Dorset County Council

Minutes of a meeting held at County Hall, Colliton Park, Dorchester on 24 April 2014.

Present:

John Wilson (Chairman) Andrew Cattaway (Vice-Chairman)

Pauline Batstone, Michael Bevan, Richard Biggs, Steve Butler, Mike Byatt, Ronald Coatsworth, Robin Cook, Toni Coombs, Barrie Cooper, Hilary Cox, Deborah Croney, Lesley Dedman, Janet Dover, Fred Drane, Beryl Ezzard, Peter Finney, Spencer Flower, Ian Gardner, Robert Gould, Peter Hall, Jill Haynes, Colin Jamieson, Susan Jefferies, David Jones, Trevor Jones, Ros Kayes, Paul Kimber, Rebecca Knox, Mike Lovell, David Mannings, Margaret Phipps, Peter Richardson, Mark Tewkesbury, William Trite, Daryl Turner, David Walsh, Peter Wharf and Kate Wheller.

Officers attending:

Debbie Ward (Chief Executive), Mike Harries (Director for Environment and the Economy), Paul Kent (Director for Corporate Resources), Jonathan Mair (Head of Legal and Democratic Services), David Phillips (Director of Public Health), Sara Tough (Director for Children's Services), Ali Waller (Deputy Director for Adult and Community Services), Lee Gallagher (Democratic Services Manager), Rebecca Guest (Senior Democratic Services Officer) and David Northover (Senior Democratic Services Officer).

(Note: 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 County Council to be held on **24 July 2014**.)

Chairman

21. Spencer Flower proposed and Janet Dover seconded and it was

Resolved (unanimously)

22. That John Wilson be elected Chairman for the year 2014/15.

Vice-Chairman

23. Colin Jamieson proposed and Deborah Croney seconded a nomination for Andrew Cattaway to be appointed to the office of Vice Chairman. A proposal was also put by Janet Dover and seconded by Richard Biggs to appoint Beryl Ezzard. On being put to the vote it was.

Resolved

24. That Andrew Cattaway be appointed Vice-Chairman for the year 2014/15.

Apologies for Absence

25. Apologies for absence were received from Dan Brember, Andy Canning, David Harris, Mervyn Jeffery and Ian Smith.

Code of Conduct

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

Minutes

- 27. The minutes of the meeting held on 13 February 2013 were confirmed and signed, subject to the following amendments:
 - (a) Minute 8 Page 4: Extreme Weather

 To amend the minute to read 'The County Council Member for Burton Grange asked if the highways works on Stoney Lane Bridge in Burton ...'.
 - (b) Minute 10.14 Page 9: Supported Local Bus Services

 To amend the minute to read 'availability of additional funds which had been put aside for local community transport.'
 - (c) Minute 10.24 Page 10: Medium Term Financial Plan and Budget 2014/15 to 2016/17

 To amend the minute to read 'the coalition government had taken £100M out
 - (d) Minute 14.3 Page 16: Pathways to Independence
 To amend the minute to read 'The Chairman of the Adult and Community
 Services Overview Committee explained ...'

Matters Arising

Minute 10.19 - Reports of the Cabinet: Panels and Boards

of services...'

28. The County Council Member for Sherborne Rural asked for an update in relation to the composition of the Health and Wellbeing Board, which had been considered to be top heavy and ineffective. He felt there was a risk that if the membership was reduced specialist areas like dementia and mental health would not be adequately represented. The Leader of the Council explained that the Board discussed its composition at its last meeting and formed a small working group which had suggested that the membership should be reduced from 28 to 16 in order to fulfil its strategic role, which would be considered by the Board at its next meeting.

Cabinet Appointments

29.1 The Leader of the Council announced the appointment of the Cabinet Members for 2014/15 as outlined below:

Robert Gould - Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Corporate Resources

Toni Coombs - Cabinet Member for Education and Communications

Peter Finney - Cabinet Member for Environment and the Economy

Jill Havnes - Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care

Colin Jamieson - Cabinet Member for Community and Public Health

Rebecca Knox - Cabinet Member for Children's Safeguarding and Families

29.2 He took the opportunity to thank Hilary Cox who had stood down after serving as a cabinet member since 2001 in a number of Cabinet roles, and especially for her support in the past year.

Noted

Public Participation

Public Speaking

30.1 There were no public questions received at the meeting in accordance with Standing Order 21(1).

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

Petitions

30.3 There were no petitions received in accordance with the County Council's petition scheme at this meeting.

Chairman's Announcements

- 31.1 The Chairman reported on the following deaths of former members of the County Council:
 - (a) Mrs Betty Fox-Hodges on 18 February 2014, who served on the County Council between 1997 and 2009, representing the Burton Grange electoral division.
 - (b) Sir Stephen Hammick, Baronet, OBE, DL, on 15 February 2014, representing the Evershot division from 1958 until 1973, Dorchester Rural from 1981 until 1985, and Cerne from 1985 until 1997. He also served as Vice-Chairman of the County Council from 1985 until 1988 and Chairman from 1988 until 1993.
 - (c) Mr Eric Webb on 17 February 2014, representing the Weymouth No 1 division from 1981 until 1985 and the Rodwell division from 1985 until 1997.
- 31.2 Members paid tribute to the dedication and commitment of the former members to Dorset and within their divisions. The County Council then stood in silent tribute.
 - 31.3 The Chairman reported the following events since the last meeting:-
 - (i) Opening of Dorchester Library The Chairman reported that he had the pleasure of unveiling a plaque to mark the official opening of the new Dorchester Library and Learning Centre with local Dorset author Minette Walters on 20 February 2014.
 - (ii) New Team Rector in Dorchester The Chairman attended the Institution, Induction and Installation of Reverend Canon Thomas Woodhouse as Team Rector of Dorchester at St Mary's Church on 26 February 2014.
 - (iii) Youth Parliament Elections It was announced that James Jones and Owen Shepherd had been elected as Dorset's Members of Youth Parliament and Grace van Zyl and Cerys Pumphrey would be deputy members.
 - (iv) <u>Dorset School Games</u> It was noted that the Vice-Chairman attended the recent Dorset School Games in Bournemouth on 28 March 2014, which included the attendance of Olympic medallists.
 - (v) <u>High Sheriff Declaration Ceremony</u> The Chairman represented the County Council on 3 April 2014 when Mrs Jane Stitchbury QPM was 'sworn in' as the new High Sheriff of Dorset.
 - (vi) <u>First Chancellor for Arts University Bournemouth</u> It was announced that on 9 April 2014 the new Arts University Bournemouth installed its first Chancellor, Professor Chris Grayling.
 - (vii) <u>Dorchester's 6th Community Play</u> The Chairman praised the recent performance of Drummer Hodge by the Dorchester Community Plays Association at Thomas Hardy School between 1-12 April 2014. It was also

- announced that the old Dorchester library was used to assemble costumes and scenery and to rehearse, and was officially blessed by Lord-Lieutenant Angus Campbell.
- (viii) <u>Welcome to Mike Harries</u> The Chairman congratulated Mike Harries on being appointed as Director of Environment and the Economy, following his time as Interim Director.

Leader's Announcements

33.1 The Leader of the Council reported on the following issues facing the Council, and invited questions from all members:

LGA Peer Review Feedback

- 33.2 The Leader of the Council reported that feedback had recently been received following the LGA Peer Review held in July 2013, which incorporated constructive criticism regarding the actions that had been highlighted following the review and an update on the outstanding issues to be addressed. He reported back on the following significant changes that had taken place since the review which had already been achieved:
 - Contributions to the structure of the Forward Together Programme;
 - A new one year Corporate Plan which would be enhanced by community engagement;
 - Roadshows to communicate Forward Together with staff, including one to one opportunities with the Leader and Chief Executive;
 - Changed format of County Council meetings;
 - Increased accountability of Cabinet Members;
 - Cross party work to establish a refreshed protocol on local member engagement;
 - Cross party work to review member development;
 - Successful integration of the Public Health Service from April 2013;
 - Establishment of a Pan Dorset Growth Board to work for overall wellbeing of residents in Dorset:
 - Receipt of £750k transformation funding received for health and social care integration;
 - Changes within the Council's senior management team; and,
 - Prominence of Economy within the Director's role to highlight a focus on economic growth for the future.
- 33.3 It was noted that there was still work to do in relation to developing the Forward Together Programme to address the financial challenges facing the Council through transformation of services as an alternative to making budget cuts in an uncontrolled way.
- 33.4 The Leader indicated that work had to be done to secure the future of discretionary services as these would be at increased risk if the transformation efforts were not successful.
- 33.5 One of the County Council Members for Dorchester (Trevor Jones) encouraged members to respond to the monthly member engagement survey to share good, bad and indifferent experiences of local member engagement which would help to develop the protocol for the future and to embed it into mainstream work of the Council. It was also noted that the Policy Development Panel established to review the protocol would meet

again in June 2014 to review progress and a further member seminar would be held in November 2014. The Leader echoed the comments made.

- 33.6 The Leader of the Labour Group welcomed the incorporation of the economy at the forefront of the direction of travel and corporate aims of the authority. However, he emphasised that there needed to be tangible outcomes and that the Council needed to listen to communities and for the Environment Overview Committee to drive policy to be able to achieve the economic agenda. The Leader confirmed that all overview committees would need to listen and drive policy to achieve tangible targeted and specific outcomes.
- 33.7 The County Council Member for Swanage asked if consideration of budgetary pressures would be reassessed if there were significant changes in the Government following the elections in 2015. The Leader confirmed that if there was a change in Government there would still be a need to reduce the national deficit (currently £107Bn) and address the continued rise in the national debt year on year which was currently £1.3Tn, so there was still a long way to go.
- 33.8 The County Council Member for Egdon Heath expressed congratulations for the achievements so far but was concerned that the pace of change may not be quick enough. The Leader explained that the work being done now would create the momentum to keep going and achieve the pace required in the Forward Together Programme.

Severe Weather Funding

- 33.9 The Leader of the Council explained that following the recent severe weather in Dorset £7M had been received to support repairs to the road network and other areas. However the Council needed £11.5M, and a meeting was scheduled to be held with Oliver Letwin MP on 24 April 2014 to look into the possibility of securing additional funding in the next tranche of financial support being made available by Government.
- 33.10 The County Council Member for Portland Tophill asked if efforts would be made to secure european funding and grants in addition to investigations with Oliver Letwin MP regarding Government funding. The Leader confirmed that all funding and grant opportunities would be explored.

Local Government Boundary Commission for England – Periodic Electoral Boundary Review

- 34.1 The Council considered a report by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England in relation to the forthcoming Periodic Electoral Review of Dorset County Council's size and boundaries which would take 12-18 months. Members also received a presentation from the Lead Commissioner and the Review Manager from the Commission.
- 34.2 During the presentation it was explained that the Commission enforced the legal requirement to provide good levels of electoral quality across the Country, and that there was a need to undertake a review when there was an imbalance in electoral representation across the County. The review was initiated because more than 30% of electoral divisions had more than a 10% variance from the average electorate level. It was reported that there were some significant variances across the County which affected the value of individual votes.
- 34.3 Members recognised that there were two distinct stages to the review. The first would consist of a review of council size to determine the optimum number of electoral divisions across Dorset, which would be provided through an evidenced based rationale and would include reference to governance, decision making, scrutiny role of members, and the

representational role. Following consideration of Council size the Commission would then undertake consultation with local councils, the public and interested parties in relation to division boundaries which would be based on current and future forecasted electorate figures to 2020.

- 34.4 After both stages had been completed the Commission would consider all of the evidence and undertake a tour of areas of particular interest and come to a conclusion, subject to further and any supplementary consultation, and make final recommendations to Parliament before an order could be made.
- 34.5 A clear message was given by the Commission that there were no preconceived ideas of the outcome in relation to council size or boundaries. However, it was explained that there would need to be change to provide electoral equality.
- 34.6 Members took the opportunity to express views and some concerns in relation to their experiences of reviews undertaken in district and borough councils in Dorset. A number of questions were asked in relation to the response of the Commission when views had been expressed and the need for the Council and the public to be listened to. The Lead Commissioner explained that the Commission would listen and consider all views expressed, but could not guarantee that it would agree with suggestions as it was necessary to ensure that the criteria of the review were met. The Commission would therefore reserve the right to make the best proposal in accordance with the three criteria of electoral equality for local voters, interests and identities of local communities, and effective and convenient local government.
- 34.7 Clarity was provided in relation to the drawing of boundaries and for the use of supplementary consultation. It was explained that town, parish and district boundaries would not change as a result of the review and that division boundaries had to accord with the existing outer County and District boundaries, and there would be an aim to introduce as much coterminosity as possible. In relation to supplementary consultation, members acknowledged that only one round would take place if there was a need to gain further evidence.
- 34.8 In relation to community identity, it was explained that it was key for the Commission not to divide communities, which could lead to proposals to join communities together rather than dividing one or many.
- 34.9 A question was raised in relation to the use of single and multiple member divisions. It was reported that it was possible for authorities to approve a resolution to request a single member division review, but this would remove the flexibility of using double or triple member divisions to meet the criteria.
- 34.10 The Lead Commissioner and the Review Manager assured the Council that representations would be listened to, but highlighted that the best result would include cross party co-operation with proposals that were justified with evidence. The role and knowledge of members was recognised as pivotal in providing evidence to contribute to the review.
- 34.11 The Leader of the Council stated that it was incumbent on members to get involved and consider the review in detail in order to achieve the best outcome for the County.

Noted

Members' Allowances Scheme 2014/15

- 34.1 The Council considered further amendments to the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2014/15 following consideration of the full Scheme at the last meeting on 13 February 2014. It was noted that the changes referred to the increase of a special responsibility allowance for the Vice-Chairman, and attendance allowance for members attending meetings of the Cabinet when they had not been expressly invited to attend.
- 34.2 One of the County Council Members for Dorchester (Trevor Jones) asked for guidance to be prepared to easily show what members could and could not claim for within the new scheme, including advice regarding a nil contribution card in respect of National Insurance.

Resolved

- 35.1 That a special responsibility allowance of £3,161 (0.3 x Basic Allowance) for the role of Vice-Chairman of the County Council, with effect from 1 April 2014, be agreed.
- 35.2 That that any member attending a meeting of the Cabinet, whether or not invited to do so, be entitled to claim travelling expenses.
- 35.3 That a guidance sheet be prepared in relation to the Members Allowances Scheme 2014/15 for members' reference.

Questions from Members of the Council

- 36.1 The following questions were presented under standing order 20:
- A question by the County Council Member for Portland Tophill to the Cabinet Member for Education and Communications in relation to Free School Meals.
- A question by the County Council Member for Portland Tophill to the Cabinet Member for Environment and the Economy in relation to safety on the Buses taking Dorset children to School.
- A question by the County Council Member for Portland Tophill to the Leader of the Council in relation to the Search and Rescue Helicopter, Portland.
- A question by the Leader of the Labour Group to the Cabinet Member for Environment and the Economy in relation to the Local Enterprise Partnership.
- A question by the Leader of the Labour Group to the Cabinet Member for Corporate Resources in relation to the Social Values Act.
- A question by the Leader of the Labour Group to the Cabinet Member for Corporate Resources in relation to Equality Impact Assessments
- A question by the Leader of the Labour Group to the Cabinet Members for Environment and Corporate Resources in relation to European Funding
- Questions by the Leader of the Labour Group to the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Education and Communications, and Children's Safeguarding and Families in relation to Food Banks.
- 36.2 All questions and written answer provided are attached as Annexure 1 to these minutes.

Reports of the Cabinet

- 37.1 The reports of the Cabinet meetings held on 26 February 2014 and 19 March 2014 were presented and their adoption duly moved and seconded. Members were advised that the recommendations contained within the report of 9 April 2014 would be considered, but the adoption of the report would be deferred pending consideration of amendments at the next Cabinet meeting on 7 May 2014.
- 37.2 The following matters were raised under the minutes of the meeting held on 26 February 2014:-

<u>Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership - Draft Strategic Economic Plan (SEP)</u>

37.3 In relation to minutes 59 and 60, the County Council Member for Weymouth Town asked for assurance that there would be synergy between the economic plan and the Pan Dorset Growth Board approach, to take into consideration key urban areas, to include significant areas of destination and to ensure that mechanisms were in place to enable tangible outcomes. The Leader of the Council provided an assurance that the SEP did reflect this and was a vehicle designed to provide for growth throughout Dorset.

<u>Dorchester Transport and Environment Plan (DTEP) - Result of Public Consultation</u>

- 37.4 In relation to minute 62.4, the County Council Member for Three Valleys commented that her electoral division should include reference to "Charminster" rather than "Chickerell" and that there should be some clarification of her reference to the pedestrianisation of High West Street.
- 37.5 The following matter was raised under the minutes of the meeting held on 19 March 2014:-

Quarterly Asset Management Update

- 37.6 In relation to minute number 124.8, the County Council Member for Dorchester (Richard Biggs) was conscious of the size of the capital programme and asked for detail of how specific ICT projects which had now been defined as revenue, would be financed. He felt that the process needed further consideration. The Director for Corporate Resources summarised the reasons why certain projects had to be considered as revenue projects rather than capital. He then explained that the issue was a technical matter which would be addressed in the budget strategy, rather than an issue with the projects themselves.
- 37.7 The following matters were raised under the minutes of the meeting held on 9 April 2014:-

Draft Corporate Plan 2014-15

- 37.8 In relation to minute 143, the County Council Member for Egdon Heath considered that the way in which the Corporate Plan was now presented was a significant improvement in how priorities of the Authority were determined and every opportunity should be taken for all members to play their part in shaping priorities and engaging with their constituents.
- 37.9 The County Council Member for Weymouth Town asked for the reference to Economic Growth to include provision for those areas of Dorset designated as deprived areas and that work with borough and district councils be undertaken to ensure that tourism played a prominent role in the Plan. The Leader of the Council highlighted that the advantage of having a one year Plan would allow issues drawn to the attention of members by their community to be taken into consideration and implemented if appropriate.

37.10 The County Council Member for Bridport considered that targets for health, wellbeing and safeguarding should be better focused and more detailed. She considered that any actions or key performance indicators should be linked to strategies and asked that a clear mechanism be established to ensure this was successful. Her view was that economic growth played a significant part in achieving this. The Leader of the Council explained that detail was available and complemented the Corporate Plan but was not necessarily included in the Plan as it was a strategic document. The County Council Member for Portland Tophill echoed the need for economic growth to be made prominent in any Plan.

Introduction of Divisional Budgets

- 37.11 In relation to minutes 147 and 148, the County Council Member for Egdon Heath expressed his misgivings at the introduction of divisional budgets as he felt that they would be contrary to policy, were not democratic, and blurred the lines between decision making and operational processes. This view was echoed by the County Council Member for Burton Grange.
- 37.12 The Leader of the Council explained that this development was in line with the aspirations of a member led authority and was adopted by other councils nationally, which provided the opportunity for members to achieve outcomes for communities at a very local level where otherwise the opportunity might not arise.
- 37.13 On being put to the vote, the County Council agreed to adopt the recommendations from Cabinet.

Bridport Community Engagement and Consultation - Recommendation for Service Provision 37.14 In relation to minute 149, the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care indicated that the minutes would be considered by the Cabinet on 7 May 2014 and would be amended to reflect 'Bridport and the surrounding areas' in minute 149.1 and that there would be 'no sale of Sidney Gale House (Care Home) until a replacement was found', in minute 149.7. It was noted that the minutes would therefore be resubmitted to the next County Council meeting on 24 July 2014.

Public Participation - Public Statement on X8 Bus Service

37.15 In relation to minute 135.3, the County Council Member for Blandford asked for an update on the arrangements for the X8 bus service. The County Council Member for Winterborne confirmed that productive discussions had taken place with the bus operator, who had confirmed that the service would be maintained until the end of 2014, although uncertainties remained beyond that. The Cabinet Member for Education and Communications confirmed that a further report would be considered by the Cabinet at its meeting on 4 June 2014.

Forward Together Progress Report - Community Engagement Programme

37.16 In relation to minute 140.2, the County Council Member for Egdon Heath considered that it was imperative that members played their part in promoting the Programme around the County and to interact extensively with their local communities. The Leader of the Council was confident that members would take the opportunity to participate fully and demonstrate local leadership as they had the detailed knowledge of the needs of their electoral divisions. Members were informed that there would be an exhibition of how the Programme would be applied following the meeting.

Resolved

38. That the reports of the Cabinet on 26 February and 19 March 2014, and the following recommendations from 9 April 2014 as set out below be adopted:

Corporate Plan 2014-2015

143.1 That the Corporate Plan together with any final amendments, be adopted. 143.2 That delegated authority be granted to the Chief Executive, after consultation with the Leader of Dorset County Council, to make any final adjustments to the Corporate Plan 2014-15.

Reason for Decision

144. The 2014-15 refresh of the County Council's Corporate Plan provided_an overarching strategic framework for ensuring strong corporate governance and performance monitoring arrangements in light of the Forward Together programme and the current financial challenges.

Introduction of Divisional Budgets

147.1 That the divisional fund scheme rules and payment request form and flowchart be adopted, for inclusion in the County Council's Constitution.
147.2 That the divisional fund and the framework for its operation be reviewed in November 2014.

Reason for Decision

148. To reflect the importance of the local member role and the need to become a more member led authority.

Reports of Overview and Scrutiny Committees

39.1 The reports of the following meetings held on the dates stated were presented:-

Overview Committees

Children's Services 18 March 2014 Environment 27 March 2014

Scrutiny Committees

Audit and Scrutiny

Audit and Scrutiny

20 March 2014

Dorset Health Scrutiny

18 February 2014

10 March 2014

39.2 The following matters were raised under the minutes of the meeting of the Children's Services Overview Committee held on 18 March 2014:-

Outside Bodies

39.3 In relation to minute 52.3, the Chairman of the Committee clarified that the new Chairman of the Dorset Safeguarding Children's Board was Cliff Turner.

Draft Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) 2014-2016

39.4 In relation to minute 35, the County Council Member for Weymouth Town stated that in regard to the Draft Plan, the Committee had discussed equality and poverty and he asked that the Plan refer directly to areas of deprivation around Dorset. He highlighted that his own division had four such areas. The Cabinet Member for Children's Safeguarding and Families confirmed that the Plan would not identify each locality as it was an overarching document. However, the Plan was still in draft and the member would have an opportunity to comment again in a future meeting of the Corporate Parenting Board.

Corporate Parenting Panel

39.5 In relation to minute 36.4, the County Council Member for Weymouth Town congratulated the Cabinet Member for Children's Safeguarding and Families on her work in relation to safeguarding children, and asked for an update on the new Corporate Parenting

Board's membership. The Cabinet Member for Children's Safeguarding and Families confirmed that The County Council Member for Cranborne Chase had been appointed as a Conservative Group substitute, and that substitute appointments were outstanding from the Liberal Democrat Group. The Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group advised that names would follow shortly.

39.6 The following matter was raised under the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Services Overview Committee held on 27 March 2014:-

Petition for the Retention of Bus Services 13, 83 and 89 from Wimborne

- 39.7 In relation to minute 74, the Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group asked for an update on the establishment of a local member and officer group to look into the issues raised. The Chairman of the Committee advised that two groups had been set up at the meeting to look into the 13, 83 and 89 services, and another group to look into the 47 service. Membership of the group in relation to this minute would consist of all local members, and would meet as soon as a date had been confirmed.
- 39.8 The following matter was raised under the minutes of the meeting of the Dorset Health Scrutiny Committee held on 10 March 2014:-
- 39.9 Members raised concerns that the common themes and issues with health and social care were not being appropriately addressed, although it was acknowledged that improvements had been made to the County Council's scrutiny process since the Francis Inquiry. A further concern was raised of the impact of the proposed cessation of the Public Health Overview Committee to both the Children's and Adult and Community Services Overview Committees. The Cabinet Member for Environment and Economy, as the former Cabinet Member for Public Health and Communities, assured members that the workload increase to other committees would be minimal. The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care reminded members that the Dorset Health Scrutiny Committee was a statutory body, and expressed her support for appropriate liaison between the relevant overview and scrutiny chairmen.

Resolved

40. That the reports of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees be received.

Recommendations of Quasi/Legal Committees, Joint Committees and Other Committees

41.1 The recommendations of the Standards and Governance Committee were presented and their adoption duly moved and seconded.

Standards and Governance: 10 April 2014

Recommendation 31 - Standards and Governance Committee Report on

Member Conduct 2013

Recommendation 34 - Constitutional Changes

Recommendation 37 - Introduction of Divisional Budgets

- 41.2 In relation to recommendation 31, members received an assurance that their comments had been included within the revised version of the Standards and Governance Committee Report on Member Conduct for 2013. It was also noted that a further minor amendment was required to reflect the accurate titles of members of the Committee.
- 41.3 In relation to recommendation 34, the Cabinet Member for Public Health and Communities advised that the current Public Health Overview Committee arrangements were insufficient and out of line with Bournemouth and Poole Councils. He explained that

the recommendation offered a more effective and efficient Pan Dorset approach. Members noted that although the responsibility for public health would be shared by the Children's Services and Adult and Community Services Overview Committees, the Adult and Community Services Overview Committee would consider budgetary issues.

Resolved

42. That the following recommendations of the Standards and Governance Committee (Recommendation 31, 34 and 37) set out below be adopted:-

Standards and Governance Committee Report on Member Conduct for 2013

31. That the Standards and Governance Committee Report on Member Conduct for 2013, including members' comments, be approved.

Reason for Recommendation

32. To contribute towards the County Council's corporate aim of 'providing innovative and value for money services'.

Constitutional Changes

- 34. That the County Council be recommended to approve the following:
- (i) The cessation of the Public Health Overview Committee, but with Public Health being highlighted in both the Children's Services and Adult and Community Services Overview Committee's terms of reference:
- (ii) That the Rules of Procedure and Members' Allowances Scheme in relation to attendance at meetings of the Cabinet be adopted;
- (iii) The Terms of Reference of the Corporate Parenting Board be further amended to include a greater prominence on the Board's safeguarding function and the Virtual Head being listed within the Board Management.

Reason for Recommendation

35. To contribute to the corporate aim to 'provide innovative and value for money services'.

Introduction to Divisional Budgets

37. That County Council be asked to approve the divisional fund scheme rules and payment request form and flowchart, for inclusion in the County Council's Constitution.

Reason for Recommendation

38. To reflect the importance of the local member role and the need to become a more member led authority.

Appointments to Committees of the County Council, Joint Committees, Dorset Fire Authority and Member Champions for 2014/15

- 43.1 The Council considered a report by the Chief Executive on the appointments to Committees of the County Council, Joint Committees, the Dorset Fire Authority and Member Champions for 2014/15.
- 43.2 The Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group asked that appointments of Member Champions be deferred to allow Group Leaders to discuss their role, responsibilities and an appropriate reporting mechanism. It was suggested, and agreed, that Group Leaders' discuss this as part of their meeting, being held later in the day.

Resolved

- 44.1 That seats on committees of the County Council be allocated to political groups, as set out in paragraph 2.6 of the report, for the year 2014/15, subject to the removal of the Public Health Overview Committee.
- 44.2 That members of political groups be appointed to serve on the committees of the County Council for the year 2014/15, as set out in Annexure 2 to these minutes, to reflect the nominations of the Group Leaders.
- 44.3 That County Council seats on joint committees be allocated to political groups for the year 2014/15, as set out in paragraph 4.9 of this report.
- 44.4 That members be appointed to serve on joint committees for the year 2014/15, as set out in Annexure 2 to these minutes, in accordance with the nominations of the Group Leaders.
- 44.5 That the Leader be asked to confirm his appointments to the Dorset Waste Partnership Joint Committee, Public Health Joint Committee and the Dorset Health and Wellbeing Board.
- 44.6 That seats on the Dorset Fire Authority be allocated to political groups for the year 2014/15, as set out in paragraph 5.4 of the report.
- 44.7 That members be appointed to serve on the Dorset Fire Authority for the year 2014/15, as set out in Annexure 2 to these minutes, in accordance with the nominations of the Group Leaders.
- 44.8 That members be appointed to serve on other organisations for the year 2014/15, as set out in Annexure 2 to these minutes, in accordance with the nominations of the Group Leaders.
- 44.9 That Group Leaders be granted delegated authority to appoint Member Champions for the year 2014/2015.

Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Committees

- 45.1 The Council considered a report by the Chief Executive on the appointment of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Committees for the year 2014/15.
- 45.2 On considering the list of nominations for the appointment of Vice-Chairman of the Planning Committee which showed Peter Hall as the Conservative Group nomination, the Leader of the Labour Group proposed that Mark Tewkesbury be appointed. The Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group then proposed that David Mannings be appointed for the same position. On being put to the vote it was agreed that Peter Hall would be appointed.

Resolved

46. That the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Committees for the year 2014/15 be appointed as follows:

Committee	<u>Chairman</u>	Vice-Chairman
Ad Hoc Accounts	Spencer Flower	Robert Gould
Audit and Scrutiny	Trevor Jones	Mike Byatt
Adult and Community Services Overview	William Trite	David Walsh
Children's and Adult Services Appeals	Robin Cook	TBC
Children's Services Overview	Mike Bevan	Pauline Batstone
Environment Overview *	Robin Cook	Margaret Phipps
Licensing and Registration	Daryl Turner	Pauline Batstone
Personnel Appeals	Peter Richardson	Deborah Croney
Planning	Mike Lovell	Peter Hall
Roads and Rights of Way	David Jones	Daryl Turner
Staffing	Spencer Flower	Robert Gould

^{*} The name and role of the Committee will be considered by the Standards and Governance Committee and the County Council at the next meeting.

Dorset Fire Authority

47. The report of the meeting of the Dorset Fire Authority held on 12 February 2014 was received.

Resolved

48. That the report of the Dorset Fire Authority be received.

Meeting Duration: 10.00am to 1.25pm

ANNEXURE 1

Questions Under Standing Order 20

Question from Paul Kimber to the Cabinet Member for Education and Communications in relation to Free School Meals

Question

I was requested from a constituent regarding the provision of free school meals.

- 1. How many young people at present are receiving free hot school meals in Dorset? Can I have an update on numbers, trends, locations etc.
- 2. Can I have assurance that all food for the meals will be sourced locally?

Answer

1. 1862 free school meals are provided by schools throughout Dorset. This new legislation will mean that we anticipate an increased uptake of 4591.

Free school meal information is sensitive in that in some communities it can give rise to stigma, one of the reasons why eligible families sometimes do not take up their entitlement to free school meals. For this reason I am happy to provide information overall about volumes. I am not happy to provide details about individual schools.

It is to early to provide trend information

2. Schools are able to enter into contracts with any supplier of school meals. The County Council has in place a contract that schools can participate in if they wish.

This contract is currently being renegotiated on the basis that food is prepared locally using a greater proportion of locally sourced produce.

We are only able to provide assurances for those schools that are part of the county council contract.

We do know of other contractual relationships providing schools with school meals that are locally sourced. These are based on direct schools to provider relationships and are not brokered through the local authority, as schools are autonomous and can act independently.

Question from Paul Kimber to the Cabinet Member for Environment in relation to safety on the Buses taking Dorset children to School

Question

Dorset Evening Echo 10th April 2014 headline 'Call for action as Buses are Found Faulty'.

I have been requested to ask a question to Full council, regarding safety on the Buses taking Dorset children to School.

I understand VOSA and the Police carried out inspections across Dorset on 61 buses and a total of 20 offences were found.

Can I have assurance that Dorset County Council will be carrying out their own checks to make sure this never happens again.

<u>Answer</u>

Dorset Passenger Transport has three Compliance officers based geographically across the county and it is their role to carry out a series of planned visits to schools throughout the year and examine the vehicles used by our contractors to make sure they are compliant with the contract.

Operation Coachman is an annual check which the Police and VOSA undertake annually in conjunction with Dorset Passenger Transport and is a more detailed mechanical examination.

Bus operators examine vehicles on a daily basis for faults and more in depth examinations are carried out at 6 - 12 week intervals as a requirement of their operating licence.

The faults found on this occasion were considered minor and did not constitute a serious risk.

There is no intention to increase the frequency of the checks which Dorset Passenger Transport undertakes.

Question from Paul Kimber to the Leader of the Council in relation to the Search and Rescue Helicopter, Portland

Question

Has Dorset County Council made any representation to Government since my last question on the S.A.R Helicopter or had any meetings about the potential loss of the S.A.R Helicopter based at Portland?

I understand there is a national petition of 125,000 signatories to demand that this service stays in Portland.

Answer

The County Council has not made any direct representations to Government about retaining the search and rescue helicopter based at Portland.

When a question was asked about this a year ago there was a live e-petition created by Richard Drax MP on the HM Government e-petitions site. The petition urged the Government to reverse the decision to close the Portland search and rescue helicopter base.

Since then the petition has closed, having attracted 17,946 signatures. As the petition received more than 10,000 signatures the Government provided a full response. This included an explanation that the Royal Air Force and Royal Navy are withdrawing from search and rescue in 2016 and that a contract has therefore already been awarded to unify search and rescue helicopter services under a single service provider. That provider is Bristow Helicopter Ltd and they will utilise a fleet of modern state of the art helicopters which are said to provide greater reliability and faster flying times than the current fleet.

The Government's response included a reiteration that the Portland helicopter base will close in 2017. It also explained that whilst Portland operates only 12 hours a day Lee on Solent and other bases covering Dorset will operate 24 hours a day.

From all of this it is clear that a decision has already been made about the future of the Portland base and a contract for the new search and rescue service has already been awarded.

Question from Mike Byatt to the Cabinet Member for Environment in relation to the Local Enterprise Partnership

Question

What evidence is there that LEP distribution of finances and investment has improved areas of deprivation and high unemployment?

Answer

The Government created LEPs to provide strategic leadership for economic growth. The main focus for LEPs has always been on creating jobs and prosperity, rather than specifically addressing issues of deprivation and disadvantage (although the latter were highlighted in the prospectus approved by Government when confirming the establishment of the Dorset LEP).

Since its launch in May 2012 the Dorset DLEP has managed limited resources to stimulate economic growth. Other than the Growing Places Fund (£9.6 million to unlock stalled employment and housing schemes), the LEP has received only core revenue funding from Government, primarily to contribute towards operational costs and the preparation of the recently submitted strategic economic plan and European Strategic Investment Framework.

The Growing Places Fund has been used to stimulate growth by investing in employment and housing schemes across Dorset, including locations at Portland and Boscombe, Bournemouth. These schemes have either recently been completed, or are still under construction, and as such have yet to make a positive contribution in terms of actual jobs or houses created. If the current schemes receiving, or with commitments through the Fund, come to fruition as planned they will create or safeguard some 750 jobs, create 20 hectares of serviced employment land, and construct 11 dwellings.

The Dorset LEP has taken the opportunity to invest a proportion of its revenue funds in pilot and feasibility activity, which will address help to address the objectives of making Dorset more competitive, talented, connected and responsive. This includes the Dorset Pathway Programme, which is an employer led Dorset-wide worklessness programme. It involves Housing Providers and Local Authorities providing paid work placements to the long term unemployed furthest from the job market as a stepping stone into sustained employment. This scheme will be launched on 12 May 2014.

In conclusion, there is currently little solid evidence that LEP investment has improved areas of deprivation and high unemployment, but this is mainly due to the relatively recent creation of the Dorset LEP and the limited resources at its disposal. This situation should improve as investments outlined above come to fruition, and as further resources are secured through the Government's local growth deal and the European Union structural funds which should come on-line from January 2015.

Question from Mike Byatt to the Cabinet Member for Corporate Resources in relation to the Social Values Act

Question

Does Dorset County Council consider and evaluate the opportunities and benefits of the Social Values Act (SVA) in all appropriate Directorates, Committees and delegated officers' powers and decisions?

What is the evidence for this? Give details when it has been applied in Budgets and decision making of policy.

Answer

The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 came into effect on 31 January 2013. For certain types of contracts the Act places a duty on the County Council to consider how the way in which it enters into contracts might improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of the area.

Some central procurement arrangements are managed by Dorset Procurement and others are managed by staff in the individual Directorates. Dorset Procurement have published guidance outlining the principles and procedures for effective procurement and this includes the need to comply with the Social Value Act in such a way that we take early account of opportunities to bring about economic, environmental and social benefits for Dorset. This does not mean that we cannot improve and if the Council adopts a more corporate approach to its procurement activity by setting up a Commissioning and Procurement Board then this will help us to ensure consistent compliance with social value requirements.

A current example of our use of the Public Services (Social Value) Act is the hot school meals contract for primary schools. This contract is yet to be awarded but by following the Social Value Act requirements we identified at an early stage the potential for this contract to support the local economy through buying locally and its potential to reduce our carbon footprint.

Question from Mike Byatt to the Cabinet Member for Corporate Resources in relation to Equality Impact Assessments

Question

How does Dorset County Council ensure its Business effectively uses and applies EIA's (Equality Impact Assessments) with evidence to support the impact of deprivation and poverty, especially in localities such as Weymouth & Portland.

Answer

The Equality Act 2010, through its Public Sector Equality Duty, requires public bodies to carry out equality analysis to identify potential discrimination their policies and practices and where possible to mitigate against this. Dorset County Council continues to require the use of EqIAs for this purpose. They provide a useful means to engage with communities and individuals at the forefront of any potential impact.

However, a South West Audit Partnership (SWAP) has found that whilst there are pockets of very high quality EqIA work across the organisation, there are also areas where we are not doing as well as we should. CMT are about to consider options for proactively reinforcing the requirement for EqIAs, particularly for Forward Together projects.

As required by law, the County Council, alongside our district and borough council colleagues, publishes and monitors an equality scheme and action plan, and ensuring compliance with the requirement for EqIAs is an important part of that plan. This can accessed on Dorset for You. For each Public Sector Equality Duty, we have defined a series of objectives that are shared with all of the district and borough councils in Dorset, leading to a better understanding of local need. Those councils publish their own versions of that scheme and would be better placed to answer your specific question about those localities."

Question from Mike Byatt to the Cabinet Members for Environment and Corporate Resources in relation to European Funding

Question

How much European funds has Dorset County Council secured in the last 4 years? What programmes were they for and what have they achieved?

Answer

Whilst it is difficult to be precise in terms of when funding was secured (it can be a two stage process of securing funding for a multi-year programme, but subject to annual agreement of delivery plans) the Council has secured in the region of £6 million from European sources.

This funding has contributed to a range of activity including rural development (LEADER), countryside management and conservation, sustainable transport, recycling, twinning, and renewable energy.

Each project will have included performance management arrangements as part of the funding agreement and reported accordingly to the appropriate managing agent. The Council does not have an aggregated picture of the achievements of the projects, but lead officers would be able to provide information relating to their own areas of activity.

Question from Mike Byatt to the Cabinet Members for Adult Social Care, Education and Communications, and Children's Safeguarding and Families in relation to Food Banks

Question

- 1. How many food banks operate in Dorset rural areas?
- 2. How many food banks operate in Weymouth & Portland?
- 3. Why does the County think they exist?
- 4. What policies/resources does the Dorset County Council have and allocate to support these?

Answer

- 1. To the best of our knowledge there are 20 food banks in shire Dorset. Available on Dorsetforyou is a food bank directory, which is not exhaustive as many food banks are opening up locally and they may not have been included. Jane Hutchings (Dorset POPP Community Development worker) can be contacted to make additions or changes to the list.
- 2. To the best of our knowledge there are two food banks currently operating in Weymouth and Portland: St John's Church Hall on Portland, operated by Churches Together; and Weymouth Baptist Church.
- 3. Dorset POPP (Dorset Partnership for Older People Programme) have a co-ordinator whose role is to assist in the delivery and development of access to food and nutrition for those aged 50+ (see above).
- 4. Members of the public who call Dorset Direct asking about food banks are directed to the Crisis Line, hosted by the Adult Access team, who then give advice as appropriate.

ANNEXURE 2

Appointments to the Committees of the County Council, Joint Committees and the Dorset Fire Authority 2014/15

Nominations from the Group Leaders

Audit and Scrutiny Committee

Members of the County Council (not being members of the Cabinet)

Conservative Group (5)

Andrew Cattaway

Deborah Croney
Lesley Dedman

Liberal Democrat Group (2)

David Harris

Trevor Jones

Ian Gardner Peter Wharf

David Walsh John Wilson

Margaret Phipps Daryl Turner <u>Labour Group</u> (1)

8

Mike Byatt

Adult and Community Services Overview Committee

Members of the County Council (not being members of the Cabinet or the Audit and Scrutiny Committee)

Conservative Group(7)Liberal Democrat Group(3)Labour Group(2)Michael BevanFred DranePaul KimberRonald CoatsworthBeryl EzzardKate WhellerRobin CookRos KayesDavid JonesWilliam Trite

Children's Services Overview Committee

Members of the County Council (not being members of the Cabinet or the Audit and Scrutiny Committee)

Co-opted members (voting on education matters only)

4

16

Conservative Group(7)Liberal Democrat Group(3)Labour Group(2)Pauline BatstoneBeryl EzzardDan BremberMichael BevanBarrie CooperMike ByattSteve ButlerSusan JefferiesPeter HallMike Lovell

Environment Overview Committee

Members of the County Council (not being members of the Cabinet or the Audit and Scrutiny Committee) 12

Conservative Group (7)Liberal Democrat Group (3)Labour Group (2)Ronald CoatsworthRichard BiggsPaul KimberRobin CookAndy CanningMark TewkesburyHilary CoxMervyn Jeffery

Mike Lovell
Margaret Phipps
Peter Richardson
John Wilson

Children's and Adult Services Appeals Committee

Members of the County Council (not being members of the Cabinet) <u>5</u>

(plus reserve members)

<u>Conservative Group</u> (3) <u>Liberal Democrat Group</u> (1) <u>Labour Group</u> (1) Robin Cook <u>Dan Brember</u>

Lesley Dedman Daryl Turner

Reserve Members

Conservative Group (3) Liberal Democrat Group (1) Labour Group (1)

Pauline Batstone Susan Jefferies Mike Byatt

Deborah Croney Peter Wharf

Licensing and Registration Committee

Members of the County Council (not being members of the Cabinet) <u>5</u>

<u>Conservative Group</u> (3) <u>Liberal Democrat Group</u> (1) <u>Labour Group</u> (1) Paul Kimber

Daryl Turner
David Walsh

Personnel Appeals Committee

Members of the County Council (not being members of the Cabinet) <u>5</u>

(plus five reserve members)

Conservative Group (3) <u>Liberal Democrat Group</u> (1) <u>Labour Group</u> (1)

Paul Kimber

Pauline Batstone David Harris

Deborah Croney Peter Richardson

Reserve Members

Conservative Group (3) Liberal Democrat Group (1) Labour Group (1)

Robin Cook Beryl Ezzard Mike Byatt

Margaret Phipps William Trite

Planning Committee

Members of the County Council (not being members of the Cabinet) <u>10</u>				
Conservative Group (6) Steve Butler Lesley Dedman Peter Hall David Jones Mike Lovell David Walsh	<u>Liberal Democrat Group</u> (3) Barrie Cooper Mervyn Jeffery David Mannings	Labour Group (1) Mark Tewkesbury		
Roads a	nd Rights of Way Committee			
Members of the County Council (no	t being members of the Cabinet)	<u>10</u>		
Conservative Group (6) Steve Butler Ian Gardner David Jones Margaret Phipps Peter Richardson Daryl Turner	Liberal Democrat Group (3) Barrie Cooper Beryl Ezzard David Mannings	Labour Group (1) Kate Wheller		
Ad Hoc Accounts Committee				
Members of the County Council		<u>9</u>		
Conservative Group (5) Spencer Flower Robert Gould David Walsh Peter Wharf John Wilson	<u>Liberal Democrat Group</u> (3) Richard Biggs Andy Canning Fred Drane	<u>Labour Group</u> (1) Mike Byatt		
Standards and Governance Committee				
Chairman of the County Council Other members who are not members of the Cabinet to be nominated by Group Leaders following discussions between them Independent external members Chairman of the County Council (John Wilson) Other Members (5) - (Con) Andrew Cattaway		1 by Group 5 4 10		
(COMIT VVIICOM)	- (Con) David Jones - (Con) Peter Wharf - (Lib Dem) Janet Dover - (Lab) Mike Byatt			

Staffing Committee

Members of the County Council (to include the Chairman of the Cou	ıncil, Leader of the Council and three		<u>5</u> s)	
Conservative Group (3) Spencer Flower Robert Gould John Wilson	<u>Liberal Democrat Group</u> (1) Trevor Jones	<u>Labour Group</u> Paul Kimber	<u>ı</u> (1)	
	nsion Fund Committee			
Members of the County Council Representative of Bournemouth Bo Representative of the Borough of P Representative of District Councils		-	5 1 1 <u>1</u> <u>8</u>	
County Council Members Conservative Group (3) Ronald Coatsworth Colin Jamieson Mike Lovell	<u>Liberal Democrat Group</u> (1) Andy Canning	<u>Labour Group</u> Mike Byatt	<u>ı</u> (1)	
WIRE LOVEII	Joint Committees			
Dorset Health Scrutiny Committee Members of the County Council necessary to achieve representation from the main political groups based on the political balance rules: every effort being made so that: each represents an area of the county which coincides with the district/borough area in which their County Council electoral division is located.				
Members appointed by each of the	six district/borough councils in Dorse	t <u>(</u>	<u>6</u> 2	
County Council Members Conservative Group (4) Michael Bevan Ronald Coatsworth Mike Lovell William Trite	<u>Liberal Democrat Group</u> (1) Ros Kayes	<u>Labour Group</u> Mike Byatt	<u>ı</u> (1)	
Police and Crime Panel Members of Bournemouth Borough Members of the County Council Members of the Borough of Poole Borough/Districts Independent	Council	2	4 2 3 6 <u>2</u> 7	
County Council Members Conservative Group (1) Ian Gardner	<u>Liberal Democrat Group</u> (1) Fred Drane	<u>.</u>	<u>-</u>	

Dorset and South Wiltshire Planning and Transportation Joint Committee

County Council Member (1)

Conservative Group (1)

Hilary Cox

Reserves (1)

Steve Butler

Dorset Waste Partnership Joint Committee*

County Council Members (2)

Conservative Group (2)

Peter Finney Robert Gould

Reserves (2)

Jill Haynes

Spencer Flower

Joint Public Health Committee*

County Council Members (2)

Conservative Group (2)

Jill Haynes

Colin Jamieson

Reserves (2)

Rebecca Knox

vacancy

Observer Status - vacancy

*NB As joint committees exercising executive functions, the Leader of the County Council is responsible for making these appointments.

Dorset Fire Authority

The Dorset Fire Authority comprises 15 members appointed in proportion to the number of electors in each constituent council (Dorset, Bournemouth and Poole).

Dorset County Council has 8 representatives:-

Conservative Group (5)

Ronald Coatsworth Spencer Flower

Colin Jamieson Rebecca Knox

John Wilson

<u>Liberal Democrat Group</u> (2)

Susan Jefferies Trevor Jones Labour Group (1)

Mike Byatt

Member Champion Nominations

Note: All Member Champion appointments are subject to consultation with Group Leaders.

Carer's Champion (1)
Corporate Sustainability programme (1)
Customer Services (1)
Diversity (including disability) (1)
Domestic Violence (1)
Freedom of Information (1)
Community Services (incorporating cultural services, community safety, health improvement, adult learning and the voluntary sector) (1)
Mental Health Services (1)
Military/Civilian Integration (1)
Older People (1)
Physical Activity (1)
Risk (1)
Trading Standards (1)
Supporting People (1)
Young People "Hear by Right" (Setting Standards for the Active Involvement of Young People in Democracy) (1)
Learning Disabilities (1)
Economic Growth and Development (1)

Other Organisations

Local Government Association - General Assembly

<u>Conservative</u> (3) <u>Liberal Democrat</u> (1)

Peter Finney Fred Drane

Spencer Flower Robert Gould

County Council's Network

<u>Conservative</u> (3) <u>Liberal Democrat</u> (1)

Peter Finney Beryl Ezzard

Spencer Flower Robert Gould

South West Councils

Conservative (1) Spencer Flower

South West Councils Employers Panel

Conservative (1)
Robert Gould