

Dorset County Council

Minutes of a meeting held at County Hall,
Colliton Park, Dorchester on 24 July 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, Robert Gould, Peter Hall, David Harris, Jill Haynes, Colin Jamieson, Susan Jefferies, Mervyn Jeffery, David Jones, Trevor Jones, Ros Kayes, Paul Kimber, Rebecca Knox, Mike Lovell, David Mannings, Margaret Phipps, Ian Smith, William Trite, Daryl Turner, David Walsh, Peter Wharf and Kate Wheller.

Officers attending:

Nicky Cleave (Assistant Director of Public Health), Catherine Driscoll (Director for Adult and Community Services), Mike Harries (Director for Environment and the Economy), Paul Kent (Deputy Chief Executive and Director for Corporate Resources), Jonathan Mair (Head of Legal and Democratic Services), Sara Tough (Director for Children's Services), Lee Gallagher (Democratic Services Manager), Paul Goodchild (Senior Democratic Services Officer) and Rebecca Guest (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 **13 November 2014**.)

Apologies for Absence

49. Apologies for absence were received from Dan Brember, Andy Canning, Ian Gardner, David Phillips (Director of Public Health), Peter Richardson, Mark Tewkesbury and Debbie Ward (Chief Executive).

Code of Conduct

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

Minutes

51. The minutes of the meeting held on 24 April 2014 were confirmed and signed, subject to minute 34.2 being amended to read '...provide good levels of electoral equality'.

Matters Arising

Minute 44.9 - Appointments to Committees of the County Council, Joint Committees, Dorset Fire Authority and Member Champions for 2014/15

52. Clarification was sought in relation to the review and appointment of member champions since the last meeting. The Deputy Chief Executive confirmed that the review had not yet been completed and appointments had not been made.

Public Participation

Public Speaking

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

53.2 A statement was presented by Bobbie Church, on behalf of the DT11 Forum Transport Action Group in relation to Bus Services, in accordance with Standing Order 21(2). The statement is attached to these minutes as Annexure 1.

Petitions

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

Chairman's Announcements

54.1 The Chairman reported on the following deaths of former members of the County Council:

- (a) Mr David Fox OBE DL on 6 May 2014, who served the County Council for 37 years between 1976 and 1985 representing the Christchurch No. 5 electoral division, and between 1985 and 2013 representing the Commons electoral division. Mr Fox also served as Leader of the Council between 2001 and 2002.
- (b) Mr Donald John Wallace on 11 May 2014, who served on the County Council between 1989 and 2005, representing the Colehill electoral division.
- (c) Mr Phil Carey MBE on 15 July 2014, who served on the County Council between 1989 and 1993 representing the Boscombe East electoral division.

54.2 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.

54.3 The Chairman reported the following events since the last meeting:

- (i) Royal Visit The Chairman was honoured to represent the Council when HRH the Earl of Wessex visited East Dorset in support of reserves recruitment for The Wessex Reserve Forces and Cadets Association on 2 May 2014.
- (ii) Long Service Awards The Chairman announced that three Long Service Award ceremonies had been held between 6 June and 3 July 2014 to acknowledge the loyalty of staff who have served the County Council for at least 25 years or 40 years.
- (iii) Opening of the new building for The Swanage School The Chairman attended the Swanage Free School's ceremony to mark the opening of its innovative new building on 16 May 2014.
- (iv) Armed Forces Day flag The Chairman informed members of the flying of the special Armed Forces Day flag over County Hall on 23 June 2014 and during the week leading up to Armed Forces Day.
- (v) Children in Care Awards It was reported that the Chairman had attended the Children in Care Awards with the Cabinet Members for Education and Communications and Children's Safeguarding and Families on 12 July 2014, and had presented many certificates and vouchers to children to recognise their achievements at the awards ceremony.
- (vi) Weymouth Cycleway The Chairman announced that he had officially opened the new section of off road cycleway in Weymouth on 18 June 2014.

- (vii) Military Ceremonies – 18 June, 26 June and 10 July 2014 The Chairman reported that he had attended a Retreat Ceremony at Blandford Camp, a Beating to Quarters Ceremony at Lulworth Camp, and visited a Royal Navy submarine at Portland.
- (viii) Presentation of D Day medals The Chairman and the Mayor of Christchurch had the honour of being able to jointly present five D Day medals to armed forces veterans at a ceremony at Christchurch Borough Council on 30 June 2014.
- (ix) Retired and Retiring The Chairman reported on the retirements of Dave Ayre (Head of Countryside and Business Development), Don Gobbett (Head of Planning), Peter Illsley (Head of Corporate Finance), Paul Kent (Deputy Chief Executive and Director for Corporate Resources) and Mike Winter (Head of Highways Management). Members thanked all for their past service to the County Council and to the people of Dorset, and wished them well for the future.

Leader's Announcements

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

Forward Together

55.2 The Leader of the Council provided an update on the progress of the Forward Together Programme and reminded members of its importance in relation to having a sustainable Medium Term Financial Plan and viable finances for the future. He confirmed that the transformation agenda included the best use of buildings, estate size and the re-design of services.

55.3 External experts had been employed to assist with service re-designs that aimed to better manage the annually reducing budget of the County Council. The use of the experts had excited the media, and he referred an article in the Dorset Echo on 12 June 2014. It was then highlighted that it was important to use expertise to deal with particular issues, especially in relation to transformation. The need to use Agency staff had now been accepted by the local media.

55.4 A member sought assurances that restricted budgets would not prevent projects being considered. It was felt that all projects needed to have clear objectives and budget savings together with appropriate plans and monitoring processes. The Leader advised that projects were monitored closely on a weekly basis to ensure that tangible outcomes were realisable. He cautioned members of the possibility for short term increases in staff and costs, but this was on an invest to save basis and advised that £500k of savings had been harvested already.

55.5 It was reported that, as an example of using expertise, the Association for Public Service Excellence was currently conducting a review of SEN transport and personalised transport plans in a holistic transport review for the County Council at a cost of £25k. It was anticipated that this would realise £1.2m savings per annum.

Ask Dorset

55.6 The Leader of the Council informed members of the new ground breaking approach taken by the Authority to produce the Corporate Plan. There was currently a one year plan to give the County Council a steer, whilst the people of Dorset were asked what services they believed were important. Roadshows provided an opportunity to listen to

peoples' concerns and aspirations, and establish their key issues. Currently there were four top themes emerging that would be shared with members in due course.

55.7 The roadshows were being held in several locations within the County and to date over 6000 people had participated. Over 917 online responses had been received, with 370 through Facebook and over 350 via through libraries and/or 'Your Dorset'. Further events were scheduled in Sherborne and Verwood. The dedication of staff and members was recognised by the Council.

55.8 Members commented on the success of the campaign and they were advised that an analysis of results, with targeting responses in local areas, would be available to members and featured in 'Your Dorset'. The need for constant review to ensure that the Corporate Plan reflected the community and society was agreed. In addition, members welcomed the use of the roadshows to inform people of the County Council's responsibilities, but asked that when future events were arranged, differences in divisions were taken into account to ensure a wider audience. Members were reminded that they had all been invited to comment on the locations and timings of each roadshow, however it had not been possible to accommodate all requests.

55.9 In response to a question, the Leader confirmed the prime objective at authorities across Dorset, Bournemouth and Poole was to work and improve together. To improve economy growth, he advised members that he was Chairman of the new Dorset Growth Board, which included Bournemouth Borough Council and the Borough of Poole. It was highlighted that areas in the east had received some Government funding, but in time the whole of Dorset would benefit from this. This would also be reflected in the Corporate Plan.

Staff Roadshows

55.10 The Leader of the Council advised that, with the Chief Executive, he had attended 6 staff roadshows. Staff from all services, including many from outside County Hall, had visited and used the opportunity to talk about forward together and the re-design of services. 350 staff had attended and their contributions were valued. Another series of roadshows was planned in the autumn and this included visits to depots before staff went to work. Interaction with staff would continue and the Leader stressed the importance of meeting as many as possible across the whole County.

55.11 In response to questions, the Leader confirmed that the work force was the most valuable asset of the County Council. Investors in People was embedded in the way in which staff were treated and trained, and following a recent inspection, the County Council had retained its award. He explained that, in view of the ongoing transformation agenda, this was a great achievement.

55.12 The Leader confirmed that members would be invited to attend future staff roadshows, and he advised that the information captured would be used to re-design services and deliver savings. Thanks were given to all parties involved in the changes and he welcomed a request by the Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group to review standing orders.

Echo Article

55.13 The Leader of the Council reported his disappointment regarding the Dorset Echo's front page news article on 21 July 2014 regarding outstanding debts being written off by the County Council. He commented on the normal credit period lag between invoice and payment (30 days), and voiced his disappointment in reading the associated comments. A further article, which gave a more balanced view, was released on 23 July 2014 following

discussions at the Audit and Scrutiny Committee. The Leader advised that regrettably there would be circumstances where debts had to be written off. He added that the key thing was to raise income, which in turn raised debt, which was being monitored well.

55.14 In response to a question, the Leader referred to the potential damage to the reputation of the County Council and the harmful effect of the article on staff morale.

Questions from Members of the Council

56. No questions were presented under standing order 20 to the Chairman of the Council, Leader of the Council, Cabinet Members, or chairmen of appropriate committees to answer questions on any business not covered on this agenda, including any questions on the discharge of the functions of the Fire Authority.

Reports of the Cabinet

57.1 The reports of the Cabinet meetings held on 9 April 2014, 7 May 2014, 4 June 2014 and 2 July 2014 were presented and their adoption duly moved and seconded.

57.2 The following matter was raised under the minutes of the meeting held on 7 May 2014:

Queen Elizabeth's School, Wimborne - Position Statement

57.3 In relation to minute 208, concern regarding disabled access at the school was raised in relation to school functions that precluded access to lifts for disabled people. The Cabinet Member for Education and Communications clarified that this should be raised with the governors of the school as a management issue.

57.4 Regarding the historic finance issues experienced with the building of the school, assurance was sought in respect of the budget to complete the building and to undertake the subsequent legal action in respect of claims. The Deputy Chief Executive confirmed that the budget for delivery of the school was not exceeded, and similarly the budget for legal pursuance of a claim would not be exceeded.

57.5 Concern was expressed in relation to the significant cost of the delivery of the school, and it was noted that when the final steps had been completed in relation to the project, financial details would be made public in a report to the County Council.

57.6 The following matters were raised under the minutes of the meeting held on 4 June 2014:

Transport for Post 16 Students Attending Education or Training

57.7 In relation to minute 221, the County Council Member for Sherborne Rural, as the Chairman of the Children's Services Overview Committee, asked for an explanation of the eligibility in respect of transport for post 16 students. The Cabinet Member for Education and Communications clarified that eligibility related to the Government's initiative to raise the participation age for young people after the age of 16 to attend education or employment with training. However, there was no statutory duty to provide transport except under criteria relating to vulnerable groups such as those with Special Educational Needs, young parents or due to social exclusion. Promotion of the issue had been included in Your Dorset to raise the public perception of the Council's approach. It was noted that a briefing note would be circulated to members outside the meeting from the Cabinet Member to provide clarity over the Council's position regarding post 16 transport.

57.8 Concern was express regarding the provision of transport for all children to attend education and training which could have a huge impact on the lives of the children.

The Cabinet Member for Education and Communications confirmed that the Cabinet would always consider suggestions from members, but this was not a statutory duty except for those who met the criteria. It was further explained that the addition of transport for post 16 would be a very significant cost to the Council.

57.9 Comments were received in relation to the need for the Cabinet to consider solutions for community transport which could be developed to avoid the impact of cuts to bus subsidy. The Cabinet Member for Environment and the Economy reinforced the overriding need to balance the budget, and highlighted the extensive work undertaken to consider subsidies in accordance with national criteria across Dorset, and the consideration of the Environment Overview Committee. It was also clarified that the Cabinet had decided to maintain four additional priority bus services over and above those that would be set by the national criteria. The Leader of the Council drew attention to the exercise to consider subsidies, that all members had been involved, and that work was required to consider the future of public transport.

Navitus Bay Wind Park Application

57.10 In relation to minute 218, members discussed the decision of the Cabinet to strongly object to the proposed wind park. Clarification was sought regarding the commonality of views and information by local authorities when considering the wind park application. Officers explained that the issues had not yet been discussed with all affected authorities, but every effort would be made to share common information so that all authorities could consider the same issues and points of view. An officer working group had been created to highlight consistency. Members noted that there would inevitably be differences of view, but the group could explore areas of commonality and look at areas of difference. It was highlighted that member awareness across all authorities was very important.

57.11 One member expressed disappointment that there was a strong objection bearing in mind the benefits to the local area such as jobs and the positive effect of carbon reduction which should be championed through the Corporate Plan. The Cabinet Member for Environment and the Economy explained that the Cabinet had made a decision which was in line with the recommendation of the Planning Committee, primarily due to the danger of losing the World Heritage Status of the Jurassic Coast. It was further highlighted that the opposition related to the wind park being located too close to the coast, and there was no objection to the renewable energy aspect of the proposals.

57.12 The following matters were raised under the minutes of the meeting held on 2 July 2014:

Impact of Changes to commercial bus services X8 and 47

57.13 In relation to minute 294, congratulations were expressed to all involved in the action taken to reinstate the 47 service together with Yeovil College and Somerset County Council, including the efforts of campaigners. The Cabinet Member for Environment and the Economy indicated that the service would start on 26 July 2014 subject to the views of the Traffic Commissioner.

57.14 It was suggested that decisions such as the one in relation to the 47 service should be considered more proactively as the knock on result was that the bus provider had then reconsidered the commercial value of the route and had been cooperative in providing additional support. The Cabinet Member for Environment and the Economy clarified that any funding decision would require the prioritisation of a route which would have a negative impact on other routes as there was no additional funding available.

The Reconfiguration of Phoenix House, Blandford

57.15 In relation to minute 240.4, a question was asked in respect of the closure of Phoenix House and whether any financial loss as a result of closure would be sought from Government due to the closure being the result of a change of Government policies. It was noted that recompense from Government was extremely unlikely.

57.16 A further question was asked in relation to the repositioning of the specialist equipment from the facility and the value of the equipment. The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care confirmed that the equipment had a value of approximately £1m which would be used to support people in their homes, and would be recommissioned where possible.

57.17 It was noted that the Audit and Scrutiny Committee had recently decided not to undertake a call to account in relation to the reconfiguration, but it had asked to consider the initial business plan.

Recommendations from the Environment Committee

57.18 In relation to minute 284, the Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group expressed disappointment that a request to submit a motion to the Council in relation to “an urgent review of prioritisation of resources to make sure that vital bus services are retained” had not been accepted for discussion at the meeting, or even included on agenda as a motion that would now be referred to the Environment Overview Committee in October 2014. She felt that the time delay of referring the motion to the Committee would prevent timely consideration of the important issues facing many areas of Dorset and the associated public concern. The Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group had subsequently requested a review of the standing orders of the Council to consider if the procedure rules regarding motions were appropriate.

57.19 The Chairman of the Council took the opportunity to explain the reasons for referring the motion to the Environment Overview Committee and that this was in line with the current standing orders of the Council, and following advice from the Head of Legal and Democratic Services. It was further explained that recommendations could be considered by the Cabinet as the appropriate decision making body by 22 October 2014, but the consideration of community transport was also a related topic to be scrutinised by the Audit and Scrutiny Committee in the near future.

57.20 The review by the Audit and Scrutiny a Committee was welcomed by members, and had been initiated by the Chairman of the Committee together with the Cabinet Member for Children’s Safeguarding and Communities to look at alternatives to the traditional public bus. Comments were also received in relation to a comprehensive travel study undertaken in North Dorset which could be incorporated in to the review to develop the cornerstone of transport in Dorset.

57.21 Members of the Liberal Democrat Group took the opportunity to express their support for the need for a review of bus services and for the review to be considered in time for budget decisions for the next financial year, and supported the need for standing orders to be reviewed.

57.22 The suggestion of the review of standing orders was accepted, and would be considered by the Standards and Governance Committee in due course.

Setting up a Joint Venture Company

57.23 In relation to minute 290, members took the opportunity to discuss a number of approaches taken by directorates in relation to the potential development of a Local Authority Trading Company (LATC). A question was asked about the approach taken,

exploration of different models and if the experiences by directorates would be investigated regarding appropriateness, other service delivery models and alternatives. The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care confirmed that all models would be evaluated to ensure they met the needs of the services, and that in relation to the Pathways to Independence programme consultants had been engaged to investigate LATCs jointly with Bournemouth Borough Council and the Borough of Poole. It was then confirmed that site visits would be arranged for members of the Executive Advisory Panel on Pathways to Independence to see successful models. In respect of the options for the Environment Directorate, the Cabinet Member for Environment and the Economy confirmed that the options available were being investigated in detail to ensure a viable solution was found, but it was very difficult as the use of LATCs was uncharted territory for the Council. It was noted that there were lots of different models to explore.

57.24 The Leader of the Council explained that he had been approached by Unison in relation to the formation of LATCs and had agreed that it was appropriate for the issue to be explored by the Staff Consultative Panel in order to have constructive dialogue at an early stage.

57.25 A suggestion was made that the LATC model could be used in relation to the Dorset Waste Partnership Joint Committee, to which the Cabinet Member for Environment and the Economy highlighted the significant success of the Partnership, and that it was not appropriate at this stage.

57.26 Concern was expressed about the future governance models of any LATC, and expressions of the need for members to be included as voting members on any LATC. The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care clarified that no decisions regarding governance had been taken in relation to an LATC through Pathways for Independence, and agreed that there was a distinct necessity to have member involvement when this was considered.

57.27 A question was asked in relation to the consortium associated with the Joint Venture Company to deal with the transport trip rate database, to which the Director for Environment and the Economy clarified that the consortium related to six county councils who owned equal intellectual property in relation to the database, and that the formation of the company was to establish a legal status to protect the consortium's interests and enable growth.

Resolved

58. That the reports of the Cabinet on 9 April 2014, 7 May 2014, 4 June 2014 and 2 July 2014, and the following recommendations from 2 July 2014 as set out below be adopted:

Local Government Boundary Commission for England – Dorset County Council Report on Council Size

277. That the County Council be recommended to accept the recommendation at paragraph 11 of the Panel's report in relation to the future size of the Council for a future Council Size of 46 from 2017.

Reason for Recommendation

278. To align with the vision of the Corporate Plan to 'Working together for a strong and successful Dorset'.

Proposals for the formation of a Regulatory Committee

280. That subject to consideration of the Standards and Governance Committee, the County Council be asked to agree that the Planning, Roads and Rights of Way,

and Licensing and Registration Committees be replaced by a single Regulatory Committee with the terms of reference and membership set out in the Cabinet Members' report and that the County Council appoint a Chairman for the new Regulatory Committee for the remainder of 2014/15.

Reason for Decision

281. *To create a single regulatory Committee with a broader membership than that of the existing three Committees and to ensure consistency of approach in relation to public speaking on all regulatory matters.*

(Note: The appointment of the membership, Chairman and Vice-Chairman were considered as part of the Standards and Governance Committee recommendation at minute 62.)

Reports of Overview and Scrutiny Committees

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

Overview Committees

Adult and Community	16 April 2014
Adult and Community	23 June 2014
Children's Services	1 July 2014
Environment	19 June 2014

Scrutiny Committees

Audit and Scrutiny	8 April 2014
Audit and Scrutiny	10 June 2014
Dorset Health Scrutiny	23 May 2014
Dorset Health Scrutiny	24 June 2014

59.3 The following matters were raised under the minutes of the meeting of the Adult and Community Services Overview Committee held on 23 June 2014:

Pathways to Independence Programme - Update

59.4 In relation to minute 83.10, the Chairman of the Adult and Community Services Overview Committee explained that an additional meeting of the Committee had been arranged to consider the Pathways to Independence Programme and would be held on 15 September 2014. The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care added that the additional meeting would be to specifically consider the business case for a Local Authority Trading Company (LATC).

59.5 In response to a question from the County Council Member for Weymouth Town, the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care explained that currently adult social care was subject to Care Quality Commission inspections and public reporting. It would be favourable to keep residential homes and staff already in place which, as part of the Pathways to Independence Programme, would transfer to a LATC. The Director for Adult and Community Services added that the Care Act, which would become law in April 2015, would make it the duty of local authorities to look at how places in care homes were filled. The Pathways for Independence Programme had been formed to address the issue without any additional funding. A joint market position statement had been prepared with Bournemouth Borough Council and the Borough of Poole, and an Executive Advisory Panel had been formed at the County Council to also contribute to the programme.

Libraries Service Co-Operation and Shared Services

59.6 In relation to minute 78, the County Council Member for Westham highlighted that work had recently begun to replace computers in libraries in conjunction with Bournemouth Borough Council and the Borough of Poole. He asked if the computer systems across the individual library services were compatible. The Cabinet Member for Community and Public Health advised that this would be the case.

59.7 The following matter was raised under the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Overview Committee held on 19 June 2014:

Park and Ride – Weymouth and Dorchester

59.8 In relation to minute 116.1, the County Council Member for Weymouth Town asked for an update on the current discussions between the County Council, West Dorset District Council and Weymouth and Portland Borough Council regarding provision of park and ride services. The Director for Environment and the Economy reported that he would discuss the matter with the Director of Environment at West Dorset District and Weymouth and Portland Borough Councils soon. A meeting with members of the District and Borough Councils to consider park and ride sites would take place in early September 2014.

59.9 The following matters were raised under the minutes of the meeting of the Dorset Health Scrutiny Committee held on 23 May 2014:

Approved Mental Health Professional Service – Dorset HealthCare University NHS Foundation Trust and Dorset County Council Report following Monitoring Visit by the Care Quality Commission in December 2013

59.10 In relation to minutes 28 and 29, the County Council Member for Bridport highlighted that the Dorset Health Scrutiny Committee had requested that Dorset HealthCare University NHS Foundation Trust (DHUFT) undertake a review regarding changes to mental health service provision in West Dorset. The review had been delayed and was now due to conclude in June 2015. Should the review conclude that the removal of beds had resulted in harm to mental health patients in West Dorset, a decision could be taken to reopen the Hughes Unit, which had previously been closed by DHUFT. She had been advised by a senior member of staff at DHUFT that the County Council was looking to move locality units to the Hughes Unit, and she expressed concern that the County Council had not waited until the outcome of the review before making a decision to use the space. The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care explained that the County Council was looking to co-locate staff, but was currently not looking to use the Hughes Unit, and that the location would be a matter for decision by DHUFT. She reported that she would raise the matter with the Director of Mental Health Services at DHUFT.

Pathology Services Tendering Project

59.11 In relation to minute 35.2, the County Council Member for Bridport commented that the final decision on the tendering project for Pathology Services at Dorset County Hospital would be made on 10 September 2014, the same day as the next meeting of the Dorset Health Scrutiny Committee. She raised concern that effective scrutiny of the project could not be guaranteed if the decision was made without consideration by the Dorset Health Scrutiny Committee. The Chairman of the Committee highlighted that he had arranged to meet with the Chairman of NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group and would ask that the decision not be made until after the Committee had considered the issue.

59.12 The following matter was raised under the minutes of the meeting of the Dorset Health Scrutiny Committee held on 24 June 2014:

Non-Emergency Patient Transport Services – NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group

59.13 In relation to minute 48.1, the County Council Member for Weymouth Town commented that the Committee rarely considered health inequalities when looking at the work of NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group. He highlighted that there were a number of areas across the County, but particularly in Weymouth and Portland, which had high levels of health inequality. The Chairman agreed to raise the issue directly with NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group, as he was unaware if they had a particular policy regarding health inequalities.

Resolved

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

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

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

Staffing: 6 June 2014

Recommendation 63 - Proposed Changes to the Officer Employment Procedure Rules

Recommendation 75 - Restructuring the Corporate Resources Directorate and the Chief Executive's Office

Recommendation 78 - Section 151 Local Government Act 1972

Standards and Governance: 7 July 2014

Recommendation 48 - Proposals for the Formation of a Regulatory Committee

Recommendation 51 - Proposed Changes to the Dorset Health and Wellbeing Board Membership and Terms of Reference and Constitution

Recommendation 54 - Governance Arrangements for the Public Health Responsibilities of Dorset County Council

Recommendation 58 - Proposed Changes to the Officer Employment Procedure Rules

Recommendation 61 - Restructuring the Corporate Resources Directorate and the Chief Executive's Office – Amendments to the County Council's Constitution

Recommendation 64 - Draft Annual Governance Statement 2013/14

61.2 In relation to recommendation 75 of the Staffing Committee, members were informed that two additional recommendations had been included to reflect the salary range of the Assistant Chief Executive position, which would be based on a percentage of the Director's salary range and issued on similar contract terms. This was due to the salary range information not being available on the date of the meeting, and Council approval was therefore required.

61.3 In relation to recommendation 78 of the Staffing Committee, the County Council congratulated the Head of Financial Services on his appointment as the new Section 151 Officer.

61.4 In relation to recommendation 48 of the Standards and Governance Committee, the County Council discussed the membership, Chairmanship and Vice-Chairmanship of the new Regulatory Committee.

61.5 In relation to recommendation 51 of the Standards and Governance Committee, the Leader, who was also the Chairman of the Dorset Health and Wellbeing

Board, explained that the governance model of the Board had been discussed at length over the previous year. It was his view that the Board's current membership of 28 members, which included health authority representatives, District, Borough and County Councillors, GPs and officers, was unworkable. The Board had established a sub-group to consider the membership and it had suggested that a core membership of 16 be implemented, with a supporting structure to allow District and Borough Councils to feed in to the Board. The reduced membership was supported by the current Board.

61.6 In relation to recommendation 64 of the Standards and Governance Committee, the County Council recorded their thanks to the previous Head of Corporate Finance, Peter Illsley, who had recently retired from the County Council.

Resolved

62. That the following recommendations of the Staffing Committee (Recommendations 63, 75 and 78) and the Standards and Governance Committee (Recommendations 48, 51, 54, 58, 61 and 64) set out below be adopted:-

Proposed Changes to the Officer Employment Procedure Rules

63. That County Council be recommended to approve the suggested changes to the Officer Employment Procedure Rules, as set out in Appendix 2 to the report, and consequential changes to other parts of the Constitution.

Reason for Recommendation

64. In order to comply with legal requirements relating to the arrangements for the appointment and discipline of Chief and Deputy Chief Officers.

(Note: This matter was also considered by the Council as a recommendation from the Standards and Governance Committee at recommendation 58 below.)

Restructuring the Corporate Resources Directorate and the Chief Executive's Office (Paragraphs 1 & 2)

75.1 That the County Council be recommended to approve the new directorate structure as a change to Article 12 of the Council's Constitution, subject to the recommendations of the Standards and Governance Committee.

75.2 That the appointment of an Assistant Chief Executive on the pay range £87,544 - £99,034 per annum be approved.

75.3 That the Pay Policy Statement be updated to incorporate the new pay range and associated terms and conditions of employment.

Reason for Recommendation

76. To facilitate the rationalisation of central support services as part of the Forward Together Transformation Programme and achieve financial savings.

(Note: This matter was also considered by the Council as a recommendation from the Standards and Governance Committee at recommendation 61 below.)

Section 151 Local Government Act 1972 (Paragraph 2)

78. That the County Council be recommended to approve Richard Bates as Section 151 Officer for Dorset County Council, including the role of Pension Fund Administrator to the Dorset County Pension Fund, with effect from 1 October 2014.

Reason for Recommendation

79. To meet legislative requirement on the retirement of the current Director for Corporate Resources.

Proposals for the Formation of a Regulatory Committee

48.1 That the County Council be asked to agree that the Planning, Roads and Rights of Way, and Licensing and Registration Committees be replaced by a single Regulatory Committee with the terms of reference and membership set out in the Cabinet Members' report.

48.2 That Pauline Batstone, Steve Butler, Barrie Cooper, Beryl Ezzard, Ian Gardner, Mervyn Jeffery, David Jones, Mike Lovell, David Mannings, Margaret Phipps, Peter Richardson, Mark Tewkesbury, Daryl Turner, David Walsh and Kate Wheller be appointed to serve on the Regulatory Committee for the remainder of 2014/15.

48.3 That David Jones be elected to serve as Chairman of the Committee for the remainder of 2014/15.

48.4 That Daryl Turner be appointed to serve as Vice-Chairman of the Committee for the remainder of 2014/15.

(Note: The proposal to form a Regulatory Committee was also considered by the Council as a recommendation from the Cabinet at minute 58 above.)

Reason for Recommendation

49. To create a single Regulatory Committee with a broader membership than that of the existing three Committees and to ensure consistency of approach in relation to public speaking on all regulatory matters.

Proposed Changes to the Dorset Health and Wellbeing Board Membership and Terms of Reference and Constitution

51.1 That the County Council agree the revised Dorset Health and Wellbeing Board membership of 16 members, as set out under 'Proposed core membership' in paragraph 2.5 of the Director's report.

51.2 That the County Council agree the revised Terms of Reference and Constitution for the Dorset Health and Wellbeing Board as outlined in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 of the Director's report.

Reason for Recommendation

52. Discussions around the reduction of the core membership of the Dorset Health and Wellbeing Board had taken place for over a year. It would be necessary to revise the Terms of Reference and Constitution accordingly.

Governance Arrangements for the Public Health Responsibilities of Dorset County Council

54. That the County Council agree:

- (i) that the Terms of Reference of the Overview Committees for the Adult and Community Services, Children's Services and Environment directorates be revised to include a responsibility to review the wider role of the local authority for population health and wellbeing;
- (ii) that a responsibility to consider the impact of policy and commissioning decisions on health inequalities and population health be included in all council reports; and
- (iii) that the review of performance of public health commissioning in the Dorset County Council area be the responsibility of the Adult and Community Services Overview Committee.

Reason for Recommendations

55. More could be done to explicitly recognise the role of all Local Authority directorates in improving population health and wellbeing.

Proposed Changes to the Officer Employment Procedure Rules

58.1 That the County Council agree the suggested changes to the Officer employment procedure rules as set out in Appendix 2 to the Monitoring Officer's report, and consequential changes to other parts of the Constitution.

58.2 That Heads of Service and the Assistant Chief Executive be appointed by a panel of three elected members, one of whom should be the relevant Cabinet member.

Reason for Recommendations

59. In order to comply with legal requirements related to the arrangements for the appointment and discipline of Chief and Deputy Chief Officers.

(Note: This matter was also considered by the Council as a recommendation from the Staffing Committee at minute 63 above.)

Restructuring the Corporate Resources Directorate and the Chief Executive's Office – Amendments to the County Council's Constitution

61. That the changes to Article 12 of the County Council's Constitution, arising from the recommendations of the Staffing Committee to combine the Corporate Resources Directorate and the Chief Executive's Office from 1 October 2014, be agreed.

Reason for Decision

62. To facilitate the rationalisation of central support services as part of the Forward Together Transformation Programme and achieve financial savings.

(Note: This matter was also considered by the Council as a recommendation from the Staffing Committee at minute 75 above.)

Draft Annual Governance Statement 2013/14

64.1 That the draft Annual Governance Statement for 2013/14 be agreed.

64.2 That the County Council approve the creation of a member reference group on the Annual Governance Statement, with Terms of Reference as set out in Appendix 2 to the Director's report.

Reasons for Recommendation

65.1 Approval and publication of the Annual Governance Statement by the County Council was a statutory requirement and provided evidence that the County Council maintained high standards for governance and addressed significant shortcomings and risks.

65.2 A member reference panel to consider governance and compliance issues would increase the rigour of the assessment and the value of the work in providing assurance to the County Council and the people of Dorset.

Dorset Fire Authority

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

63.2 The following matter was raised under the minutes of the meeting of the Dorset Fire Authority held on 12 February 2014:

Dorset Fire and Rescue Service and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service Joint Command and Control Centre

63.3 In relation to minutes 45 and 46, members were updated on the position regarding the proposed combination arrangements between Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Services. The Chairman of the Dorset Fire Authority explained that the proposal to combine arrangements had recently gone out to public consultation, and the consultation documents were available through the Dorset Fire Authority website. Focus groups, leaflet campaigns and meetings with residents had been arranged, and the Chairman invited members to submit comments directly to her if they wished to do so. She would discuss with the Leader about how the County Council should best submit its views. It was noted that the consultation would end in October 2014, and further updates would be provided in due course.

Resolved

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

Appointments to Committees 2014/15

65. No changes to membership of Committees were reported to the meeting by Group Leaders.

Meeting Duration: 10.00am to 1.20pm

ANNEXURE 1

Statement to the County Council meeting from Bobbie Church, on behalf of the DT11 Forum Transport Action Group in relation to Bus Services

The DT11 Forum Transport Action Group has raised a number of bus related issues with DCC Transport Services and the portfolio holder in recent months. The responses provided so far have been negative and apologetic. We have focused on issues of substantial importance to young people to enable them to access education, training and employment. This is about the economy and young people in rural north Dorset, and should be a high priority for DCC: it should not be confused with shopping or leisure activities.

16 - 25 Age Group Pilot Key Card. We have compelling evidence from youth support organisations that young people cannot afford to travel to work in market towns and the urban conurbations of Poole and Bournemouth from rural north Dorset. Advice from bus experts suggests that the 90 day non continuous key card system introduced on the Isle of White has had considerable success. We believe this has the potential to boost the numbers of young people in employment, training and education, and urge DCC to fund a similar scheme in rural north Dorset as a pilot. This is our top priority. We believe it could be funded from the community transport pot, or from councillors' local grants.

Blandford X8 Connectivity with the 88 Service to Wimborne. There isn't a direct service from Blandford to Wimborne. Commuters must go via Poole and pay £8.50 to travel a point to point distance of less than 10 miles. A simple programming change would enable the X8 from Blandford to connect with the 88 from Sturminster Marshall into Wimborne. We are told this is too difficult, and do not believe it.

X8 Sturminster Newton Commuter Service. There is strong support in the community for the continuation of the morning X8 service from Sturminster Newton to Blandford to enable people to get to work and college. This service is due to cease at the end of July.

X8 Friday and Saturday Evening Service Blandford to Poole. A resumption of the Friday and Saturday evening X8 service from Blandford to Poole would enable shift workers to get to and from work in Poole, and support the economy in providing access to leisure activities.

Action. We urge DCC to show the bravery and imagination needed to implement a key card pilot scheme as an urgent priority, and find solutions to the other not too difficult issues described here.