

Cabinet

Minutes of a meeting held at County Hall,
Colliton Park, Dorchester on 3 September 2014.

Present:

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


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

Members attending:

Beryl Ezzard, County Council Member for Wareham (minutes 309 to 311).
Andrew Canning, County Council Member for Linden Lea (minutes 312 to 314).
Trevor Jones, County Council Member for Dorchester (minutes 312 to 314).

Officers Attending: Debbie Ward (Chief Executive), Catherine Driscoll (Director for Adult and Community Services), Mike Harries (Director for Environment and the Economy), Nicky Cleave (Assistant Director of Public Health), Paul Kent (Director for Corporate Resources), Jonathan Mair (Monitoring Officer), Vanessa Glen (Head of Family Support), Fiona King (Public Relations Officer) and Helen Whitby (Principal Democratic Services Officer).

(Notes:(1) In accordance with Rule 16(b) of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules the decisions set out in these minutes will come into force and may then be implemented on the expiry of five working days after the publication date. Publication Date: **9 September 2014**.

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

(3) These minutes have been prepared by officers as a record of the meeting and of any decisions reached. They are to be considered and confirmed at the next meeting of the Cabinet to be held on **1 October 2014**.

Apologies for Absence

299. Apologies for absence were received from Sara Tough (Director for Children's Service) and David Phillips (Director of Public Health).

Code of Conduct

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

Minutes

301. The minutes of the meeting held on 2 July 2014 were confirmed and signed.

Public Participation

Public Speaking

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

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

Petitions

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

Draft Cabinet Forward Plan

303.1 The Cabinet considered the Draft Forward Plan, which identified key decisions to be taken by the Cabinet and items planned to be considered in a private part of the meeting on or following the Cabinet meeting on 1 October 2014. The draft plan had been published on 2 September 2014.

303.2 The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care referred to an item on the Bridport Hub which should have been included in the agenda for the meeting. This had now been deferred until the Cabinet meeting on 1 October 2014 and had been included on the Forward Plan which had been published the previous day.

303.3 The Cabinet Member for Education and Communications gave a reminder that she had clearly asked that the Admissions Policy be included on the Forward Plan for this and subsequent years.

303.4 The Cabinet Member for Environment and the Economy asked when the item on the "B3073 Hurn Roundabout Improvement" would be considered by the Cabinet. The Director for Environment and the Economy explained that a meeting with representatives from the Department for Transport and the Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership had been arranged and the date would be added to the Forward Plan thereafter.

Noted

Panels and Boards

304.1 The minutes of the following Committee, Panel and Board were submitted:-

- (a) Dorset Waste Partnership Joint Committee - 29 July 2014
- (b) Executive Advisory Panel on the Care Act and Future Social Care Policy – 21 July 2014
- (c) Dorset Health and Wellbeing Board – 18 June 2014

304.2 In relation to the minutes of the Dorset Waste Partnership Joint Committee, the Cabinet Member for Corporate Resources explained that the new collection service would have been rolled out to the majority of Dorset by October 2014. The Partnership's Chairman had established a working group to meet in the Autumn to identify further savings and efficiencies.

304.3 In relation to the minutes of the Executive Advisory Panel on the Care Act the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care explained that this was the first meeting of the Executive Advisory Panel and the majority of the debate had centred on the response to the Government's consultation on the Care Act. The response had been submitted on time.

304.4 In relation to the minutes of the Dorset Health and Wellbeing Board the Chairman stated that the next meeting of the Board would be on 10 September 2014 and would be the first held under their new reduced membership.

Resolved

305. That the minutes be received.



Better Care Fund Re-Submission

306.1 The Cabinet considered a joint report by the Cabinet Members for Adult Social Care and Children's Safeguarding and Families which set out recent guidance and revised templates issued by the Government and the potential effects these might have on the County Council's financial position.

306.2 The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care presented the report in detail. Across the Country the Better Together Fund totalled some £3.7b. The County Council was working jointly with Bournemouth Borough Council, the Borough of Poole, the three Acute Hospitals and the Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) with regard to the Fund and had received an allocation of £54m held jointly. However due to pressure from emergency hospital admissions the Government had issued new guidance and revised templates with two key changes; the pay performance element of the fund would be linked solely to reducing the total of emergency admissions in 2015/16 and the Health and Wellbeing Board being asked to resubmit their Better Care Fund plan by 19 September 2014.

306.3 Members noted that a failure to meet the new target would result in a potential loss of £14.3M and there was a tight time frame for the changes to be agreed. They also noted that Appendix B to the report had not been provided as the templates were still being developed and would be approved by the Dorset Health and Wellbeing Board the following week.

306.4 The CCG had reviewed funding and requested closer working between locality hubs and GPs in respect of working with the over 75s and supporting carers. This review had led to a reduction in the support for Adult Social Care in Dorset from £9m to £5m which made balancing the County Council's budget difficult for 2015/16 and provided a high risk for the Council. The Director for Adult and Community Services was meeting with the CCG to review the situation.

306.5 The Cabinet Member for Children's Safeguarding and Families explained that the Better Care Fund would be one of the main items to be considered by the Dorset Health and Wellbeing Board (the Board) the following week. The Board were like to have agendas on themes in future and she assured members that the Board would closely monitor the CCG's outcomes to ensure the 3.5% target was met. She also drew attention to the fact that although this was primarily about the elderly there was a role to ensure that the best service was provided for residents as close to home as possible.

306.7 The Director for Adult and Community Services stated that the situation was complex and the situation had changed significantly since the original plan had been sent to the Department of Health. The changes had arisen as a result of the concern about increased hospital admissions nationally. The challenge in Dorset was to do everything possible not let the national shift affect local partnership arrangements. A meeting was to be held with Bournemouth and Poole Directors and senior CCG representatives to review the situation.

306.8 The Director for Corporate Resources stated that provision for protection social care services had been made within the 2015/16 budget amounting to £5.1m , but these changes had potential implications for the Budget Strategy. The County Council's share of the potential £4m reduction would be £2.2m which would reduce the income to £2.9m. He also reminded members of the implications the new Care Act would have in 2015/16 in preparation for its introduction in 2016/17. This posed a high risk for the Authority and it would need to be monitored closely.

306.9 The Head of Family Support referred to the plans for the Children's Services Directorate to encourage families living in communities not to attend Accident and Emergency Units for treatment but to use local services. Children's Services managers were to attend local CCG meetings to forge relationships with GPs to address such issues.

306.10 The Chairman of the Council supported work to reduce hospital admissions and referred to the many Minor Injury Units who had been under threat of closure. He suggested that the possibility of expanding them be explored.

306.11 The Chairman summarised that serious ongoing negotiations were taking place about the consequent changes to funding and that currently the ramifications were unknown.

Resolved

307. That the target measure and actions for the reduction in emergency admissions in 4.1 of the Cabinet Members' report be approved.

Reasons for Decision

308. The Better Together Programme and Better Care Fund aimed to secure:

- (a) improved health and social care outcomes for local residents.
- (b) an improved and more integrated approach for the delivery of adult health and social care locally; and
- (c) a sustainable approach across the partnership to addressing future needs of the local population.

Swanage Railway and Norden Park and Ride Access Road – Final Approvals

309.1 The Cabinet considered a report by the Cabinet Member for Environment and the Economy which set out the final approvals needed for the reconnection of the railway between Swanage and Wareham.

309.2 The Cabinet Member for Environment and the Economy explained that the reconnection had been progressed for some time and the last approvals were needed to connect Swanage to the main network. He asked that recommendation 2 be amended so that the Director for Environment and the Economy, the Section 151 Officer and the Monitoring Officer could agree the terms.

309.3 It was reported that the County Council Member for Swanage was unable to attend the meeting but supported the recommendations in the report.

309.4 The County Council Member for Wareham asked the Cabinet to support the recommendations as this played a crucial part of the Purbeck Local Transport Plan, would help ease congestion on roads, help the tourism trade and Purbeck's economy.

309.5 Members agreed that this was a worthwhile project.

Resolved

310.1 That the entering into a Licence to Alter the land leased to Swanage Railway for the purpose of constructing a level crossing over the Norden Park and Ride (P&R) Access Road and the construction of a road/rail interchange adjacent to the Norden P&R Access Road on terms to be agreed by the Director for Environment and the Economy be approved.

310.2 That entering into a Grant Agreement to transfer the sum of £500,000 (minus £13,838.32 survey costs and £40,000 advance) received from BP Exploration Company to Swanage Railway for the purpose of designing, planning constructing and maintaining the Level Crossing and Road/Rail Interchange over and adjacent to

the Norden P&R Access Road on terms to be agreed by the Director for Environment and the Economy, the Section 151 Officer and the Monitoring Officer be approved.

310.3 That the surrender of existing and simultaneous grant of a new lease of land from and to Purbeck District Council including an easement over the Access Road on terms to be agreed by the Director for the Economy and the Environment be approved.

Reasons for Decisions

311.1 These legal agreements are required to progress the Swanage Railway Reconnection Project and release the £1.7m Coastal Communities Grant obtained by Swanage Railway which will fund the implementation of a two year trial amenity rail service between Wareham and Swanage. This will contribute to the realisation of Dorset County Council's focus on enabling economic growth in Purbeck by providing greater independence to the local community through a smarter service delivered by a third party. The conclusion of this work will also meet objectives for transport as set out in the current Local Transport Plan.

311.2 A £500,000 grant from BP to fund the construction of the level crossing and road / rail interchange on the access road will also be received. These works are required to implement the amenity rail service. The surrender and re-lease will allow Purbeck District Council to extend the opening hours of Norden Park & Ride to encourage increased usage which will assist in meeting the County Council's focus on economic growth and help to achieve stated aims in the Local Transport Plan.



Dorchester Transport and Environment Plan (DTEP) Result of Investigations following Public Consultation

(The Director for Environment and the Economy left the meeting whilst this item was discussed as he had a personal interest as a resident of Dorchester directly affected by the proposal.)

312.1 The Cabinet considered a report by the Cabinet Member for Environment and the Economy which set out feedback from the Local Member led community engagement exercise and the findings of the Local Member Led Group since the matter had previously been considered on 28 February 2014.

312.2 The Cabinet Member for Environment and the Economy reminded members that there had been a lot of recent development and change in Dorchester and proposals now had changed considerably over a long period. He asked that the word "if" be deleted from recommendation 4 and asked the Cabinet to support this amended recommendation.

312.3 The County Council Member for Linden Lea as a local member and Chairman of the Working Group sought the Cabinet's support for recommendation 3 so that the Plan could be progressed. The Plan had been 12 years in formation and things had changed considerably in Dorchester over this period of time as had the financial climate for the County Council. The Plan sought to improve traffic flows in Dorchester within a reduced budget. The Plan was key to Dorchester's plans for economic growth and improvement. If the Plan did not progress, this would affect funding from other partners. He considered it remiss not to progress the matter when the Town Council had offered to fund the public consultation. He also reminded members that Section 106 monies totalling approximately £1m had been provided for DTEP, £500k from the District Council and a six figure sum from the Town Council for environmental enhancements. These were all under threat if recommendation 4 was adopted. He asked the Cabinet to adopt recommendation 3 as it would have no financial cost for the Authority who could review the decision following the outcome of the public consultation.

312.4 The Cabinet Member for Corporate Resources stated that the Plan had been on going for a long period and had been considered as part of the capital priorities in February 2013. He agreed that traffic flows in Dorchester did need to improve and that there were many developments in the pipeline. He supported recommendation 4 with the matter being reviewed by the Asset Management Group (AMG) in October 2014 and considered by the Cabinet in November 2014 when it would be scored alongside other capital priorities.

312.5 The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care had been included in the Working Group as parishes in her electoral division would be affected by traffic flows. She referred to the letter received from the Chairman of Dorchester Town Council's Planning and Environment Committee which illustrated the challenges involved. She stated that it was difficult to know how to deal with the traffic given the number of changes within the town. She supported Recommendation 4 but thought DTEP should be treated as a high priority by the AMG.

312.6 The Cabinet Member for Education and Communications referred to the County Council's role as one of the largest employers in Dorset and its responsibility to consider the needs of its staff in travelling some distance to work. She did not think that the adoption of recommendation 4 would hamper the Town Council's support and other offers of joint funding for environmental improvements.

312.7 One of the County Council Members for Dorchester (Trevor Jones) supported the views of the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care in that the AMG should address the issue and treat DTEP as a high priority. The matter had been on going for twelve years at a cost of £1m with little to show for this. He hoped the AMG would decide to avoid any further delay.

312.8 The Chairman referred to the receipt of the letter from Dorchester Town Council who showed a clear understanding of the situation. He did not think that Recommendation 4 precluded opportunities for alternative schemes. He agreed that the County Council had held back on routine maintenance in the town and that this needed to be addressed. Although there was a process to be followed, he hoped that the matter would be dealt with by the AMG in October as a high priority.

312.9 The Cabinet Member for Corporate Resources reminded members that a seminar on Asset Management was to be held on 25 September 2014. This provided members with an opportunity to be involved in the new Asset Management Plan and the process for the ranking of bids for the capital programme.

Resolved

313.1 That it be noted that feedback from the Local Member Led community engagement exercise indicates that the Revised DTEP scheme will not be supported because it continues to redistribute traffic from the High Street onto other roads within the town.

313.2 That it be noted that the Local member Led group supports a preference for delivering elements of DTEP that include the deferred maintenance and improvement works, plus some environmental enhancements, provided traffic is not redistributed from the High Street.

313.3 That elements of DTEP that include the deferred maintenance and improvement works, plus some environmental enhancements, but exclude one-way traffic in the High Street be progressed; and this should be referred to Asset Management Group for assessment as a high priority against other priorities for capital investment.

Reason for Decisions

314. To develop a scheme that achieves the best balance between meeting project objectives and being acceptable to the people of Dorchester.

The Director for Environment and the Economy rejoined the meeting at this point.



Draft Local Flood Risk Management Strategy – Technical Report and Summary Document, Approval and Adoption by Cabinet

315.1 The Cabinet considered a report by the Cabinet Member for Environment and the Economy which summarised the key issues raised in response to consultation on the publication of the Draft Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and sought approval and adoption of the plan without further modifications.

315.2 The Cabinet Member for Environment and the Economy explained that the Strategy set out how the County Council would deal with any future flooding incidents.

315.3 The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care referred to instances where flood wardens in her electoral division had tried to contact the County Council about local flooding and had been ignored. She stated that in the current financial position the Council could not afford to ignore such volunteers and the information they held. The Director for Environment and the Economy stated that he had been unaware of this, agreed that the wardens were important and that he would follow up on these concerns.

315.4 The Cabinet Member for Community and Public Health thanked officers who had visited Christchurch and East Dorset to look at flooding and for the work undertaken in Christchurch. He considered the work undertaken to develop the strategy to be exemplary.

315.5 The Cabinet Member for Children’s Safeguarding and Families referred to the good response to the consultation but suggested that some reference be made to the Dorset Fire and Rescue Service as they had a duty to respond when people were trapped in vehicles. The Cabinet Member for Environment and the Economy agreed to address this.

315.6 The Chairman of the Council, as Member Champion for Sustainability, welcomed the inclusion of references to climate change.

Resolved

316.1 That the adoption of Dorset County Council’s Draft Local Flood Risk Management Strategy Technical Report, together with accompanying submission documents, subject to the amendments outlined in Appendix 1 be approved.

316.2 That authority be delegated to the Director for Environment and the Economy, after consultation with the Portfolio Holder, to agree the final version of the Strategy for publication.

316.3 That authority be delegated to the Flood Risk Manager, after consultation with the Portfolio Holder, to sign off any further minor modifications to the document as and when required.

Reason for Decisions

317. To approve the adoption and implementation of the Draft Local Flood Risk Management Strategy to support the vision of “working together to manage flood risk in Dorset so communities are resilient and prepared for flooding.”

Investing in Dorset’s Voluntary and Community Sector

318.1 The Cabinet considered a report by the Cabinet Member for Public Health and Community on how the County Council was able to support the voluntary and community sector at a strategic level across Dorset.

318.2 The Cabinet Member for Community and Public Health explained that in order for investment in the voluntary and community sector to be more effective, a delay was proposed so that future commissioning could take into account a “one Council” approach.

Resolved

319.1 That the extension of the existing contracts detailed in table 1.3 of the report for one to end 31/3/16 be approved.

319.2 That the Outline Milestone Plan as described in paragraph 2.5 of the report be noted.

Reason for Decisions

320. The recommendation supported the Council’s vision of working together for a strong and successful Dorset and contributed specifically to both areas of focus: Enabling Economic Growth and Health, Wellbeing and Safeguarding.



Recommendation from the Adult and Community Services Overview Committee

321.1 The Cabinet considered the following recommendation from the meeting of the Adult and Community Services Overview Committee held on 23 June 2014.

Recommendation 78 – Libraries Service Co-operation and Shared Services

321.2 The Cabinet Member for Community and Public Health explained that the recommendation was to join the Libraries West Consortium which would give access to a larger number of books and have economies of scale, and to undertake collaborative work where there were savings to be made and/or where service improvement could be effected.

321.3 The Chairman added that these two streams had been discussed for some time and it was good to receive some benefit from this.

Resolved

322.1 That it be agreed in principle that the Library Service explore and undertake collaborative working where there are significant cost savings and/or improvements in customer service.

322.2 That progress of work with Bournemouth Borough Council and the Borough of Poole about collaborative library services be noted.

322.3 That Dorset Library Service becoming a member of the Libraries West Consortium be endorsed.

Reasons for Decisions

323.1 To help secure a sustainable approach to the County Council’s corporate area of focus on “health, wellbeing and safeguarding”.

323.2 To offer an improved customer service for library users.

323.3 To deliver a cost efficient and effective service for the management and delivery of the LMS.

Recommendation from the Audit and Scrutiny Committee

324.1 The Cabinet considered the following recommendation from the meeting of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee held on 22 July 2014.

324.2 The Director for Corporate Resources explained the recommendation to remove the support ratings from the Treasury Management Strategy as they no longer served a purpose. The recommendation was supported by the Cabinet Member for Corporate Resources.

Resolved

325. That the support ratings be removed as a means of assessing the financial strength of counterparties.

Reason for Decision

326. To better inform members of the Treasury Management process and strategy, in accordance with the corporate priority to ensure money and resources were used wisely.

Questions from Members of the Council

327. No questions were asked by members under Standing Order 20.

Retirement

328. The Chairman, on behalf of the Cabinet, thanked the Director for Corporate Resources for his efforts, energy, experience and talent in supporting the County Council over the last 27 years and wished him well for a long and happy retirement. In response the Director stated that he had enjoyed his time working for the County Council and would take other opportunities to say goodbye to individuals.

Meeting Duration: 10.00am – 10.50am