

Cabinet

Minutes of a meeting held at County Hall,
Colliton Park, Dorchester on 2 December 2015.

Present:

Robert Gould (Chairman)
Robin Cook, Toni Coombs, Jill Haynes and Rebecca Knox.

Members Attending


Mike Byatt, County Council Member for Weymouth Town
Deborah Croney, County Council Member for Hambledon (Minutes 398-400)
Janet Dover, County Council Member for Colehill and Stapehill
Paul Kimber, County Council Member for Portland Tophill
William Trite, County Council Member for Swanage (Minutes 410-412)
Peter Wharf, County Council Member for Egdon Heath

Officers Attending: Richard Bates (Chief Financial Officer), Nicky Cleave (Assistant Director of Public Health), Paul Leivers (Head of Community Services), Patrick Ellis (Assistant Chief Executive), Mike Harries (Director for Environment and the Economy), Jonathan Mair (Head of Legal and Democratic Services), Sara Tough (Director for Children's Services) and Lee Gallagher (Democratic Services Manager).

For certain items, as appropriate

Patrick Myers (Head of Corporate Development), Andrew Martin (Head of Highways) and Matthew Piles (Head of Economy).

(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: **8 December 2015.**

(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 **16 December 2015.**)

Apologies for Absence

381. Apologies for absence were received from Peter Finney, Colin Jamieson, John Wilson, Debbie Ward (Chief Executive) and Catherine Driscoll (Director for Adult and Community Services). Paul Leivers (Head of Community Services) attended in place of Catherine Driscoll.

Code of Conduct

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

Minutes

383. The minutes of the meeting held on 28 October 2015 were confirmed and signed.

Public ParticipationPublic Speaking

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

384.2 There were two public statements received at the meeting regarding minute 398-400 in relation to Dorset's North-South Highway Infrastructure (A350/C13 and A37/A354) in accordance with Standing Order 21(2).

Petitions

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

Noted**Cabinet Forward Plan**

386.1 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 16 December 2015. The draft plan was published on 17 November 2015.

386.2 The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People reported that an item would be added to the Forward Plan regarding apprenticeships for post 16 young people and care leavers. The item would be considered in January or February 2016.

Resolved

387. That the Forward Plan be updated following the comment outlined in the minute above.

Panels and Boards

388.1 The minutes and recommendation of the following meetings were submitted:

- (a) Tricuro – Executive Shareholder Group – 11 September 2015
- (b) Dorset Waste Partnership Joint Committee – 27 October 2015
- (c) Joint Archives Advisory Board – 2 November 2015

388.2 In relation to the meeting of the Tricuro Executive Shareholder Group, it was confirmed that the Group had now moved to quarterly meetings, and since the meeting the Chairman had been appointed together with the Financial Director.

388.3 In addition to the recommendation of the Dorset Waste Partnership Joint Committee, the Leader commented that the Partnership was making good progress, which included the final tranche of Recycle for Dorset having been rolled out which was a great achievement, the delivery of a new Household Recycling Facility (HRF) in Bridport, and an improving financial situation. The Chief Financial Officer summarised the capital financing and contribution arrangement by partner councils for the new HRF.

Resolved

389. That the minutes be received and that recommendation 102 of the Dorset Waste Partnership Joint Committee on 27 October 2015 be approved.

 **Recommendation 102 – Draft Revenue Estimates 2016-17**

102.1 *That the draft revenue estimates for 2016/17 be recommended to partner councils, for consideration and response by 14 December 2015;*

102.2 That the savings options included within the revenue estimates for 2016/17 be noted; and

102.3 That the illustrated cost shares, recognising that household numbers will need to be updated when data is available be noted.

Reason for Recommendations

103. The Inter Authority Agreement required the Joint Committee to recommend a draft estimate for the following year to partner councils by 31 October 2015. This would enable partner councils to give their views on the draft estimates and to reflect them in their own budgets.

Forward Together Update

390.1 The Cabinet considered a report by the Cabinet Member for Corporate Development on the progress being made through the Forward Together programme across the Council, including the redevelopment of the Rotunda at County Hall to restore some original features and incorporate flexible working spaces, rationalisation of corporate working groups from 17 to 6, and the achievements of the Forward Together Programme to date in order to appreciate the scale of change and transformation already undertaken.

390.2 In relation to the rationalisation of corporate working groups, it was agreed that a review of member championships and appointments to outside bodies would be undertaken by Group Leaders to ensure that they aligned with the corporate aims of the Council and the new groups.

Resolved

391. That a review of member champions and outside bodies be undertaken by Group Leaders.

 **Physical Activity Strategy**

392.1 The Cabinet considered a report by the Cabinet Member for Communities, Health and Wellbeing on the development of a Physical Activity Strategy following previous consideration at its meeting on 8 April 2015.

392.2 The Cabinet Member for Communities, Health and Wellbeing commended the role of the member champions associated with physical activity for their input in the development of a refined document which was an outcome focused and action led strategy that would seek to embed principles across the whole authority and would report back updates in line with public health measures and outcomes.

Resolved

393. That the outline approach to the Physical Activity Strategy be supported to inform further development.

Reason for Decision

394. To promote the Council's vision of working together for a strong and successful Dorset and to support work by the Council and with partners and communities in its area of focus on health, wellbeing and safeguarding.

 **Quarterly Asset Management Report**

395.1 The Cabinet considered a report by the Cabinet Member for Corporate Development as a quarterly update on Asset Management and the strategic direction for the management of the Council's assets.

395.2 In relation to the Lyme Regis Library, members were informed that the site was for a Council run library and wider use of the facilities would be included as part of a 'hub'

approach and vision for the future, potentially including an online learning centre, but dialogue on options would continue.

395.3 Members discussed the progress of the Bridport Hub and replacement of Sidney Gale House, and a concern was expressed about the need to find alternative accommodation instead of the Bridport Depot site. It was confirmed that there was limited availability of sites in the area and that work continued to find an alternative solution.

395.4 The Cabinet Member for Corporate Development drew attention to the A338 major maintenance scheme which was progressing very well and completion was on schedule. It was noted that the project was managed well, with good communications, and used innovative practices.

Resolved

396.1 That the principle of disposing of the Lyme Regis Library site, subject to the acquiring party producing a viable proposal for the re-development of the site, the re-provision of a library facility to the satisfaction of the Library Service, and the provision of an element of affordable housing on the site (para 3.1.1 (e) of the Cabinet Member's report) be approved.

396.2 That the site of the former Mount Pleasant care home be declared surplus and disposed of on terms to be agreed by the Director for Environment and Economy (para 3.1.2(b) of the report).

396.3 That the site held for a replacement library in West Street, Blandford, be declared surplus and disposed of on terms to be agreed by the Director for Environment and the Economy (para 3.1.3 (b) of the report).

396.4 That the County Council, as the Dorset Waste Partnership host authority, incurs capital expenditure on the Partnership's behalf, if agreed by all the partners, and that this be implemented by including the expenditure in the County Council's capital programme (para 7.1.1(b) of the report).

395.5 That the overall revised estimates and cash flows for projects as summarised and detailed in appendices 1 and 2 of the report (para 8.2 (b)) be approved.

396.6 That the emerging issues for each asset class be noted.

Reason for Decisions

397. A well-managed Council must ensure that the best use was made of its assets in terms of optimising service benefit, minimising environmental impact and maximising financial return.

Dorset's North-South Highway Infrastructure (A350/C13 and A37/A354)

398.1 The Cabinet considered a report by the Cabinet Member for Environment regarding an economic assessment of potential major improvements to the A350/C13 and A37/A354 and exploration of funding opportunities via the Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Growth Deal through a joint approach with neighbouring authorities.

398.2 The Cabinet noted that the schemes at present had very high costs and generally poor value for money based on the Government's Benefit Cost Ratio. However, these assessments of schemes did not take account of environmental and social impacts.

398.3 It was confirmed that four letters had been received in relation to the report from Simon Hoare MP, Portland Community Partnership, Portland Harbour Authority and Portland Town Council. In addition, the Cabinet received the following statements:

Trevor Green (Transport Manager) from Wyvern Cargo Ltd Mr Green highlighted the long campaign by the Freight Transport Association and Road Haulage Association for a strategic link between Poole and the M4, and that at present HGVs were funnelled onto inappropriate roads such as the C13 and A350. He expressed concern regarding

slow moving traffic, pinch points, road closures and vehicle damage. He felt that the existing road network had a serious impact on economic growth and asked for urgent action to be taken.

Robin East from the A350 Community Group Mr East recognised efforts to try to find a solution to road issues in North Dorset and highlighted that some weight should be given to the environmental and social impacts which had not yet been assessed. He explained that improvements should reduce carbon emissions and reduce the distance travelled, and would lead to increases in regional infrastructure and the economy, especially the growth of local businesses. He asked that action be taken to drive infrastructure investment and economic growth on behalf of local parishes.

398.4 Councillor Paul Kimber, as a local member for Portland, informed the Cabinet of concern regarding the need for transport improvements in the Portland area, especially in relation to Boot Hill and emissions. Councillor Byatt, as a local member for Weymouth, echoed the comments made and highlighted that there was not an option to do nothing and urged the Cabinet to commit to the next stage of the process for the schemes and to give a clear message to the public regarding the vision for the future.

398.5 Councillor Dover addressed the Cabinet to highlight the specific transport issues experienced across East and North Dorset and drew attention to the need to focus on strategic transport solutions for the whole of Dorset.

398.6 The Cabinet acknowledged the significant transport challenges and that a strong economic case would need to be demonstrated to Government to attract the necessary funding, and recognised that it was necessary to do everything possible for the residents of Dorset. Members were also encouraged by the joint work and holistic approach being undertaken with neighbouring authorities regarding strategic links and with LEPs.

Resolved

399.1 That following the economic assessments, the Council proceeds with finding deliverable and affordable solutions for the three new road schemes.

399.2 That the Council investigate alternative lower cost options to improve North-South links through Dorset for example by alleviating C13 pinch points and working up the transport schemes for the Western Dorset Growth Corridor.

399.3 That the proposed Dinah's Hollow Slope Stabilisation scheme be suspended until a definitive decision has been reached regarding the funding of a north/south strategic link between the M4 and Poole Port following the collaborative work with Bath and North East Somerset and Wiltshire Councils.

399.4 That should the Dinah's Hollow Slope Stabilisation scheme be suspended, that further mitigation works detailed in paragraph 5.11 of the Cabinet Member's report should be carried out as soon as practicable.

Reason for Decisions

400. Evidence in the form of economic assessments for these long standing road schemes had been secured. To ensure these were taken into account when future major scheme funding bids to Government were prepared and whether alternative transport strategies were required in light of the high cost of these road schemes.

Participation in a Tender to form frameworks to provide short breaks for children who are disabled

401. The Cabinet considered a report by the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People regarding contract arrangements to provide short breaks for disabled children and young people. It was reported that since publication of the report the savings figure per year had increased from £40k to £45k amounting to £180k over the four year term of the frameworks.

Resolved

402. That the use of a framework tender to formalise groups of approved providers to support children who are disabled and meet the obligation to provide this statutory service be approved.

Reasons for Decision

403.1 To replace current spot purchased arrangements and current expiring contracts with six frameworks of providers offering a wide range of services to disabled children and young people.

403.2 To carry out a tender to comply with Dorset County Council Contract Procedure Rules.

403.3 Running a tender would stimulate the market place and in turn this should offer more choice and offer better value for money in Dorset

 Working Together for a Strong and Successful Dorset

404.1 The Cabinet considered a joint report by the Cabinet Member for Corporate Development and the Cabinet Member for Communities, Health and Wellbeing on the Working Together protocol to incorporate the views of Town and Parish Councils into the Forward Together Programme.

404.2 The Cabinet Member for Communities, Health and Wellbeing highlighted the holistic approach for working with the Council's partners, including Town and Parish Councils, which had been developed with the Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils (DAPTC) and through consultation with the council's themselves. It was noted that the work so far would look to embed the protocol as a seamless approach, but further work was required in relation to local member engagement.

404.3 The Cabinet discussed the consultation and workshop undertaken with Town and Parish Councils and recognised that representations were made by councils across the whole of Dorset which had been integrated into the report. It was felt that additional focus was needed on local areas instead of district areas, and this could require different models to suit localities.

Resolved

405.1 That the Working Together document and the associated actions against each recommendation be supported.

405.2 That through the resource in the Chief Executives Department further work is endorsed to create a meaningful action plan to support a protocol of Working Together with Town and Parish Councils.

Reason for Decisions

406. The need to collaborate with the Town and Parish Councils was an important way in which the County Council could listen to the voice of residents.

 Funding strategy for supporting Dorset's communities through its voluntary and community sector (VCS) and its parish and town councils (PTC's) from April 2016

407.1 The Cabinet considered a report by the Cabinet Member for Communities, Health and Wellbeing on the funding strategy for Dorset's communities from April 2016 through a more directional approach focused on key outcomes to use funding to provide communities with access to information and advice, grant funding, volunteering and capacity building.

407.2 It was suggested that, although there was an expectation for the VCS to collaborate where possible, further consideration be given to the future funding arrangements with the possibility of pooling budgets across the County Council and District/Borough

Councils. It was also felt that local member involvement should be increased, potentially through a board arrangement.

Resolved

408. That the four allocations of funding for 2016/17 detailed within the recommendations section of the Cabinet Members' report be approved.

Reason for Decision

409. Dorset's voluntary and community sector and its parish and town councils were vitally important in helping to improve the quality of life for our communities. These recommendations allowed the Council to adopt a strategic approach to working with both sectors in light of current and emerging priorities and the challenging financial environment and supported the Council's drive to develop a means of co-production and build community capacity.

Representations of Dorset County Council on the Swanage Local Plan Pre-submission Document September 2015

410.1 The Cabinet considered a report by the Cabinet Member for Economy and Growth in relation to the County Council's consultation response to Purbeck District Council's Pre-submission Draft Swanage Local Plan.

410.2 The Director for Environment and the Economy introduced the report and explained that there was one area of concern in the Council's consultation response which related to the classification of open spaces within the Plan due to the adverse impacts of two potentially overlapping policies within the existing and new plans. Cllr Trite as the local member addressed the meeting and explained the steps taken to review the existing open spaces by the District Council and urged the Cabinet to support the Plan.

410.3 The Cabinet discussed the issue with regard to open spaces and felt that a pragmatic approach would be for officers of the County and District Council's to readdress the issue and seek to mutually resolve the conflict through discussion.

Resolved

411. That the holding response made to Purbeck District Council on the Pre-submission Draft Swanage Local Plan 2015 be agreed, subject to officer liaison with Purbeck District Council to resolve the County Council's concern regarding open spaces (detailed at section 2 of the Cabinet Member's report).

Reason for Decision

412. To ensure that the interests of the County Council as set out in the Corporate Plan were reflected in the Swanage Local Plan.

Nomination of County Councillor representatives for the Strategic Planning Forum

413. The Cabinet considered a joint report by the Cabinet Member for Environment and the Cabinet Member for Economy and Growth on the arrangements for the Strategic Planning Forum.

Resolved

414.1 That the nominations of Cabinet Members for Economy and Growth (Councillor Colin Jamieson) and Environment (Councillor Peter Finney) as Dorset County Council's representatives on the Strategic Planning Forum be confirmed.

414.2 That the following nominations be agreed as substitutes for attendance at the Strategic Planning Forum:

- Councillor Robin Cook (Cabinet Member for Corporate Development and a substitute representative on the Minerals and Waste Policy Joint Advisory Committee);
- Councillor David Jones (Chairman of the Regulatory Committee).

Reason for Decisions

415. To ensure that the County Council was appropriately represented on the Strategic Planning Forum by Councillors whose portfolios covered planning matters of strategic and cross-boundary significance. This would enable the Council to influence the emergence of strategic planning matters and increase the prospects of it securing sound local plans.

Recommendations from Committees

416. The Cabinet considered the following recommendations of the Environment and Economy Overview Committee held on 20 October 2015:

Recommendation 119 – Dorset County Council's Highways Maintenance Plan

417. The Cabinet considered the recommendations, noting the problems and pressures in relation to carriageway side verging, and encouraged work with local councils and communities in tackling the issues in other ways. It was recognised that the bids for further funding would need to be considered alongside other financial pressures in the budget setting process.

Resolved

418.1 That the additional £304K revenue funding required to reinstate a programme of carriageway side verging on an eight year cycle, plus also the additional capital funding (minimum of £200K) to ensure more permanent carriageway repairs, be noted for consideration in the forthcoming budget setting process.

418.2 That the Revised Plan be approved for subsequent implementation, taking into account the outcomes of minute 119.1 of the Environment and Economy Overview Committee in that revision.

Reasons for Decisions

419.1 In order to support the County Council's corporate priorities of "Enabling Economic Growth" and ensuring "Health, Wellbeing and Safeguarding of the travelling public and our communities.

419.2 The Highway Maintenance Plan was intended to clearly document the County's approach to maintaining the highway network and would be published to ensure this strategy was clearly articulated to all stakeholders.

Recommendation 122 – Winter Service Policy and Operational Plan

Resolved

420. That the revised Winter Service Policy and Operational Plan be approved for implementation.

Reason for decision

421. In order to align our service provision to that recommended within Appendix H of the "Well Maintained Highways" Code of Practice and ensure the County Council's level of winter service provision was maintained and mitigated against potential third party claims.

Questions from Members of the Council

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