposals for the rest of the County would be considered by the Cabinet meeting on 4 December 2013. She commended the consultation and the informed feedback in the responses received and made reference to the work undertaken to ensure that no communities would be cut off from public transport. Further discussions were also due to be held with commercial providers to look to find solutions to some of the route issues identified.

460.3 The following County Council members addressed the meeting to raise issues within their electoral divisions, as follows:

Ronald Coatsworth, County Council Member for Bride Valley Mr Coatsworth drew attention to the need for all decisions to be based on accurate information as he felt that some information in the report was outdated, and to recognise age profiles and populations in different areas. He also supported the retention of the 210 and 73 routes due to the villages that they served.

Janet Dover, County Council Member for Colehill and Staplehill Mrs Dover explained that the majority of Colehill and Staplehill would be affected, especially people with jobs, young people socialising, and the elderly accessing appointments. She supported the retention of Saturday services to enable people to go shopping and to access social activities. She also highlighted the strength of feeling with the consultation returning 1183 responses.

Fred Drane, County Council Member for Lytchett Mr Drane drew particular attention to the rural isolation of residents of Lytchett Matravers as they would be left with no rail alternative. He recited arguments that he had made in May 2012 regarding potential bus reductions which focused on the need for access for disabled people. He also reported that some Town and Parish Councils did not understand the consultation.

Margaret Phipps, County Council Member for Commons Mrs Phipps explained that she had submitted a detailed account with Mr Jones, County Councillor for Burton

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Grange, to address bus provision across western Christchurch with regard to access to hospitals and other essential needs, and highlighted St Catherines and Riverway as areas that would be particularly disadvantaged.

Ros Kayes, County Council Member for Bridport Mrs Kayes mentioned the need for the Council to not contradict its other plans and strategies which urged people to use buses, especially in areas of isolation. She supported the retention of the 210 service which was at its fullest on Saturdays.

Daryl Turner, County Council Member for Marshwood Vale Mr Turner drew attention to the equality impact in relation to rural isolation and that tourism was a major economic factor which buses were integral to. He signalled support for the retention of route 14 and the 71 service.

Mike Lovell, County Council Member for Purbeck Hills Mr Lovell supported the retention of route 40 through his division and Swanage. He highlighted that there were difficulties in the area working with the bus providers, and also that many people needed services after 5:30pm as people regularly needed to travel after this time.

Peter Wharf, County Council Member for Egdon Heath Mr Wharf thanked officers for their hard work in addressing issues in his division, and highlighted the importance of the further consultation which engaged all Town and Parish Councils and was well received and understood. He also drew attention to the use of community volunteer schemes which worked very well in his division.

John Wilson, one of the County Council Members for Ferndown Mr Wilson supported the retention of the 844 service and the evening part of the 13 service. He drew particular attention to the use of the 844 service by 40 school children per day and parents which would mean that they would have to negotiate a heavily congested route to school if they were unable to use the bus. He was concerned that according to the criteria this route should be retained, but instead was in the list of those to be removed and asked for this to be addressed.

460.4 With the agreement of the Chairman, the following members of parish councils and the public addressed the meeting, as follows:

Councillor L Vipond – Sturminster Marshall Parish Council Councillor Vipond supported the 83 service from Blandford to Wimborne, and indicated that the usage figures on this route were not accurate. She highlighted the need to reduce reliance on the car and the access that would be needed in relation to doctors, dentists, banks, theatre, voluntary work, and looking after dependents.

Mr Bird – resident of Sturminster Marshall Mr Bird expressed concern that there were flaws in the consultation and that the questions and results were a red herring behind the need to make sweeping cuts across Dorset. He felt that the passenger figures were not correct due to them being gathered in one month when people did not use the buses very much due to the weather. He also drew attention to buses and bus stops being hubs to meet and socialise.

Ms Sue Reardon – Resident of Spetisbury Ms Reardon wanted to echo points already made and express concern regarding access for the disabled, inherent unemployment, and access by young and old people who needed to use the services.

Mr Bob Driscoll on behalf of Western Area Transport Action Group Mr Driscoll reiterated the concerns of others understanding that budget savings were required. He supported retention of the 76 and 42 services, and specifically drew attention to the need for Saturday services.

He suggested that action be taken to allow people with concessionary bus passes to be able to pay for tickets therefore raise revenue to support subsidies.

Ms Margie Savory – Joint Secretary of the King Charles Estate Residents' Association Ms Savory thanked the Cabinet for their consideration of the item and congratulated members on the inclusive way that the meeting had been held. She supported the retention of the 210 service at the King Charles Estate as there were steep roads and lots of elderly residents, especially the Saturday service as this was the only social day of the week where residents could visit family.

Mrs Alex Brenton, Chair of Morden Parish Council Mrs Brenton was concerned that not all people worked from 9am until 5pm, and that changing services to provide one bus per day would not suit all people, and also drew attention to elderly people having to wait all day for a return journey home. She felt that the County Council advertised itself as a green county and then did not provide the transport to promote exploration of the countryside. She suggested that policies of the Council should be rural proof to prevent isolation.

460.5 A number of comments had also been tabled at the meeting from Pauline Batstone (County Council Member for Blackmore Vale), Richard Biggs (one of the County Council Members for Dorchester), Robin Cook (County Council Member for Minster), Ian Gardner (County Council Member for Chickerell and Chesil Bank), Susan Jefferies (County Council Member for Corfe Mullen), David Jones (County Council Member for Burton Grange) Trevor Jones (one of the County Council Members for Dorchester), Cllr M Spittle (St Catherine's and Hurn Ward, Christchurch and East Dorset Councils) and Dorchester Town Council.

460.6 After hearing all speakers officers explained that all comments received had been taken into account, and those made during the meeting would also be taken into account in forming the final proposals for decision in December following decisions on the Dorchester and Poundbury routes. It was noted that the report on 4 December would show savings against routes together with costings against routes which were linked with rural isolation. It was further explained that a meeting with Yellow Bus would be held in the next week to discuss issues relating to western Christchurch. For clarification, it was confirmed that passenger usage information was used as an average across the whole of the previous year and not from one particular month.

460.7 The Cabinet discussed the points raised in detail and appreciated the difficult decisions that needed to be made in order to make savings but to also provide services that were essential. It was acknowledged that good communications were needed to ensure that the public was aware of the changes and the reasons why.

460.8 It was felt that the decision had to be appropriate, taking into account the issues related to access to hospitals and how the NHS could potentially help and contribute, and also if there were sponsorship opportunities for routes, or community volunteer schemes and initiatives that could be used as alternatives. It was noted that outside organisations had been involved in the process and communities had also been engaged.

460.9 Members suggested that lobbying Government could be an idea to try to get the scheme on free bus passes changed to allow Councils to charge small amounts as an additional revenue stream to support bus subsidy.

460.10 The Cabinet Member for Corporate Resources reminded the Cabinet of the significant budget pressures upon the Council, highlighting that Dorset provided more subsidy than other Councils and had a good record of commitment to provide subsidies.

460.11 The Cabinet thanked all attendees at the meeting for their contributions and assured all that the proposals were being considered very carefully, with some issues still to be resolved. It was recognised that there was full support in relation to the changes for Dorchester.

Resolved

461.1 That the consultation responses received be noted and that a further report will be presented to Cabinet in December 2013 seeking a final funding decision.

461.2 That revised Monday to Saturday Dorchester Town services 1, 2 and 6 from January 2014 at a reduced subsidy level of £62,000 per annum be agreed.

461.3 That additional funding from Contingency, currently estimated at £642,000, be provided to cover the cost of maintaining the current level of public transport to 31 March 2014, including changes in minute 461.2 above.

Reasons for Decisions

462.1 The response from the consultation would inform the decisions to be made at the December Cabinet meeting.

462.2 The bus operator had confirmed agreement to the reduced subsidy for Dorchester town services and Poundbury and had asked for the plan to be implemented from January 2014.

462.3 All variations to the five year subsidised local bus service contracts let in 2011 required the agreement of both the Council and the bus operator.

462.4 The majority of the savings expected to be made from a reduction in public bus subsidies would not now be realised until the financial year 2014/15.

Gypsies and Traveller Sites

463.1 The Cabinet considered a report by the Cabinet Member for Environment on the future of a gypsy and traveller transit site at the Great Dorset Steam Fair and a further interim transit site in the south of Dorset until a permanent location was identified through the Development Plan process. Comments received following publication of the report were tabled at the meeting.

463.2 The Cabinet Member for Environment outlined the process for the determination of gypsy and traveller sites, noting that the Great Dorset Steam Fair site had been used for some time and the arrangements worked well. She highlighted the Council's duty of care in respect of all Dorset residents whether they were in permanent or transitory accommodation. Attention was drawn to the need for transit sites so that the Council and Dorset Police had the appropriate authority to deal with any illegal encampments.

463.3 David Mannings, County Council Member for Lodmoor, addressed the meeting as the local member for the Weymouth Park and Ride overspill area and raised concern that it was an inappropriate location at the gateway to Weymouth for a transit site, which was on full view to all people entering the town. He also voiced concern regarding the recent developments and business occupation in the area and reduction in the use of the park and ride site. It was also suggested that an alternative site could be used nearby in a disused quarry.

463.4 The following two District Council members addressed the meeting under the open door protocol as follows:

Bill White, Weymouth and Portland Borough Councillor for Radipole ward Councillor White echoed the comments of Mr Mannings by making reference to the site being on the gateway to Weymouth which would be an inappropriate use of the park and ride overspill site. He also indicated that if this site was suggested there would be a large amount of local opposition to the site, and that the Piddlehinton site had been used successfully before with no problems.

Jacqui Cuff, West Dorset District Councillor for Piddle Valley ward Councillor Cuff appreciated the need for a transit site and the current encampment in Piddlehinton was well integrated with the existing residents. However, concern was raised that if a transit site was introduced there would be economic and environmental impacts, including fly tipping, animal poaching and crime. She highlighted that the arrangements were fairly successful during the Olympics due to increased security, but there was an increase in fly tipping and anonymous horses appearing. She felt that a permanent site would discourage businesses from using the current enterprise park. She also drew attention to the cost of the site, identified that there was no hard standing, and that security would not be on a 24 hour basis.

463.5 With the agreement of the Chairman Samantha Paulley, Clerk of Piddle Valley Parish Council, also addressed the meeting to express concerns of the Parish Council in relation to the use of the Piddlehinton site for the temporary travellers site, echoed the comments of Councillor Cuff, and also highlighted that there would be social issues between the existing encampment and a transit site, there were no amenities within 2.5 miles, and that it would cost £6k more than the alternative site.

463.6 The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, as the local member for the Piddlehinton site expressed her concern regarding the use of the site regarding security, access in bad weather, and the higher cost in comparison to the Weymouth site. She therefore indicated that she would not support the use of this site.

463.7 The Head of Countryside and Business Development explained that other sites had been included in the Development Plan Document which were not being considered in this report as temporary transit sites. The permanent sites would be determined through the planning process in 2017. He answered specific questions about access and use of both suggested sites, confirming that the Piddlehinton site would have no hard standing and would accommodate 25 plots.

463.8 Members discussed the sites and appreciated that decisions of this nature were always difficult and caused concerns for local residents. It was the view of the majority of Cabinet members that on balance the Piddlehinton site was the most appropriate site. It was also noted that the Planning Committee would have to consider the conditions associated with the planning application in detail.

Resolved

464.1 That the submission of a Planning Application for the Great Dorset Steam Fair transit site for a further period of five years from the 2015 event be approved.

464.2 That the Piddlehinton site be identified as the Cabinet's preferred location for an interim temporary transit site for a minimum of five years and a Planning Application be submitted.

464.3 That discussion be held with other Dorset Councils and Dorset Police on partnership working to fund and operate the site and discussions be held with

Dorset's two Unitary Councils to identify a further potential temporary location within the boundaries of Bournemouth Borough Council and the Borough of Poole.

Reason for Decisions

465. The recommendation link to Aim 1 of the County Council's Corporate Plan to help build strong communities for all and, in particular, to work constructively with Gypsies and Travellers to manage authorised and unauthorised encampments and provide additional authorised sites.

Transforming Services – The Baseline Property Portfolio

466.1 The Cabinet considered a report by the Cabinet Member for Corporate Resources on the introduction of a new approach to service provision across the County Council based on a baseline review of how and where services could be provided across the County to unlock significant savings through a corporate landlord approach.

466.2 The Cabinet Member for Corporate Resources provided a detailed explanation of the aims and objectives of the strategic review, as one of the Council's most significant developments to drive the Council forward and to enable transformation, and through changes to the way services were provided. It was noted that the property portfolio would be assessed to provide a small number (2-4) of core centres, and a number of smaller accommodation hubs.

466.3 Members discussed the impact of the changes across the County noting that public sector partners such as the NHS and emergency services were engaged and would be included in co-location options together with exploration of all accommodation provision across Dorset to provide the best options for all partners.

466.4 The Cabinet wholeheartedly supported the aims of the review, noting the need for cultural change across the Council. In order not to lose momentum, members asked for a further report to be considered in March 2014 on the options to implement a corporate landlord approach. It was also noted that information about the heat map datasets used in the collation of the report would be circulated outside the meeting.

466.5 The County Council Member for Egdon Heath raised concern that the approach needed to ensure that there was appropriate member engagement and to be clear that members were involved at the core of the changes. He also made suggestions in relation to the use of redundant properties in his electoral division.

Resolved

467.1 That the Baseline Property concept be approved.

467.2 That the implementation as a concept against which to assess the core and non-core properties be agreed.

467.3 That Service Directorates align their Service Asset Management Plans with the baseline and to identify significant surplus property to contribute to its implementation.

467.4 That a proposal setting out options for the implementation of a corporate landlord model be considered by the Cabinet in March 2014.

467.5 That the Deputy Leader be appointed as the Cabinet member lead for this work as part of the wider transformation portfolio.

Reasons for Decisions

468.1 Aim 5 of the Corporate Plan included the pledge to reduce the County Council's property portfolio by 25% by April 2015. The approved Asset Management Plan identified five key activities to reduce, rationalise and optimise the estate.

468.2 The current plans were unlikely to deliver sufficient reduction in the timescale required. An alternative strategy was therefore required. The baseline approach offers significant potential to transform service delivery through the better utilisation of the property portfolio and, in doing so, to reduce the costs associated with it for the benefit of services for the people of Dorset.

Transformation Challenge Award – the “Better Together” Programme

469.1 The Cabinet considered a report by the Leader and the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care on the progress towards the intention of the three upper tier local authorities and the five NHS bodies in Dorset, to submit a joint bid to the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) for a share of its Transformation Challenge Award as the “Better Together” programme, for joint working and integration of the three councils’ adult social care functions with the health sector.

469.2 The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care confirmed that the Dorset-area partnership would be one of the first nine areas to receive innovative support from DCLG’s Public Transformation Network. It was also noted that the Minister was due to attend the transformation launch in Wareham on 22 November 2013. The governance arrangements were also summarised.

469.3 The Chief Executive provided an update on the leadership and management changes being made at the Dorset Healthcare NHS University Foundation Trust, which would present significant difficulties and challenges, but also confirmed that links with the Clinical Commissioning Group were being maintained and strengthened, and that the commitment and determination to succeed was clear.

Resolved

470. That the “Better Together” programme for integrated health and social care in the Dorset area continues to be supported and endorsed by the Cabinet.

Reasons for Decision

471. The Better Together programme aimed to secure:

- improved health and social outcomes for residents;
- an improved and more integrated business model for the delivery of adult care and health in the Dorset area; and
- cost reductions for all partners.

Community Engagement and Consultation on the future shape of Social Care Services in the Bridport area

472.1 The Cabinet considered a report by the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care regarding potential property development and disposal, making use of an anticipated £4.7M of capital investment to host a number of services, mainly Adult Social Care services, which currently included residential and day service provision for vulnerable adults.

472.2 The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care praised the work of officers in the progress made so far and for the very open public engagement which had been well received despite other high profile consultations on controversial changes in services at the same time. A number of public meetings had been productive and a communications and consultation plan would be reported to the next meeting of the Cabinet.

Resolved

473. That the development of options for a Bridport service plan with a view to undertaking full public consultation be approved, and be presented to Cabinet on the 4 December 2013.

Reasons for Decision

474. This would contribute towards the County Council's aims to:
- help build strong communities for all;
 - protect and enrich the health and well-being of Dorset's most vulnerable adults; and
 - provide innovative and value for money services.

Approval to tender and award for an ICT Technical Resourcing Procurement Arrangement

475.1 The Cabinet considered a report by the Cabinet Member for Corporate Resources in relation to ICT technical resourcing for the future of Council services.

475.2 The Cabinet Member for Corporate Resources explained that the procurement of technical resourcing would underpin and complement the existing arrangements especially in respect of transformation, and would enable the Council to become more responsive regarding skills and capacity to deliver future projects.

475.3 It was suggested that in addition to moving forward on technical resourcing it would be advantageous to undertake a health check review of the ICT services currently in place. Members agreed that this would provide clarity for future ICT delivery and it was timely to undertake a review.

475.4 Additional comments were received in relation to progress to deliver solutions in relation to the new member gateway, tablets and members' diaries. The Director for Corporate Resources confirmed that great strides were being made in these areas and that a tablet pilot would include Cabinet members in the coming weeks. This would also be considered by group leaders at their meeting on 11 November 2013.

Resolved

476.1 That the commencement of a procurement and award of an arrangement for the provision of additional ICT Technical Resourcing be approved.

476.2 That a health check review of ICT services be undertaken.

Reason for Decisions

477. To enable the ICT service to continue with the procurement arrangement.

Recommendations from the Environment Overview Committee

478. The Cabinet considered the following recommendations from the meeting of the Environment Overview Committee held on 1 October 2013:

Recommendation 118 – Gypsy and Traveller sites

479. This matter was dealt with earlier in the meeting.

Recommendation 121 – New Flood and Water Management Functions and the Draft Interim Sustainable Drainage Systems PolicyResolved

480. That the Draft Interim Sustainable Drainage Systems Policy be approved, subject to advice from the County Council's Legal Services section.

Reason for Decision

481. In order to progress the County Council's corporate aim to safeguard and enhance Dorset's unique environment and support our local economy.

Recommendation 124 – On Street Pay and Display for Dorset

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482. The County Council Member for Blandford, on behalf of the County Council Member for Bridport, highlighted the need for a review to be undertaken and that every area had its own difficulties and circumstances which meant that one size did not necessary fit all towns.

Resolved

483.1 That, given the current circumstances locally and nationally, the policy relating to On Street Pay and Display across the whole county be reviewed and how this should be applied and that a Policy Development Panel be established in this regard.

483.2 That the work of the Policy Development Panel include a focus on improved traffic flow and traffic congestion, and that the work be time limited to conclude by March 2014 and report back to the Cabinet in April 2014.

Reason for Decision

484. To ensure that the policy was applied as effectively as possible throughout Dorset and in order to progress the County Council's corporate aim to safeguard and enhance Dorset's unique environment and support our local economy.

Recommendation 127 – Community Led Highway Initiatives (CLHI) - Additional Insurance Liabilities**Resolved**

485. That the County Council's acceptance of the additional risk that working in partnership with local communities brings be approved, accepting slightly increased liability to be met by insurance and self-insurance arrangements, but mitigated by an appropriate level of training and supervision.

Reason for Decision

486. In order to progress the aspiration of encouraging local communities to undertake highway-related improvements in their area, in line with the aims and objectives of the Localism Act. The overall CLHI project supported elements of the County Council's "Forward Together" programme: encouraging greater independence, smarter services and empowered people. Until issues over the insurance cover for volunteers working on the highway had been determined, progress could not be made on starting the various CLHI pilot schemes being planned.

Recommendation 131 – Highway Asset Management Plan**Resolved**

487. That the declining condition of the highway assets and the need for increased investment, in budget planning for 2014/15 be recognised.

Reason for Decision

488. Under investment now, would impact on asset condition, potentially costing more in the longer term, and in the form of reactive maintenance and third party claims, whilst leaving assets in unacceptably poor condition.

Recommendation 134 – Routine Highway Maintenance Pressures**Resolved**

489. That the contents of the Director's report be taken into consideration when the Revenue Budget for 2014/15 is set.

Reason for Recommendation

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490. To arrest the increase in inefficient reactive work by introducing a return to proactive maintenance principles and therefore mitigating the risk of third party litigation.

Recommendations from the Adult and Community Services Overview Committee

491. The Cabinet considered the following recommendations from the meeting of the Adult and Community Services Overview Committee held on 7 October 2013:

Recommendation 115 – Red House Museum – Joint Management Arrangement 2013-2023

Resolved

492.1 That the revised joint management agreement for the Red House Museum for a term of ten years from 2013-2023 be approved.

492.2 That the Cabinet agree to sustain the existing tripartite funding formula for the Red House Museum, with DCC providing an annual contribution of £50,064 (25%), subject to budget planning.

Reason for Decisions

493. To help build strong communities for all and to provide innovative and value for money services.

Recommendation 124 – Corporate Performance Monitoring Report, First Quarter 2013-14

Resolved

494. That the need for ways of providing more up to date performance information to members in a more timely fashion be recognised.

Reason for Decision

495. Close monitoring of the budget position was an essential requirement to ensure that many and resources were used efficiently and effectively.

Recommendation 127 – Trading Standards Weights and Measures

Resolved

496.1 That the County Council retain the full set of measures, most of which were already on public display.

496.2 That the ownership of the respective items of interest be transferred to the Dorset County Museum and Weymouth Museum without charge, to preserve part of Dorset's history.

496.3 That the remaining items be kept for display purposes.

Reason for Decisions

497. To help build strong communities for all and to provide innovative and value for money services. Depositing the measures in a museum would contribute to the preservation of Dorset's heritage.

Recommendation from the Planning Committee

498. The Cabinet considered the following recommendation from the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 10 October 2013. The report considered by the Planning Committee was tabled at the meeting for information.

Recommendation 97 – Navitus Bay Wind Park Consultation

Resolved

499. That the response to the Navitus Bay Wind Park consultation as set out in Appendices 2, 3 and 4 of the Head of Planning's report, be endorsed.

Reason for Decision

500. In order to provide Dorset County Council's response to the consultation within the consultation time period.

Review of Outside Bodies, Panels and other Consultative Bodies

501.1 The Cabinet considered a report by the Cabinet Member for Corporate Resources on a review of the County Council's representation on outside and other bodies, together with their relationship of each body with the Corporate Plan and the value for money that each appointment provided.

501.2 The Leader of the Council was pleased to report that following the review a reduction in appointments of 21% was achieved and that all appointments would reflect the corporate aims of the Council. Members were in support of the outcomes of the review, subject to the following amendments below:

- Dorset and South Wiltshire Planning and Transportation Joint Committee – As a historic committee there was a need to ensure that this body considered matters of strategic importance.
- Learning Disability Partnership Board – Following interest in being appointed to the vacancy on the Board, that the County Council Member for Weymouth Town be appointed to fill this role.
- Yeovil District Hospital NHS Foundation Trust Council of Governors – That no appointment be made to this new body.
- Adult Safeguarding Board and Children's Trust Board – Officers to confirm following the meeting why these two bodies were omitted from the report, and to add to the list if they were necessary.

501.3 It was noted that the monitoring of the appointments to all bodies would be reported as a regular item to each overview committee so that there was a direct link between representation and the business of the Council.

Resolved

502.1 That the continuation of the appointments detailed throughout the appendices to the Cabinet Member's report be agreed, and to discontinue the appointments that are no longer required.

502.2 That new appointments be made to bodies as outlined throughout the report and in the appendices, subject to the comments in the minute above.

502.3 That the Leader of the Council be granted delegated authority to make appointments to replace previous nominations and to fill vacancies where appropriate, after consultation with Group Leaders.

502.4 That the overview committees be given the role of monitoring the ongoing usefulness and appropriateness of representation on outside bodies.

Reason for Decisions

503. To support the corporate aim to help to provide strong communities for all.

Questions

504. No questions were asked by members under Standing Order 20(2).

Exempt Business**Exclusion of the Public**

Resolved

505. 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 minutes 506-511 because 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 outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information to the public.

🔑 Icelandic Bank Claims - Landsbanki - Potential Sale of Claims (Paragraph 3)

506.1 The Cabinet considered an exempt report by the Cabinet Member for Corporate Resources regarding the potential sale of outstanding claims from Landsbanki. The report contained exempt information in accordance with paragraph 3, relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

506.2 The Cabinet Member for Corporate Resources explained that the report presented the opportunity for the County Council to sell its outstanding claims for funding at an appropriate rate, which would allow the Council to recover funds in a number of weeks at an appropriate level to offset waiting for a number of years to receive a similar amount.

506.3 It was felt that this was a very good news story for the Council and that the outcome should be clearly communicated to the public when the result was known and publicly available.

Resolved

507. That the Director for Corporate Resources be granted delegated authority in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Corporate Resources, the discretion to accept an offer if considered to be in the best interests of the County Council.

Reason for Decision

508. A settlement would represent value for money for the Council in that it would result in an improvement in reserves and a breakeven position in terms of any early repayment being able to be invested immediately compared to repayment over a number of years. It would also bring certainty to the recovery of outstanding sums, which may otherwise be subject to adverse currency movement or changes in economic conditions.

🔑 Nurseries and Out of School Clubs - Transfer of Undertaking of Public Employees (Paragraphs 3 and 4)

509.1 The Cabinet considered a joint exempt report by the Cabinet Member for Education and Communications and the Cabinet Member for Children's Safeguarding and Families on the future of nursery and out of school provision in North Dorset. The report contained exempt information in accordance with paragraphs 3 and 4, relating to the financial or business affairs of the County Council and contemplated consultations and negotiations in connection with a labour relations matter concerning the Council and its employees.

509.2 The Cabinet Member for Children's Safeguarding and Families introduced the report and summarised the issues relating to the provision of two nurseries and one out of school club in Blandford and Shaftesbury. It was noted that following the decision made by the Cabinet on 2 October 2013 to withdraw Council subsidy for these services there had been significant community support for the continuation and interest from external organisations in taking the services on in the future.

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509.3 The County Council Member for Blandford addressed the meeting as a local member in support of the recommendations in the report to continue to provide the services until suitable alternatives were found until the end of the school year 2013/14.

509.4 The Cabinet Member for Communications and Education also explained that the future of nursery and out of school clubs in the area would affect 240 families and there were already potential providers that were interested in taking the services on, but they could be put off by complicated European procurement that could take some time to complete.

509.5 Members discussed the merits of retaining control and mitigating risks until the autumn term in 2014. It was also recognised that there were inherent liabilities of this arrangement and the following former arrangements.

509.6 Concern was expressed in relation to the procurement and seamless transition to a suitable alternate provider within the timescales detailed within the report and asked officers to explore the possibility of dealing with this issue as a priority. It was agreed that this would be investigated and that all possible reductions in the timescales would be explored.

509.7 The Cabinet felt that the reputational risk and the impact on parents and children was significant and that the new arrangements should be put in place to offset any negative impact on the families concerned, which would result in the two nurseries staying open until end of July 2014, and the out of school club until end August 2014.

Resolved

510.1 That officers explore the options for nursery services to be provided by a new provider without continued subsidy from the County Council.

510.2 That the Director for Children's Services be granted delegated authority after consultation with the Cabinet members for Children's Services and Corporate Resources and the Leader and after consultation with the Chief Executive of the authority, to agree the implications of any new provider taking on the services and whether the timescale of 31 March 2014 is still appropriate in light of parental feedback and the potential move to another provider to the beginning of the Academic Year 2014.

510.3 That the implications and terms of any new provider taking on the service be noted and agree to the release of information to potential providers in order for an organisation or other group to provide a market led solution so that the County Council is in a position to facilitate their considerations of provision being viable, to include guidance on levels or rent the County Council would accept in terms of use of County Council buildings and to delegate to those nominated in 510.2.

510.4 That it be noted that the detailed financial implications of any new provider will need to be defined and considered.

Reason for Decisions

511. To ensure a seamless transfer of service and obviate the closure of local nursery provision, without reliance on County Council subsidy. It might be that the timescale for successful engagement of a new provider, and commencement of service delivery, would not match the 31 March 2014 deadline and mean that parents would not have continuity of services.

Meeting Duration: 10.00am – 3.05pm