

# Agenda



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Meeting: County Council  
Time: 10.00 am  
Date: 20 July 2017  
Venue: Council Chamber, County Hall, Colliton Park, Dorchester DT1 1XJ

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Hilary Cox (Chairman)	Andrew Parry (Vice-Chairman)	Jon Andrews
Shane Bartlett	Pauline Batstone	Derek Beer
Richard Biggs	Cherry Brooks	Kevin Brookes
Ray Bryan	Steve Butler	Andy Canning
Graham Carr-Jones	Andrew Cattaway	Toni Coombs
Deborah Croney	Keith Day	Lesley Dedman
Janet Dover	Jean Dunseith	Beryl Ezzard
Tony Ferrari	Spencer Flower	Katharine Garcia
Peter Hall	David Harris	Jill Haynes
Nick Ireland	Colin Jamieson	Susan Jefferies
David Jones	Ros Kayes	Rebecca Knox
Steven Lugg	Jon Orrell	Mary Penfold
Bill Pipe	Margaret Phipps	Byron Quayle
David Shortell	Clare Sutton	William Trite
Daryl Turner	David Walsh	Peter Wharf
Kate Wheller		

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## Notes:

- The reports with this agenda are available at [www.dorsetforyou.com/countycommittees](http://www.dorsetforyou.com/countycommittees) then click on the link "minutes, agendas and reports". Reports are normally available on this website within two working days of the agenda being sent out.
- We can provide this agenda and the reports as audio tape, CD, large print, Braille, or alternative languages on request.

- **Public Participation**

Guidance on public participation at County Council meetings is available on request or at <http://www.dorsetforyou.com/374629>.

### Public Speaking

Members of the public can ask questions and make statements at the meeting. The closing date for us to receive questions is 10.00am on 17 July 2017, and statements by midday the day before the meeting.

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**Debbie Ward**  
Chief Executive

Contact: Lee Gallagher, Democratic Services Manager  
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Date of Publication:  
Wednesday, 12 July 2017

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## 1. **Apologies for Absence**

To receive any apologies for absence.

## 2. **Code of Conduct**

Councillors are required to comply with the requirements of the Localism Act 2011 regarding disclosable pecuniary interests.

- Check if there is an item of business on this agenda in which the member or other relevant person has a disclosable pecuniary interest.
- Check that the interest has been notified to the Monitoring Officer (in writing) and entered in the Register (if not this must be done on the form available from the clerk within 28 days).
- Disclose the interest at the meeting (in accordance with the County Council's Code of Conduct) and in the absence of a dispensation to speak and/or vote, withdraw from any consideration of the item.

The Register of Interests is available on Dorsetforyou.com and the list of disclosable pecuniary interests is set out on the reverse of the form.

## 3. **Minutes**

5 - 10

To confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 18 May 2017.

## 4. **Public Participation**

(a) Public Speaking

(b) Petitions

To consider a petition report in relation to '**Save our Bus Services, and Save the number 18 and 3 buses from cuts**'.

11 - 16

## 5. **Chairman's Announcements**

To deal with correspondence, communications or other business brought forward by the Chairman.

(a) Deaths of Former Members of the Council

(b) Chairman's Announcements

## 6. **Leader's Announcements**

To deal with business raised by the Leader of the Council which is not otherwise raised under any other item on the agenda. Questions from members will be invited on the issues raised by the Leader.

## 7. **Motions**

To consider the following motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order 17. Unless determined otherwise by the Chairman the maximum time to be allowed to present each motion shall be 10 minutes.

Cllr Pauline Batstone (County Councillor for Blackmore Vale): Personal Independence Payments

17 - 38

The motion is seconded by: Cllr David Harris (County Councillor for Westham)

'That the County Council express its extreme concern to the Secretary of State for the Department of Work and Pensions in respect of the significant distress being caused to Dorset residents as a direct consequence of poor administration of the Personal Independence Payments process; as evidenced by the Dorset Citizens Advice Bureau. We call on the Secretary of State to urgently review the process to ensure improved outcomes for all residents.

Should this motion be supported that a copy be sent to all Dorset MP's.'

To provide context, an extract of the Safeguarding Committees minutes from its 19 January 2017 meeting and the Citizens' Advice Bureau's report which was also presented to the Committee at the same meeting are attached. Minute 26 of the Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 6 July 2017 also refers to this topic, and the minutes are attached to this agenda at item 12.

## **8. Questions from County Councillors**

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. The closing date for the receipt of questions is 10.00am on 17 July 2017. This item is limited to 45 minutes.

### **Cabinet**

The Chairman of the Cabinet to present and move the adoption of the following reports and to answer questions, if any, under Standing Order 19:-

- |   |         |
|---|---------|
| <b>9. Meeting held on 7 June 2017</b>   | 39 - 46 |
| <b>10. Meeting held on 28 June 2017</b>   | 47 - 54 |
| <b><u>Recommendation 81</u> – Corporate Plan - Draft Refresh 2017-18 and Outcomes Focused Monitoring Report, May 2017</b> |         |

### **Overview and Scrutiny Committees**

The Chairmen of overview and scrutiny committees to present and move the adoption of the following reports and to answer questions, if any, under Standing Order 19:-

- |  |           |
|--|-----------|
| <b>11. People and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Meeting held on 26 June 2017</b> | 55 - 106  |
| <b><u>Recommendation 30</u> – Local Government Reform</b>  |           |
| <b>12. Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Meeting held on 6 July 2017</b>            | 107 - 112 |
| <b>13. Appointments to Committees</b>  |           |
- To agree any changes to the chairmanship or membership of committees, including any changes notified by Group Leaders.

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### **Notes for Members**

- Coffee/tea will be available in the Members' Room before and after the meeting.
  - A lunch will be provided for councillors and officers in the Members' Room following the meeting.
  - A seminar will be held for all members in Committee Room 1 following the meeting in relation to Partnership Working Across Dorset.
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### County Council

Minutes of the meeting held at County Hall, Colliton Park, Dorchester,  
DT1 1XJ on Thursday, 18 May 2017.

**Present:**

Hilary Cox (Chairman)

Jon Andrews, Shane Bartlett, Pauline Batstone, Derek Beer, Richard Biggs, Cherry Brooks, Kevin Brookes, Ray Bryan, Steve Butler, Andy Canning, Graham Carr-Jones, Andrew Cattaway, Toni Coombs, Deborah Croney, Keith Day, Lesley Dedman, Janet Dover, Jean Dunseith, Beryl Ezzard, Tony Ferrari, Spencer Flower, Katharine Garcia, Peter Hall, David Harris, Jill Haynes, Nick Ireland, Susan Jefferies, David Jones, Ros Kayes, Rebecca Knox, Steven Lugg, Jon Orrell, Andrew Parry, Mary Penfold, Bill Pipe, Margaret Phipps, Byron Quayle, David Shortell, Clare Sutton, William Trite, Daryl Turner, David Walsh, Peter Wharf and Kate Wheller.

Officers Attending: Debbie Ward (Chief Executive), Jonathan Mair (Head of Organisational Development - Monitoring Officer), Lee Gallagher (Democratic Services Manager) and Denise Hunt (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 **Thursday, 20 July 2017.**)

**Chairman**

22 Cllr Pauline Batstone proposed and Cllr William Trite seconded and it was

**Resolved**

That Cllr Hilary Cox be elected Chairman for the year 2017/18.

**Vice-Chairman**

23 Cllr Jill Haynes proposed and Cllr David Shortell seconded and it was

**Resolved**

That Cllr Andrew Parry be elected Vice-Chairman for the year 2017/18.

**Apologies for Absence**

24 An apology for absence received from Cllr Colin Jamieson.

**Code of Conduct**

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

**Tribute to Former County Councillors**

26 Cllr Cox, as the Chairman, recognised the need to pay tribute to the service of the previous Councillors who had either stood down or not been re-elected in May 2017. She asked for the Council's consent to write to all former councillors which was wholly supported by members.

**Election Return**

27 The Chief Executive submitted a return of those elected on 4 May 2017 as County Councillors.

**Noted****Minutes**

28 The minutes of the meeting held on 16 February 2017 were confirmed and signed.

**Matters Arising****Asset Management Capital Priorities**

Arising from minute 8, Cllr Toni Coombs asked a question about the delay in the timescales for delivery of the new school at Marsh Lane in Christchurch and confirmed that she had not received a briefing following the previous County Council meeting. She asked for information on the reasons for the delay, the costs of transfer of pupils to other schools and an update on the new parent action group.

Cllr Deborah Croney, the Cabinet Member for the Economy, Education, Learning and Skills, stated that a briefing sent to Christchurch members had not included Cllr Coombs and gave an assurance that she would be included in future briefings.

**Public Participation**29 **Public Speaking**

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

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

**Petitions**

There were no petitions received at the meeting in accordance with the County Council's Petition Scheme.

**Chairman's Announcements**

30 The Chairman reported on the death of Major-General Mark Bond OBE JP DL on 27 March 2017 who served on the County Council between 1973 and 1985, representing the Dorchester Rural No. 1 electoral division. He had also been High Sheriff and would be remembered for his other public and charitable works in Dorset. The County Council then stood in silent tribute.

The Chairman reported that she had attended regular citizen ceremonies since the last Council meeting.

She paid tribute to Cllr Andrew Cattaway in his role as Vice-Chairman and Chairman of the Council and warmly thanked him for his support in her year as Vice-Chairman.

**Leader of the Council and the Cabinet**31 **Leader of the Council and the Cabinet**

Members were invited to appoint the Leader of the Council for a four year period from 2017 to 2021. Cllr Peter Wharf proposed Cllr Rebecca Knox which was seconded by Cllr Jill Haynes. On being put to the vote Cllr Rebecca Knox was duly elected as Leader of the Council.

**Resolved**

- 1 That Cllr Rebecca Knox be appointed Leader of the Council for the period up until the annual meeting of the County Council in 2021, or until the Cabinet resolved to the contrary.
- 2 That the following appointments made by the Leader be noted:-
  - (i) Cllr Peter Wharf as Deputy Leader.
  - (ii) Members of the Cabinet with portfolio areas of responsibility:

Peter Wharf	- Deputy Leader and Safeguarding
Jill Haynes	- Health and Care
Deborah Croney	- Economy, Education, Learning and Skills
Toni Ferrari	- Community and Resources
Daryl Turner	- Natural and Built Environment

(Note - The Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council are, ex-officio, Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively of the Cabinet.)

#### Leader's Announcements

Cllr Rebecca Knox, as the Leader of the Council, welcomed both new and returning councillors. She thanked councillors and staff for their commitment to the Council, emphasising the need for a "one team" approach in order to work directly for the benefit of the Dorset communities. During the past 4 years the Council had moved towards an inclusive, outward looking approach in working and communicating more with its partners. She thanked the former Leader, Cllr Robert Gould, for opening up opportunities to reach out to others and it was important that this engagement work continued, sharing more information in order to trust and empower others to assist the Council.

#### **Questions from County Councillors**

32 There were no questions received at the meeting in accordance with Standing Order 20.

#### **Meeting held on 8 March 2017**

33a Arrangements for the delivery of minor highway maintenance services by Town and Parish Councils

A question was asked about arrangements in respect of unparished areas and an assurance that these areas would not be disadvantaged.

Members were informed that discussions had taken place with town and parish councils on the delivery of minor highways repairs and, in the event that parish councils did not want to undertake this work, the statutory power would remain with the County Council. It was not intended to exclude non-parished areas from these arrangements and a more flexible approach could result in the involvement of community groups or residents associations.

Cllr David Jones expressed concern regarding the lack of contact and information at Christchurch Borough Council with regard to Local Government Reorganisation and was advised that further contact would be made following the outcome and response by the Secretary of State.

#### **Resolved**

That the report of the Cabinet meeting held on 8 March 2017 be adopted.

#### **Meeting held on 5 April 2017**

33b Temporary Loan Facility for a Cultural Organisation

The terminology used to describe the loan was questioned and it was acknowledged that although the wording could be improved, the Cabinet had agreed to provide a temporary loan to cover a potential shortfall between fundraising income and project expenditure, the details of which would be publicly available in due course.

#### Executive Advisory Panel on Forward Together for Children's Services – 27 February 2017

In relation to minute 53b, members asked whether further funding would be available for a second year and include the £187.5k remaining funding.

It was further highlighted that £12.5k had been awarded for 7 grants, only 1 of which

included a youth centre, leading some members to request that the criteria and process was changed in light of the difficulties experienced in accessing the fund.

Members described the difficulties and the restrictive nature of bidding for new discrete activities rather than the day to day running of existing youth facilities where the funding was needed.

It was confirmed that a fund of £220k had been secured in 2017/18, including the £187.5k funding that had been carried forward from 2016/17 and that the Executive Advisory Panel on Forward Together for Children's Services would convene at the earliest opportunity. Concerns had been expressed by the Panel that few organisations had made an application to the fund due to the tight restrictions and the need to be more creative and to promote the fund.

Cllr Deborah Croney, the Cabinet Member for Economy, Education, Learning and Skills, invited those members having involvement with local youth centres to join the Panel in order to bring their knowledge and experience in this area.

Dorchester Transport and Environment Plan (DTEP) – Proposed Turning Movement Bans at South Gate Junction, Dorchester

In relation to minutes 56a, attention was drawn to the original reason for the junction improvement works to reduce pollution levels and whether monitoring would continue to assess whether these levels had improved. It was noted that the No 6 electric buses had been replaced with diesel buses, a decision that would add to pollution levels in the town.

Members were informed that continuous monitoring was taking place and would provide data before and after the junction improvement works in order to assess whether these had been effective in reducing pollution levels.

**Resolved**

That the report of the Cabinet meeting held on 5 April 2017 be adopted.

**Appointments to Committees**

34 The Council considered a report by the Chief Executive on the appointments to committees of the County Council, Joint Committees, the Dorset Fire Authority and Member Champions for 2017/18. A supplementary paper had been published prior to the meeting which provided details of the nominations by Group Leaders.

Cllr Rebecca Knox stated that the Member Champions had been reviewed 3 years ago and it would be appropriate to review these roles every year to reflect the changing needs of the community and she welcomed suggestions by members outside of the meeting.

**Resolved**

- 1 That seats and appointments on committees of the County Council, joint committees and the Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority be allocated for 2017/18, as nominated by Group Leaders and as set out in the Annexure to these minutes.
- 2 That the Leader be asked to confirm appointments to the Dorset Waste Partnership Joint Committee, Public Health Joint Board and the Dorset Health and Wellbeing Board as set out in the Annexure to these minutes.
- 3 That members be appointed to serve on other organisations for the year 2017/18 as nominated by Group Leaders.
- 4 That delegated authority be granted to the Leader of the Council, after consultation with Group Leaders, to make appointments to Member Champions for the remainder of this electoral cycle.



Reason for Decisions

To comply with the County Council's Procedure Rules (Standing Orders).

**Appointment of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Committees**

35 The Council considered a report by the Chief Executive on the appointment of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Committees for the year 2017/18.

**Resolved**

That the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Committees of the County Council for the year 2017/18 be appointed as follows, to reflect the nominations of the Group Leaders:

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Chairman</u>	<u>Vice-Chairman</u>
Audit and Governance	David Harris	Clare Sutton
Children's and Adult Services Appeals	Lesley Dedman	Steven Lugg
Economic Growth Overview and Scrutiny	Steve Butler	Cherry Brooks
People and Communities Overview and Scrutiny	David Walsh	Mary Penfold
Regulatory	David Jones	Byron Quayle
Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny	Pauline Batstone	Kathy Garcia
Staffing	Rebecca Knox	Hilary Cox

Reason for Decision

To comply with the County Council's Procedure Rules (Standing Orders).

**Economic Growth Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Meeting held on 27 March 2017**

36 The report of the Economic Growth Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 27 March 2017 was presented.

Policy Development Panel on HGV Management – Outcomes and Recommendations

Members questioned whether HGV sized farm vehicles and equipment had been included in the freight action plan and whether it could be used to monitor and regulate this type of activity.

Cllr Daryl Turner, the Cabinet Member for the Natural and Built Environment confirmed that farm vehicles were restricted and regulated and that pilots would be undertaken in some parish councils in the future.

Cllr Janet Dover, as local member for Colehill East and Stapehill, stated that she was pleased with the progress that had been made, including the special focus on Ferndown. However, she remained concerned regarding the lack of reference to Colehill where many developments had outline planning consent. She asked for reassurance that her previous representations had been taken into account by the Policy Development Panel (PDP) and a contact in respect of her future enquiries.

Cllr Pauline Batstone, as Chairman of the PDP, stated that the Panel had been made fully aware of the issues in the Colehill area. This was an outstanding piece of work that had not yet been completed due to the recent elections and would be progressed in due course.

**Resolved**

That the report be adopted.

**Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Meeting held on 15 March 2017**

37 The report of the Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 15 March 2017 was presented.

**Resolved**

That the report be adopted.

**People and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Meeting held on 20 March 2017**

38 The report of the People and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 20 March 2017 was presented.

Cllr David Walsh, as Chairman of the Committee, gave a detailed account of its work and highlighted the cross cutting nature of the scrutiny reviews. He therefore hoped that members who had not been nominated to sit on the committee might be able assist with some of its work.

Further to a question in relation to prioritisation of the Special Educational Needs budget, it was confirmed that this would be referred to the committee and it was anticipated that Cllr Steve Butler would continue to lead in this area, although no longer a member of the Committee.

**Resolved**

That the report be adopted.

**Dorset Health Scrutiny Committee - Meeting held on 9 March 2017**

39 The report of the Dorset Health Scrutiny Committee held on 9 March 2017 was presented by Cllr Ros Kayes. She highlighted the lack of consultation with Dorset County Hospital regarding changes to the provision of vascular services and emphasised the role of the committee in the accountability of health services in Dorset.

She paid tribute to Cllr Ronald Coatsworth who had previously chaired the committee for many years.

**Resolved**

That the report be adopted.

**Recommendation - Review of the Staff Code of Conduct**

40 Members considered a recommendation by the Audit and Governance Committee held on 13 March 2017 which was presented by Cllr David Harris.

**Resolved**

That the County Council agree to:-

- 1 Approve the Staff Code of Conduct as set out in Appendix 1 of the Chief Executive's report;
- 2 Publish the Staff Code of Conduct on Sharepoint and not within the Constitution; and
- 3 Grant delegated authority to make significant changes to the Staff Code of Conduct to the Staffing Committee within its Terms of Reference.

**Reason for Decisions**

The Staffing Committee monitored matters relating to staff terms and conditions and people management policies.

Meeting Duration: 10.00 am - 11.30 am

# County Council

## Dorset County Council



Date of Meeting	20 July 2017
Officer	Chris Hook, Dorset Travel Service Manager
Subject of Report	<b>Procedure for Petitions – Petition entitled ‘Save our Bus Services and Save the No 18 and No 3 buses from cuts’</b>
Executive Summary	<p>A petition (comprising two petitions on the same topic) has been received in accordance with the County Council’s published petitions scheme in relation to reduction in public transport subsidy and the outcome of reduction of subsidised public transport services from 35 to 7. The Petition contains more than 1000 signatures and is therefore referred to the County Council to consider a respond.</p> <p>Two petitions have been presented in relation to the Medium Term Financial Plan reducing public transport subsidy by £1.5m (£500k 2016/17 and £1m 2017/18).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ‘Save our Bus Services’ calls for funding to be re-instated to the 28 services which will not receive support after 22 July 2017.</li> <li>• ‘Save the No 18 and the No 3 buses from cuts’ relates to No 18 which Poole Borough Council fund and will continue. The No 3 will continue without subsidy after 22 July 2017 after discussions with the incumbent operator.</li> </ul> <p>Four other services of the 28 will continue without Dorset County Council subsidy, including Dorchester Town Services 1&amp;2, Poundbury 6 and Crossways/Broadmayne Service 101 which has been replaced by Service 5 and offers journeys to Weymouth.</p>
Impact Assessment:	<p>Equalities Impact Assessment:</p> <p>Full EqIA and Screening completed.</p> <p>The loss of bus services can significantly impact those affected. Negative impacts have been identified for younger people, for</p>

**Procedure for Petitions – Petition entitled ‘Save our Bus Services and Save the No 18 and No 3 buses from cuts’**

	<p>disabled people and for older people, particularly older women, as people in these groups are more likely to use passenger transport services.</p> <p>The replacement contract for schools and public transport (Contract: DN245509) seeks to mitigate the reduction of public transport subsidy by implementing open schools routes, in-fill services and increasing community transport coverage. Dorset Travel will continue to engage with local communities and with existing community transport schemes seeking to further develop services and to prioritise those areas with unmet needs.</p> <p>The full Equality Impact Assessment is available upon request.</p> <p>Use of Evidence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Public &amp; Schools Transport Review Public Consultation Response Reports – DCC August 2016;</li> <li>b. Public &amp; Schools Transport Review Full EqIA – DCC Oct 2016</li> <li>c. New Contract Model for Passenger Transport Business Case – the TAS Partnership Oct 2016;</li> <li>d. New Contract Model For Passenger Transport – Procurement Options Report – TAS Oct 2016; D</li> <li>e. Dorset Travel Market Engagement Event – DCC Hosted Oct 2016.</li> <li>f. T102 Contract for Passenger Transport Services – DCC Feb 2012.</li> </ul> <p>Budget:</p> <p>Reduction in budget of £1.5m to be achieved 2017/18. This is part of the £18.3m savings required to balance the County Council’s budget in 2017/18.</p> <p>Risk Assessment:</p> <p>Having considered the risks associated with this decision using the County Council’s approved risk management methodology, the level of risk has been identified as:          Current Risk: HIGH          Residual Risk LOW</p> <p>Risk of not reducing public transport budget would impact on delivery of key services.</p> <p>Other Implications: Nil.</p>
<p>Recommendation</p>	<p>The County Council is invited to note the receipt of this petition and decide how to respond to it.</p>

**Procedure for Petitions – Petition entitled ‘Save our Bus Services and Save the No 18 and No 3 buses from cuts’**

Reason for Recommendation	In order to comply with the County Council’s published scheme for responding to petitions and so as to enable local people to connect with local elected decision makers.
Appendices	None.
Background Papers	Dorset County Council Petitions Scheme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Cabinet: 24 February 2017 – item 35 Rural Bus Services Review</li><li>- Cabinet: 11 February 2017 – approval of Passenger Transport Strategy 2011-2026</li><li>- Cabinet: 11 February 2017 – Medium Term Financial Plan: Appendix 2 – Economy &amp; Environment Savings Measures</li></ul>
Officer Contact	Name: Chris Hook Tel: 01305 225141 Email: c.p.hook@dorsetcc.gov.uk

## **1. Background to the Petition Scheme**

- 1.1 The County Council’s Petitions Scheme was adopted on 29 April 2010 and came into effect on 15 June 2010. The Scheme was subsequently updated by the County Council on 21 July 2016.
- 1.2 If a petition is supported by 50 or more signatories then it will be dealt with by a small customer focussed panel. If a petition is supported by 1,000 or more signatories it will be scheduled for a debate at the next meeting of the full County Council.

## **2. Petition – ‘Save our Bus Services and Save the No 18 and No 3 buses from cuts’**

- 2.1 The County Council received two petitions organised by West Dorset Liberal Democrats and Mid-Dorset & North Poole Liberal Democrats on 20 June 2017, and the lead petitioner is Councillor Andy Canning. This reads as follows:
  - West Dorset Liberal Democrats - I/We, the undersigned, view with dismay the decision by Dorset County Council to cut the number of supported bus services from 35 to 7 and call for their funding to be reinstated. (3909 signatures)
  - Mid-Dorset & North Poole Liberal Democrats- We urge local residents to support our petition so that Corfe Mullen residents who rely on these services can continue to use them. (1480 signatures)
- 2.2 As this petition contains more than 1000 signatures, the Council is invited to consider it. This discussion should conclude with a decision as to how to respond to the petition. This may include one or more of the following:
  - taking the action requested in the petition
  - considering the petition at a council meeting
  - holding an inquiry into the matter
  - undertaking research into the matter
  - holding a public meeting
  - holding a consultation
  - referring the petition for consideration by the council’s audit and governance committee
  - calling a referendum
  - writing to the petition organiser setting out our views about the request in the petition.
- 2.3 Alternatively, the Council may determine a combination of the options above, or decide on another course of action as appropriate.

## **3. Context**

- 3.1 Supported public bus services were procured under the T102 commencing in 2011. There are currently 35 contracts with an aggregate annual cost of £2.9million, which includes approximately £700,000 contribution from the mainstream school transport budget for school transport undertaken on supported public services. All contracts will expire in July 2017. Supported public services account for only 9% of passenger journeys in Dorset.

- 3.2 The County Council's legal duty for subsidised buses is to identify where public transport is needed but is not being provided and, once identified, secure appropriate services. The Council is not obliged to subsidise services and may take into account the funds that are available to them. The Council is also required by law to:
- a. Take into account the transport needs of those who are elderly or disabled;
  - b. Work with other councils concerned with public transport;
  - c. Work with other councils regarding school and social care transport, to ensure best value for money for these services; and,
  - d. Take into account the needs of the public and bus companies.
- 3.3 The Council's legal duty for subsidised buses is to identify where passenger transport network within budgetary constraints, whilst delivering corporate outcomes and meeting the objectives of the Local Transport Plan. For the rural areas the PTS envisions a core network of high quality inter-urban routes linking the market towns, with access from surrounding villages by demand-driven community transport offers, and by integrating some school services into public provision.
- 3.4 A comprehensive consultation was undertaken from 27 May to 22 July 2016. The consultation described the need to reduce the combined budgets for mainstream school and public transport by £1.85million from 2017/18.
- 3.5 The consultation generated 2605 responses. Respondents were asked whether they agreed with the proposed approach to focus on maintaining core bus routes that serve the most people (inter-urban services) whilst opening up school buses and supporting community transport in rural areas that may lose their bus. 54% of respondents agreed with this approach compared with 27% who did not agree.
- 3.6 Five of the 28 services will continue without subsidy including Dorchester Town Services 1&2, Crossways & Broadmayne with a new link to Weymouth (commenced 22 May), Poundbury Service 6 will remain supported by developer contributions and Service 3 Wimborne will continue to operate without subsidy.
- 3.7 Discussions with communities continue with over 20 routes and 3 new community schemes having started since April 2016 under community leadership. 6 community groups have received grants and we would welcome more requests with community transport included in the previous 7 Your Dorset editions, 60 public events in 14 months and social media channels.

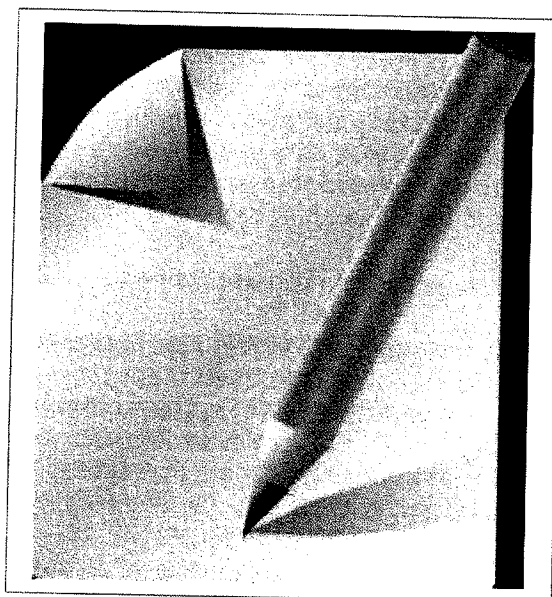
**Matthew Piles**  
**Service Director – Economy**  
July 2017

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# **Personal Independence Payment**

**An investigation into current practice**



**citizens  
advice**

**Dorchester,  
Sherborne  
& Districts  
Citizens Advice**



# Personal Independence Payment – an investigation

## Executive Summary

- 1.1 Personal Independence Payment (PIP) is a financial benefit which helps people with an illness, disability or mental health condition cope with everyday life. This includes people with a terminal illness. The benefit replaces Disability Living Allowance (DLA).
- 1.2 An analysis of the issues presenting to Dorchester, Sherborne and Districts Citizens Advice over the last year demonstrated that the majority were benefit queries and that at least half of these were related to Personal Independence Payment.
- 1.3 It was therefore decided to look in more detail at the problems that were being encountered to see what the key issues were. Over a period of eight months fifty four cases were looked at.
- 1.4 The key findings were:
  - The test for PIP appears to be much more difficult than that for DLA, both for daily living and mobility but particularly in regard to mobility. Claimants who previously relied on their cars to give them a degree of independence face not being able to work or socialise, leading to a significant reduction in the quality of their lives if they lose entitlement to a car.
  - Unacceptable delays can be experienced at all stages of the process.
  - In many cases the process for medical assessments is unacceptable. Claimants should not have to travel many miles to an assessment centre when there is one more locally. In some cases assessors appear to be inadequately trained or lack relevant knowledge and experience, particularly in mental health issues. It appears that assessors do not always listen to claimants and can have an uncaring and punitive attitude.
  - The process for Mandatory Reconsideration does not appear to be working effectively. Often additional medical evidence is ignored and claimants are forced to escalate their case to a tribunal, which is costly in time and money.
  - The majority of appeals are successful and the difference between the initial assessment and the appeal judgement can be significant.
- 1.5 The recommendations are:
  - 1 The DWP should review the criteria for receiving the mobility element of PIP. If the current criteria means that disabled people are losing their Motability cars this will have a severe impact on their ability to be independent and to contribute to society, thus undermining the whole point of a benefit designed to promote independence.
  - 2 The DWP should ensure that there are enough trained staff to process PIP applications in a reasonable timescale. Service standards for all stages of the process should be clearly stated and adhered to.

- 3 The DWP should ensure that ATOS uses health care professionals who are appropriately trained to undertake assessments fairly and in a non-judgemental way, particularly where mental health issues are concerned.
- 4 The DWP should ensure that ATOS provides sufficient assessment centres to offer claimants a medical assessment at a reasonable distance from their home and, where necessary, be prepared to undertake home visits.
- 5 The DWP should review its procedure for Mandatory Reconsiderations and take more account of medical evidence provided by the medical staff who know their patients and have a good understanding about the impact that their condition has on their daily life. The seeming reluctance of DWP staff to do this suggests an attitude that is inappropriate when dealing with sick and disabled people.

# Personal Independence Payment – an investigation

## 1 Introduction

- 1.1 Personal Independence Payment (PIP) is a financial benefit which helps people with an illness, disability or mental health condition cope with everyday life. This includes people with a terminal illness.
- 1.2 The benefit replaces Disability Living Allowance (DLA). Everyone receiving Disability Living Allowance has to make a new claim for PIP as if they are a new claimant.

## 2 Aim of project

- 2.1 To raise awareness of the impact of Personal Independence Payment on claimants in the catchment areas of Dorchester, Sherborne and Districts Citizens Advice.

## 3 Background

- 3.1 An analysis of the issues presenting to Dorchester, Sherborne and Districts Citizens Advice over the last year demonstrated that the majority were benefit queries and that at least half of these were related to Personal Independence Payment.
- 3.2 It was apparent that many disabled and ill clients were experiencing problems in claiming the benefit and that this was having a severe impact on their lives, both financially and emotionally.
- 3.3 It was therefore decided to look in more detail at the problems that were being encountered to see what the key issues were.

## 4 Personal Independence Payment

- 4.1 PIP is made up of two components called daily living and mobility, and each can be paid at either a standard or enhanced rate. The daily living rate is for the extra help needed with everyday tasks. This can include preparing food, washing, getting dressed or communicating with other people. The mobility rate will depend on the level of help the claimant needs with his or her mobility.
- 4.2 Under the Motability Scheme claimants on the enhanced rate of the mobility component can lease a car, scooter or powered wheelchair in exchange for their mobility allowance.
- 4.3 In order to be eligible for PIP claimants have to meet strict criteria. The process of claiming PIP is complicated and details of the process, including the current rates, are set out in Appendix 1. Appendix 2 gives a glossary of terms.
- 4.4 The key stages in the claims process are:
  - Initial application (usually by phone)
  - Receipt of the claims pack and completion of the very lengthy application form including supporting evidence

- Face to face assessment by a health care professional (HCP), where the claimant is awarded points against each of the criteria (called “descriptors”). In this area the assessments are carried out by a company called ATOS (NB – claimants who are terminally ill do not have to undergo a medical assessment)
- Decision by a decision maker at the Department of Work and Pensions
- If refused the claimant can ask for a Mandatory Reconsideration. This is where the DWP is asked to reconsider the decision in the light of new evidence or because the initial evidence was not fully or properly considered. Additional medical evidence from the claimant’s GP or consultant is often provided at this stage
- If refused again, the claimant can appeal to a tribunal and make their case in person at an appeal hearing.

4.5 There is also a process called a “Supersession”, whereby if the original decision was correct but the client’s condition has got worse since the decision was made an application can be made for a review on the grounds of change of circumstances. The whole award will be re-assessed, even the parts that aren’t disputed. If the supersession request is refused, the client can then apply for a Mandatory Reconsideration and (if necessary) appeal.

## 5 Methodology

5.1 Research staff and volunteers in the Dorchester, Sherborne and Districts offices collected information on clients who came to their local office for help with any aspect of PIP between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2015 and 29<sup>th</sup> April 2016.

5.2 The information was then analysed to identify if, where and how clients were experiencing problems and what these problems were. As far as possible the analysis focused on where in the application, assessment and decision making process the main problems were occurring. Note was also taken as to whether the client was a new claimant or whether s/he was being transferred from Disability Living Allowance.

5.3 It should be noted that because of the long time it often takes to process PIP claims many of the cases had not reached an outcome at the time of writing. The report reflects the situation as it was on 31 May 2016. Appendix 3 gives a brief update on the outcome of cases as of 22<sup>nd</sup> August.

## 6 Client analysis

6.1 Overall the project looked at fifty four cases where some aspect of PIP was involved in the client’s request for help from Citizens Advice. However one client, who had recently been diagnosed with MS, decided after looking at the criteria that he would not be eligible for PIP at the moment, so his case has been excluded. A further case, where a PIP form was requested in November but the client has not returned to the bureau for further assistance has also been excluded but it should be noted that there was a delay of over two weeks for the claim pack to arrive.

6.2 Of the fifty two cases looked at in detail twenty two were men and thirty women.

6.3 The age range of the clients was as follows:

	<b>Men</b>	<b>Women</b>
16	0	1
18 - 29	2	4
30 - 39	1	3
40 - 49	3	4
50 - 59	6	9
60 - 69	8	9
Unknown	2	
	<b>22</b>	<b>30</b>

6.4 23 or 44% of the cases were people who had previously been receiving DLA but who were having their benefit transferred (although one of them had chosen to apply for PIP rather than re-apply for DLA as her care needs had increased).

6.5 Of these only one client was awarded PIP within a reasonable timescale but her DLA payment was stopped six weeks before the PIP payment started, leaving her significantly short of money during that period.

6.6 Four claimants who had previously received DLA were still in the process of making a claim or awaiting the outcome of an assessment. Because of his age one of these had been given to believe that he had a lifetime award of DLA but was then told that he had to apply for PIP.

6.7 Five (10%) cases were PIP renewals. Only one had her award confirmed with no problem, with the process taking a month.

6.8 The other twenty four cases (46%) were new claimants. Of these, eight people are still in the process of claiming or awaiting the outcome of their assessment so we do not know the outcome of their claims. Only one new claimant had PIP awarded with no problem.

6.9 Looking at all claimants, whether they are transfers from DLA, PIP renewals or new claimants, we do not know the outcome for four people who are currently in the process of applying for a Mandatory Reconsideration.

6.10 Three clients are at the stage of having their claim turned down after a Mandatory Reconsideration. One lives outside of the area so her case has been transferred to a Citizens Advice office nearer to her home in order to help her appeal against the decision. The second cannot face going through the appeals process and the third cannot appeal because she has left it too long after the Mandatory Reconsideration decision.

6.11 We also do not know the outcome for ten claimants who are at some point in the formal appeals process.

6.12 Twenty two clients received an award during the period of the research. However, as stated above, in only two cases was the application and award process straightforward. In the other twenty cases the outcome was as follows:

- 8 awards made after unacceptable delays
- 6 awards following an appeal
- 3 awards following a Supersession
- 2 awards made following a Mandatory Reconsideration
- 1 award made but reduced from the amount of benefit previously received.

6.13 One client was rejected after an appeal. The process was very stressful for the client and was made more difficult by the fact he received two letters inviting him to the appeal hearing, both with the same date but with different venues identified. This confusion about venues also happened for another client.

## 7 Findings

7.1 The client analysis demonstrates that there can be problems at all stages of the application process. The main findings are set out below. Case studies are included to illustrate the issue being highlighted although it should be said that most cases studies demonstrate more than one issue. The names of the clients in the case studies have been changed to ensure confidentiality.

### ***Loss or reduction of support provided by DLA or previously awarded PIP***

- 7.2 Of the fifty two cases analysed, twenty eight or 54% were either transfers from DLA or PIP renewals. These are people already deemed to have a disability sufficient to merit a benefit designed to support them with the extra costs of disability.
- 7.3 Twenty four of these twenty eight people (86%) were assessed as not needing the support they were previously getting. Five clients were refused PIP outright. One of these had been receiving DLA for mental health issues but now has physical problems following an accident so is arguably more in need of the benefit than previously.
- 7.4 Others were deemed to need less support than previously. This is particularly the case with regard to the mobility component of PIP, where people who did not meet the criteria for the higher rate of mobility payment are not able to keep their mobility cars. Eight clients, all of whom were previously on the higher rate for mobility under DLA experienced this. Two of these were also deemed to need less care and were awarded standard rate rather than the higher rate they had previously received.
- 7.5 One client had the daily living component reduced from the enhanced rate to the standard rate, despite medical evidence that shows he needs constant and substantial help with daily living from his wife.
- 7.6 Having been refused a mobility award one client was going to appeal but in the event the DWP agreed to award the standard rate mobility if the appeal was dropped.



### **Case Study 1 – Charlotte**

Charlotte is a widow with two young children. She has Multiple Sclerosis, which affects all her limbs – she uses crutches and a zimmer frame indoors and a wheelchair outside but is able to drive a car, which she leases under the Motability scheme. She has problems with bladder and bowel control and suffers from extreme fatigue so has a carer for 22 hours a week, mainly to help her with the children. Charlotte was receiving higher rate mobility and middle rate care Disability Living Allowance until the end of last year when she had to apply for PIP. She was awarded standard rate care and standard rate mobility, which means that she will lose her car. With two young children her car is a lifeline to her. Charlotte asked for a Mandatory Reconsideration but the decision was upheld. At the time of writing she is awaiting an appeal hearing.

### ***Delays***

- 7.7 Unacceptable delays were experienced in a large number of cases at all stages of the process. For new clients this can mean a considerable loss of financial support.
- 7.8 One client requested an application form at the beginning of April and was told she should receive it within 14 days but had still not received it by the end of May.
- 7.9 One client who had been receiving DLA applied in December, had his assessment in March and at the end date of the project had still not heard the outcome. A further DLA transfer client made a claim four months ago and has not yet had a date for a medical assessment.
- 7.10 A further client who was on DLA and is awaiting an appeal has made two claims with long delays involved in each.
- 7.11 Four new claimants had to wait an exceptionally long time before they received an award. One was not called for a medical until 11 months after the claim and it took 16 months between the claim and the decision. The second started a claim in October but the form didn't arrive so he had to apply for another one. This was completed in December but he did not get a decision until the following May, a wait of 8 months.
- 7.12 The third person, who was very ill and bed bound, made a claim in May but was not assessed till September and the award not made until October, a delay of 5 months. Following an appeal the fourth person was awarded the mobility component a year after he had applied.
- 7.13 One client, who was on DLA and is currently appealing against the decision to refuse PIP made her application in September and did not hear that she had been turned down until March. The client cannot work because of illness and cannot survive on her Employment Support Allowance (ESA) so is currently having to rely on regular parcels from the food bank.

- 7.14 Delays are also being experienced in the Mandatory Reconsideration (MR) process. One client has had her assessment and is waiting to hear the outcome of an MR but was told it would take 8 to 9 weeks to get a decision.

### **Case Study 2 - Peter**

Peter has leukaemia and is about to start intensive treatment. He has been advised he cannot work as he will be vulnerable to infection. Peter is very worried about finances as the family have dependent children and a mortgage, and he will only be getting Statutory Sick Pay.

Peter asked for an application pack for PIP in September 2015. It had not arrived three weeks later and the PIP helpline said it had no record of the request. Another was sent and completed in early November. The adviser asked for an extension to the time limit because of the initial delay in receiving the form. The client telephoned in mid December to check progress and was told that the claim had been disallowed as it was out of time. Eventually the case manager at the DWP overturned this decision.

As Peter was so ill a home visit for the medical had been requested but this didn't happen until early February 2016 in spite of several phone calls. PIP was finally awarded in March giving the enhanced rate for both elements. It had taken over 5 months for a very sick person to get the award they urgently needed.

### **Assessments**

- 7.15 Clients often experienced problems with the medical assessment they have to undergo before being awarded PIP.
- 7.16 Often there are significant delays in waiting for an assessment or getting the result of an assessment and this has been touched on in the section above.
- 7.17 Another issue is that claimants can be asked to attend assessment centres that are a long way from their home and difficult to get to. One client, who had previously been receiving DLA, was twice unable to attend on the date allocated for the medical assessment and was told the claim would be cancelled. She was awarded enhanced rate care and standard rate mobility only after the intervention of her MP.
- 7.18 A further problem is the quality of the assessments. Clients complained that they had not been listened to or that their comments were misinterpreted. One client, who had been receiving DLA at the higher rate for mobility and medium rate for care said at her assessment that she could walk 60 feet. However this was written down as metres, which gave an entirely false impression of her ability and she was refused PIP outright.
- 7.19 Clients with mental health problems can be assessed by health care professionals with no experience of mental health. This is particularly significant as claimants can present with no obvious problems and often tell the assessor that they are OK. Tribunal judgements have made it clear that claimants with mental illness should be assessed by professionals who are appropriately qualified in mental health and are able to understand the complexities involved.

### **Case Study 5 - Susan**

Susan is a single mother with several dependant children. Her eldest daughter aged 17 is disabled and was receiving DLA higher rate care and lower rate mobility. She was called for reassessment for PIP. The first medical assessment clashed with a hospital appointment and she asked for it to be rearranged. The second appointment was for 10am in Bournemouth, 25 miles away, which would be impossible to get to as Susan had younger children to get to school. When she contacted ATOS she was told only one change was allowed. If she did not attend the claim would be stopped and the DLA would no longer be paid.

A Citizens Advice adviser phoned ATOS and asked for a home visit to be carried out instead, but before this was set up Susan received a 'failure to attend' letter and notification that her daughter's DLA was stopping. Phone calls to both ATOS and the PIP helpline failed to resolve matters and eventually the local MP was involved. He contacted the DWP and managed to get the assessment done based on the paper information. Susan's daughter was finally awarded the PIP enhanced rate for daily living and standard rate mobility. It is difficult to believe that so many phone calls and the involvement of a MP were needed to resolve a fairly simple matter.

### **Case Study 6 – Joan**

Joan is 67 and lives alone. Following a stroke she has been left with physical and mobility problems and also has mild dementia and cannot concentrate for any length of time. This makes her very anxious.

Joan had been receiving the higher rate of Disability Living Allowance for both care and mobility but was awarded only the PIP standard rate for care and no mobility. Joan asked for a Mandatory Reconsideration but was again turned down and the original decision upheld.

Although Joan was more worried about the mobility element she also felt unhappy about losing the higher rate for daily living. Joan has a carer who helps her to prepare food and she cannot get in and out of the bath on her own. She has to have someone wash her hair for her. Joan gets breathless and cannot move more than 20 metres without a rest, which could mean having to lie down. These factors do not appear to have been taken into account by the assessor.

The health care professional who carried out the assessment said in her report that Joan "coped well at interview" and was not "anxious, agitated or tense". Joan on the other hand said she was so worried she had no sleep the night before and described herself in "a total panic". She did not understand what she was being asked by the health care professional and felt uncomfortable as the assessor didn't make eye contact but concentrated on inputting into the computer, which meant the Joan didn't know whether to continue talking or not. This was particularly so when she was asked about hobbies. She meant to say that she liked reading and jigsaws but now lacked the focus and concentration needed to do this. She only got as far as she liked reading and puzzles. The healthcare professional had recorded that Joan could walk between 50 and 200 metres, which was not what Joan said in her claim. The HCP made no attempt to find out how far Joan could walk without having to rest. Joan is taking her case to appeal and at the time of writing the outcome of this is not known.

### **Case Study 3 - John**

John is a young man aged 36, who has suffered from paranoid schizophrenia and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder for 15 years. He was seen by a Citizens Advice adviser while he was in the acute ward of the psychiatric hospital. He is in the support group of Employment Support Allowance and had been receiving DLA until February 2015 when he was reviewed and reassessed for PIP. He was only awarded 1 point at the medical and told he did not qualify. He said the health care assessor gave no chance for him to really explain his condition.

The adviser requested copies of the paperwork relating to the original decision. The decision appeared difficult to justify as it had been noted at the medical that he had needed five hospital admissions for acute episodes in the last few years, that he had a chaotic lifestyle, had difficulty managing everyday events and regularly had suicidal thoughts. The assessor did not seem to recognise the significance of John's mental health issues. A late revision was requested with details of the descriptors he fitted and additional evidence from his psychiatrist. However the decision was not changed at Mandatory Reconsideration.

The decision was appealed. John was not well enough to attend the tribunal but it was agreed that our adviser and his psychiatrist would represent him. The tribunal was very critical of the DWP's decision and awarded John 19 points for the daily living component and 9 points for mobility. This gives him the enhanced rate for daily living and the standard rate for mobility.

### **Case Study 4 – Jane**

Jane is on the autism spectrum and suffers from depression and claustrophobia. She is in the support group of ESA and had been getting DLA higher rate care and lower rate mobility. She was told her DLA was stopping and invited to apply for PIP. She tried to start the claim herself by phone but got confused. Citizens Advice helped Jane to get her claim registered and to complete the PIP application form. This was sent with medical evidence and a description of her condition, explaining she could not travel to unfamiliar places and suggesting a paper assessment should be possible.

Two months later Jane was called for a medical in Axminster which is 31 miles from home and somewhere she does not know at all. Jane came to Citizens Advice in a panic and, much to Jane's relief, ATOS agreed that they would cancel the appointment and do a paper assessment. A few weeks later she had another letter advising they would call to conduct a medical at her home which caused another panic - she said she would 'go and hang herself' if a stranger came to her house.

After more phone calls it was finally agreed to do a paper assessment and Jane was awarded enhanced rate daily living but no mobility. We felt she should have had at least standard rate mobility because of her problems in travelling to unfamiliar places, but she could not face an appeal.

## **Mandatory Reconsideration and Supersessions**

- 7.20 Only two clients had the decision changed following a Mandatory Reconsideration. Given the success rate after an appeal this indicates that insufficient care is taken at the Mandatory Reconsideration stage as to whether or not the client has a good case.
- 7.21 One client was turned down for PIP in August 2015 after applying in June 2015. In September 2015 a revision was requested as the client had spent two spells as an in-patient in a psychiatric hospital in the previous three months so the decision seemed unreasonable. However she was again refused in September 2015. After an official complaint about the poor quality of the ATOS assessment the client was awarded the PIP enhanced daily rate in December 2015 backdated for two years from May 2015.
- 7.22 Two clients were awarded PIP following a Supersession but in both cases this was after significant delays and setbacks.
- 7.23 The first of these, who was receiving the care element of PIP, applied for the mobility element as his mobility needs were increasing. A Supersession was requested in September, he was re-assessed in February and he finally received the backdated award in April.
- 7.24 In the second case an application was made in January 2015. Despite additional medical evidence being provided the DWP insisted on a re-assessment and the client was then turned down in May. He was finally re-assessed at home in September and an award made in October. This case also demonstrated extremely poor administrative processes at the DWP, with staff failing to comply with its five day call back policy.

### **Case Study 7 - Richard**

Richard is a vulnerable single man with both mental health and physical problems. He is in the support group for Employment Support Allowance and needs help in managing his daily life. Richard damaged his leg in an accident four years ago meaning he can only walk a few paces unaided. His support worker helped him apply for PIP a year ago and he was awarded standard rate daily living but no mobility, which was strange as he can hardly walk and uses a mobility scooter out of doors.

Richard came to Citizens Advice on a different matter but after talking about his situation requested a Supersession in September 2015. Nothing was heard for three months so the Citizens Advice adviser contacted the PIP helpline. It transpired that Richard had been contacted in December to discuss his condition but no further action had been taken. The DWP apologised and said they would contact ATOS for another medical. A revised decision was finally made in April 2016, keeping the standard rate for daily living and adding the enhanced rate for mobility. Richard received £1666 in backdated payment because of the delays.

## Appeals

- 7.25 Of the seven clients in the study who went to a tribunal to appeal and we know the outcome, only one was rejected.
- 7.26 One client who had previously been on DLA but was awarded only one point at the medical assessment was awarded 19 points at a tribunal (which he could not attend as he was in hospital).
- 7.27 A client was awarded 0 points in the medical assessment but was given 11 points for both care and mobility at the appeal.
- 7.28 A client who was receiving lower rate care and higher rate mobility was awarded enhanced care and higher rate mobility at appeal.

### Case Study 8 - Ann

Ann has a number of medical conditions. She suffers from COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease), which leaves her very breathless and unable to walk far without stopping. She has severe shoulder problems that mean she cannot use her right arm, causing problems with cooking, washing, dressing, lifting and carrying. This has resulted in her becoming depressed and needing antidepressants. Her daughter is her main carer. Ann applied for PIP in September 2015 but was turned down. With the help of Citizens Advice she requested a Mandatory Reconsideration. Additional medical evidence was submitted that confirmed she could not walk more than 25 metres without stopping. However the decision was unchanged. At appeal she was awarded standard rate PIP for both daily living and mobility.

## 8 Summary of Key Findings

- 8.1 The test for PIP appears to be much more difficult than that for Disability Living Allowance, both for daily living and for mobility but particularly in regard to mobility. Claimants who previously relied on their cars to give them a degree of independence face not being able to work or socialise, leading to a significant reduction in the quality of their lives if they lose entitlement to a car.
- 8.2 Unacceptable delays can be experienced at all stages of the process.
- 8.3 In many cases the process for medical assessments is unacceptable. Claimants should not have to travel many miles to an assessment centre when there is one more locally. In some cases assessors appear to be inadequately trained or lack relevant knowledge and experience, particularly in mental health issues. It appears that assessors do not always listen to claimants and can show an uncaring and punitive attitude.
- 8.4 The process for Mandatory Reconsideration does not appear to be working effectively. Often additional medical evidence is ignored and claimants are forced to escalate their case to a tribunal, which is costly in time and money.

- 8.5 The majority of appeals are successful and the difference between the initial assessment and the appeal judgement can be significant.

## Recommendations

- 1 The DWP should review the criteria for receiving the mobility element of PIP. If the current criteria means that disabled people are losing their Motability cars this will have a severe impact on their ability to be independent and to contribute to society, thus undermining the whole point of a benefit designed to promote independence.
- 2 The DWP should ensure that there are enough trained staff to process PIP applications in a reasonable timescale. Service standards for all stages of the process should be clearly stated and adhered to.
- 3 The DWP should ensure that ATOS uses health care professionals who are appropriately trained to undertake assessments fairly and in a non-judgemental way, particularly where mental health issues are concerned.
- 4 The DWP should ensure that ATOS provides sufficient assessment centres to offer claimants a medical assessment at a reasonable distance from their home and, where necessary, be prepared to undertake home visits.
- 5 The DWP should review its procedure for Mandatory Reconsiderations and take more account of medical evidence provided by the medical staff who know their patients and have a good understanding about the impact that their condition has on their daily life. The seeming reluctance of DWP staff to do this suggests an attitude that is inappropriate when dealing with sick and disabled people.

## APPENDIX 1

### What is PIP?

Personal Independence Payment (PIP) is a benefit to help with some of the extra costs caused by long-term ill-health or a disability for those aged between 16 and 64.

The rate depends on how the claimant's condition affects them, not on the condition itself.

### Who can claim?

People who are ill or disabled. Claimants have to fulfil two qualifying tests – they must have had the problem that has caused them to apply for PIP for three months and expect the problem to last for a further nine months.

All people receiving Disability Living Allowance (DLA) will be invited to claim PIP even if they have an indefinite lifetime award of DLA.

### How does it work?

The application form for PIP says:

*"There are two components to Personal Independence Payment:*

- *Daily Living*
- *Mobility*

*If you qualify for PIP you'll get money for one or both components. The amount you get is based on how your health condition or disability affects how well you carry out everyday activities, the difficulties you face and the help you would need to do them – even if you don't actually get any help.*

*For each component of PIP there is a list of activities. For each activity there is a list of "descriptors". Descriptors are sentences which describe how much support and the type of support you need to do the activity.*

*Each descriptor has a point score. The number of points you get will depend on how much help you need. Your scores for the activities are added together to give a total for each component.*

*If you qualify, you can be paid for each component at either the Standard rate or the Enhanced rate.*

*For each component, you will get the Standard rate if your scores add up to between 8 and 11 points.*

*For each component, you will get the Enhanced rate if your scores add up to 12 points or more."*



## Appendix 2 –GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**ATOS:** ATOS Healthcare is a private company that has a contract with the Department for Work and Pensions to provide independent assessments on the Department's behalf in relation to eligibility for PIP.

**Autism:** Autism is a lifelong disability that affects how a person makes sense of the world, processes information and relates to other people. People commonly have difficulties with social communication and interaction.

**Department for Work and Pensions (DWP):** The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) is the UK's biggest public service department and is responsible for welfare, pensions and child maintenance policy. It administers the State Pension and a range of working age, disability and ill health benefits to over 22 million claimants and customers.

**Disability Living Allowance (DLA):** Disability Living Allowance (DLA) was designed to support disabled people who lived independently and had mobility and care needs. It was not subject to an independent medical assessment. The benefit is being replaced by Personal Independence Payment (PIP) and all DLA recipients transferred to PIP. Since June 2013 new claims can only be made if the claimant is under 16.

**Employment Support Allowance:** Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) is a benefit payable to people who can't work because of sickness or disability, and who are not getting Statutory Sick Pay. There are two types of ESA: contributory ESA, which is for people who have paid enough national insurance contributions, and income-related ESA, paid if a person's income and capital are below certain limits. For both types of ESA, claimants have to undertake various tests to confirm they have limited capability for work.

**Health care professional (HCP):** Health care professionals are people employed by a private company under contract from the DWP to carry out independent medical assessments of claimants. They can come from a variety of health care backgrounds - doctors, nurses, physiotherapists, occupational therapists etc., and are given training in how to make the assessments. In this area the company that employs them is ATOS. The HCP does not decide whether or not to award the benefit. After the assessment they write a report and send it to the DWP where a decision maker decides whether or not to award benefit on the basis of the evidence provided, including the assessor's report.

**Mandatory Reconsideration:** Mandatory reconsiderations were introduced from October 2013 for ESA claims. It means that if someone applying for ESA is found fit for work and they wish to appeal against this they could not go straight to appeal but have to ask for a Reconsideration. This is when the original decision is looked at again by another decision maker. This system has also been introduced for PIP claims. While the reconsideration is taking place no benefit is paid. A Mandatory Reconsideration notice is issued once the reconsideration has taken place. If the claimant is still unhappy they can appeal.

**Personal Independence Payment:** Personal Independence Payment (PIP) is a benefit for people aged 16 to 64 with a long-term health condition or disability. A long-term condition means one which is expected to last 12 months or longer. Getting PIP depends on an assessment of how the disability or health condition affects someone's ability to live independently and has two components – daily living and mobility. Special rules apply if someone is terminally ill. PIP is non contributory and is not means-tested.

**Supersession:** A benefit decision is a legal decision that can only be changed if the law allows. However if someone is getting a benefit from the DWP and their circumstances change or there is a change in the law the DWP can decide to change the original decision. This is called a Supersession. A supersession decision changes the benefit decision from the date the change happens rather than the date that the decision was made.

## Assessment for PIP

PIP claimants have to undergo a medical assessment by a health professional. In this area the assessor will be employed by ATOS.

For each of the descriptors the assessor will consider whether the claimant can carry out activities:

- Safely – *which means in a manner unlikely to cause harm to themselves or another person, whether during or after completion of the activity* **and**
- To an acceptable standard – *given the nature of the activity* **and**
- Repeatedly – *which means as often as the activity being assessed is reasonably required to be completed* **and**
- Reliably and for the majority of the time - *which means no more than twice as long as the maximum period that a person without a physical or mental condition, which limits that person's ability to carry out the activity in question, would normally take to complete that activity.*

In determining what points to award the assessor will take into account whether the claimant uses aids and equipment and how much supervision, prompting and assistance the person needs to undertake tasks.

The DWP will consider what the claimant "can" do rather than what they "do" do.

## How to claim

Claimants must call the claim line and answer a number of questions about themselves and their situation in order to ensure that they meet the basic conditions of entitlement. They are then sent a 40 page "How your disability affects you" form, which has to be completed and returned within one month, along with supporting medical evidence.

The form is very long and detailed. The emphasis is not on what condition the claimant has but what they can and can't do, in other words how the condition affects and impacts on their daily life.

There are special rules for people who are terminally ill and expected to die within 6 months. These claimants do not have to complete the form or attend a medical assessment and a claim can be made on their behalf by someone else.

## Current rates for PIP

<b>Component</b>	<b>Weekly rate</b>
Daily living - standard rate	£55.10
Daily living - enhanced rate	£82.30
Mobility - standard rate	£21.80
Mobility - enhanced rate	£57.45

### APPENDIX 3

The tables set out below provide information on the progress made since 31 May 2016 by those clients where no outcome could be identified in the report as they were part-way through the PIP application process at the cut-off date of 31st May 2016. The tables identify the situation as of 22 August 2016.

#### Clients who were in the process of making a claim or awaiting the outcome of an assessment

Current situation	Total number
No further information available (clients have made no further contact with CA)	5
Clients now awaiting a Mandatory Reconsideration	3
Clients awarded PIP	2
Client now appealing	1
MR reaffirmed decision but client no energy for appeal	1

#### Clients who were in the process of a Mandatory Reconsideration

Current situation	Total number
Clients now appealing	3
Client turned down but considering her options	1

#### Clients who were in the appeals process

Current situation	Total number
Successful appeal	4
Still waiting for an appeal date hearing	4
Partly successful appeal	1
A paper based appeal was held but more evidence was required – the client has now moved to another part of the country so the process will continue from there.	1

**Tribunal:** An appeal tribunal is an informal hearing of the case by a panel, called a tribunal board. The panel will include a legally qualified judge and up to two other independent people including a doctor. Someone from the DWP might attend but only to make their case – they will not be involved in the decision. The claimant will usually attend and can have someone with them to support them.



## Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Extract from the Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 19 January 2017

### Personal Independence Payments

- 9 Members considered a report from the Citizen's Advice Bureau which highlighted an investigation in to Personal Independence Payments (PIP).

The Chairman welcomed Ann Evans, the Advice Services Manager from the Citizens' Advice Bureau (CAB) in Dorchester to the meeting. She drew members' attention to the research and campaign work part of CAB which looked at what problems people were having and recorded things that appeared unfair.

All work was evidence based and showed that a high number of problems were being experienced with Personal Independence Payments (PIP) which had taken over from the disability living allowance. She highlighted that this was a national problem but was hugely affecting people within Dorset. The poor quality of medical assessments being carried out was also highlighted. This resulted in months of waiting for an appeal and virtually every appeal the CAB attended was won, which reflected the poor decision making by the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP). The whole system was disadvantaging people and the CAB were still seeing the same number affecting the most vulnerable people in local communities.

One member highlighted the people with terminal illnesses and the delays they experienced in getting the hospital consultants to sign the forms to say they were eligible to apply for PIP.

The County Councillor for Dorchester, who also represented West Dorset as a liaison member for the CAB, felt this was a very powerful report and hoped that the County Council would lend its support to the problem.

The Director undertook to liaise with the Interim Director for Adult and Community Services to see if collectively they could gain support. As it was a national issue she would see if the Association of Directors for Children's Services (ADCS) were also picking this up. She also felt that a joint letter to Department for Education (DFE) and Department of Health (DoH) could be a useful route.

The County Councillor for Dorchester felt sure that the Dorset MPs must be aware but to date no effective action to bring about a positive change had been made. The Chairman urged the CAB to bring it to the Dorset MPs attention.

The Chairman suggested writing to the DWP drawing this report to their attention and asking for their comments. One member suggested contacting the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) with reference to hospital administrative delays.

The Group Manager for Governance and Assurance acknowledged that this particular issue clearly demonstrated how the new Overview and Scrutiny Committees were taking interest in a much broader view of outcomes across Dorset, rather than just those issues or services that were delivered directly by the County Council. The potential for the County Council to lend its support in calls for improvement in the PIP process was about being outcome focussed, looking for better outcomes for individuals. This demonstrated a great strength in organisations joining together.

**Resolved**

1. That a letter be set to the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) setting out members' concerns.
2. That the Director raise the issue with the ADCS.
3. That the Director write a joint letter with the interim Director for Adult and Community Services to DFE and DoH.



### Cabinet

Minutes of a meeting held at County Hall, Colliton Park, Dorchester,  
Dorset, DT1 1XJ on Wednesday, 7 June 2017.

#### Present:

Rebecca Knox	Leader of the Council
Jill Haynes	Acting Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Health and Care
Steve Butler	Cabinet Member for Safeguarding
Deborah Croney	Cabinet Member for Economy, Education, Learning and Skills
Toni Ferrari	Cabinet Member for Community and Resources
Daryl Turner	Cabinet Member for Natural and Built Environment

#### Members Attending:

Ray Bryan, County Councillor for Moors  
 Graham Carr-Jones, County Councillor for Stalbridge and the Beacon  
 Hilary Cox, County Councillor for Winterborne, as Chairman of the County Council  
 Keith Day, County Councillor for Bridport  
 Jean Dunseith, County Councillor for Chickerell and Chesil Bank  
 Katharine Garcia, County Councillor for Portland Tophill  
 David Harris, County Councillor for Westham  
 Nick Ireland, County Councillor for Linden Lea  
 Andrew Parry, County Councillor for Ferndown, as Vice-Chairman of the County Council  
 Byron Quayle, County Councillor for Blandford Forum  
 David Shortell, County Councillor for Moors  
 David Walsh, County Councillor for Gillingham  
 Kate Wheller, County Councillor for Portland Harbour

#### Officers Attending:

Debbie Ward (Chief Executive), Richard Bates (Chief Financial Officer), Mike Harries (Corporate Director for Environment and Economy), Jonathan Mair (Head of Organisational Development - Monitoring Officer), David Phillips (Director of Public Health), Sara Tough (Corporate Director for Children's, Adults and Community Services) and Lee Gallagher (Democratic Services Manager).

#### For certain items, as appropriate:

Peter Moore (Service Director - Environment), Matthew Piles (Service Director - Economy) and Mark Taylor (Group Manager - Governance and Assurance).

- (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: **Tuesday, 13 June 2017.**
- (2) 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 **Wednesday, 28 June 2017.**)

#### **Apologies for Absence**

60 No apologies for absence were received from members.

#### **Code of Conduct**

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

An interest was declared by Mike Harries (Director for Environment and Economy) in relation to minute 70b – Dorchester Transport and Environment Plan (DTEP) – Proposed Access Only Order in Victoria Road, Dorchester, as he lived near the site of the Order. He left the room during consideration of the item.

### **Minutes**

62 The minutes of the meeting held on 5 April 2017 were confirmed and signed.

### **Public Participation**

#### **63 Public Speaking**

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

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

#### **Petitions**

There were no petitions received at the meeting in accordance with the County Council's Petition Scheme.

### **Cabinet Forward Plan**

64 The Cabinet considered the draft Forward Plan, which identified key decisions to be taken by the Cabinet on or after the next meeting. It was recognised that the Plan would be populated with more items following the recent County Council Elections. Cllr Knox also indicated that the format of the Plan would be reviewed outside of the meeting to reflect the results of decisions.

#### **Resolved**

1. That the contents of the Forward Plan be noted.
2. That a review of the format of the Forward Plan be undertaken.

### **Panels and Boards**

65 The Cabinet received the following minutes:

#### **Dorset Waste Partnership Joint Committee - 23 March 2017**

65a **Noted**

### **Quarterly Asset Management Report**

66 The Cabinet considered a report by the Cabinet Member for Natural and Built Environment, and the Cabinet Member for Communities and Resources on the key issues relating to the various asset classes of Property, Highways, ICT, Fleet and Waste.

Cllr Turner provided a detailed overview of the proposals within the report and specific reference was made to a number of areas, as outlined below.

#### **Disposal of Monkton Park and Proposed Sale and Leaseback to Dorset Development Partnership**

With regard to the proposal on the future of the office space and the Dorchester Learning Centre at Monkton Park in Dorchester, Cllr Nick Ireland addressed the Cabinet as the local member to indicate that no consultation had taken place with the local member in addition to consultation with the local parish council. It was confirmed that members for Dorchester had been consulted, but not the local member for Linden Lea, for which the Director for Environment and Economy apologised.

A number of concerns were expressed by the Cabinet about the potential future use of the site and whether this should be 'disposed of' or 'declared surplus' with more work being completed on future options in accordance with 'One Public Estate'



principles. The Director for Environment and Economy confirmed that no other purpose had been identified through consultation with public sector partners. Comments were also received in relation to the way the Council used the Dorset Development Partnership. The Chief Financial Officer described the financial implications of a delay in decision making regarding the generation of a capital receipt and ongoing revenue costs (approx. £90k per annum), but also highlighted that identification of a suitable alternative could create greater savings for the Council in the longer term.

Following detailed discussions, it was felt that the whole site including the Dorchester Learning Centre (the old Rectory), subject to relocation, should be declared surplus and for a report to be submitted to the Cabinet in September 2017 on the options available. In doing so it was recognised that the short-term revenue saving would not be achieved.

#### Disposal of Former Brackenbury School, Three Yards Close, Portland

In relation to the proposed disposal Cllr Kate Wheller, as the local member, asked if the site could be considered for accelerated housing and for Weymouth and Portland Borough Council to be consulted at the point of disposal. It was confirmed that officers would consult as requested with the Borough Council.

#### Riffs Youth Club, Mountbatten Drive, Ferndown – Transfer to the Town Council

Cllr Andrew Parry, as a local member for Ferndown, highlighted the significant community support for Ferndown Town Council to take on the Riffs Youth Centre, and indicated that he and Cllr Steven Lugg as the local members supported the proposal and would make themselves available to help in anyway with the arrangements.

#### Site of former St. Martins Care Home and Adult Education Building, Queen Street, Gillingham

Cllr David Walsh, as the local member for Gillingham, supported the disposal of the former St Martins Care Home to be used for an extra care scheme. Members also thanked the officers involved, and in particular Derek Hardy for bringing the scheme to fruition.

#### Special School Capacity – Invest to Save bid for Capital

In relation to the creation of additional pupil places at Yewstock and Mountjoy special schools, members welcomed the proposal and the Corporate Director for Children, Adults and Community Services confirmed that conversations were underway with families regarding relocation, but additionally these places would address increasing demand on places and avoid the cost of out of county placements. It was also confirmed that if the cost of the works was less than planned the ‘surplus’ capital funds would be retained by the Council, and the project would be monitored by the Modernising Schools Project Board.

#### Corporate Vehicle Bodywork Repair contract

In relation to Fleet Asset Management, Cllr Haynes asked that consideration be given to opening the framework for the vehicle body repair service to further public sector partners before committing to the arrangement.

#### **Resolved**

1. That the whole Monkton Park site be declared surplus, subject to the relocation of the Learning Centre, on terms to be agreed by the Corporate Director for Environment and Economy after consultation with the relevant portfolio holder (Para 3.1.5 in the Cabinet Members’ report), and that a report be submitted to the Cabinet in September 2017 on the options for the future of the site.
2. That the disposal of the Brackenbury Infant School site, Portland on terms to be agreed by the Corporate Director for Environment and Economy (Para 3.3.3 in the Cabinet Members’ report) be approved.

3. That the use of the County Council's general powers of competence to gift the Riffs Building at Mountbatten Drive, Ferndown to the Ferndown Town Council on a long leasehold interest at a peppercorn rent and otherwise on terms to be approved by the Corporate Director for Environment and Economy (Para 3.4.2 in the Cabinet Members' report) be approved.
4. That the use of the County Council's general powers of competence to dispose of the whole site situated at Queen Street, Gillingham to Magna Housing at an undervalue of £500,000 and otherwise on terms to be agreed by the Corporate Director for Environment and Economy (Para 3.5.5 in the Cabinet Members' report) be approved.
5. That the allocation of £550,000 of capital to create extra places at Mountjoy and Yewstock Special Schools (Para 3.6.3 in the Cabinet Members' report) be approved.
6. That the virement of the £150,000 County Council contribution from Chapel Gate Roundabout scheme to Parley Cross Junction improvements schemes (Para 4.1.3 in the Cabinet Members' report) be approved.
7. That the procurement of a new Framework for a Corporate Vehicle Bodywork Repair Service (Para 6.1.4 in the Cabinet Members' report) be approved.
8. That the overall revised estimates and cash flows for projects as summarised and detailed in Appendix 1 (Para 8.2.2 in the Cabinet Members' report) be approved.
9. That the ongoing discussions in respect of Bovington Park (Para 3.2 in the Cabinet Members' report) be noted.

#### Reason for Decisions

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

#### **Update on Prevention at Scale**

67 The Cabinet considered a report by the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Community and Resources on Prevention at Scale in Dorset.

Cllr Knox, as the continuing lead member for Health and Wellbeing, provided an overview of Prevention at Scale (PAS) as a crucial priority for the Council, health, and other partners to deliver the objectives of the Clinical Commissioning Group's Sustainability and Transformation Plan. The Director for Public Health also highlighted the opportunity for public sector partners to work together to avoid expensive outcomes and for the integration of social care at all ages. It was recognised that there was a need for strong political commitment and for the plan to be driven from the local level, with councillors acting as a stimulus to bring communities into the process.

A comment was received in relation to the inclusion of mental health as part of PAS. It was confirmed that mental health was a key part of PAS, that it was intertwined with physical health, and that many aspects crossed over both areas.

Cllr Cox asked if it was possible to provide local members with information that affected their electoral divisions at a local level. It was acknowledged that the report outlined the design phase of PAS and engagement with local members would be welcomed in terms of driving the implementation plans forward. Communications and engagement strategies were also being developed.

#### **Resolved**

That the update on prevention at scale be noted, and the ongoing work to ensure the County Council's transformation programme Forward Together wherever possible be supported, together with the aims and objectives of Prevention at Scale.

#### Reason for Decision

Transformation of health and care services in Dorset would not be achieved without

close collaboration between the NHS and Councils locally. Councils were an important partner in the Prevention at Scale programme of the Sustainability and Transformation Plan, because of their role in influencing many of the most effective drivers of future health and wellbeing (housing, education, environment, economic growth).

### **Western Dorset Growth Strategy Action Plan**

68 The Cabinet considered a report by the Cabinet Member for Economy, Education, Learning and Skills, and the Cabinet Member for Natural and Built Environment on the Western Dorset Growth Strategy action plan to deliver the aspirations and priorities of the Strategy. A diagram of the strategy was circulated prior to the meeting.

Cllr Deborah Croney introduced the report in detail, and provided an overview of the Strategy for West Dorset as a significant economic contributor. The enormous potential of the five year Action Plan was also explained through a sound evidence base, but it was noted that due to the scale there would be a need to prioritise actions within the Plan. In particular, she expressed a wish for a Key Workers Policy (T2.1 in the Action Plan) to be delivered as soon as possible. To show partners how serious the Council was in wishing the Action Plan to succeed, Cllr Croney proposed a third recommendation as follows:

*'That Members and officers on the WDGS Members Board consider and clarify effective working roles and responsibilities to effectively deliver the ambitious growth strategy for western Dorset, including better engagement with wider membership.'*

The Cabinet welcomed the additional recommendation, recognised the need for engagement with local councillors, and the opportunity for the Shared Services Joint Committee (led by the Dorset Councils Partnership) to act as a vehicle to shape decisions by the respective councils, subject to specific delegations at a future date.

A statement from Cllr Clare Sutton was received at the meeting (and attached as an annexure to these minutes), and it was noted that the issues raised were within the wider strategic areas being addressed. It was further noted that Cllr Sutton would be provided with further information at a meeting with officers and other Weymouth and Portland County Councillors shortly.

Cllr David Harris, addressed the Cabinet as the local member for Westham, to highlight that the plan needed to be flexible and updated following engagement with local members as there had been no engagement so far. It was confirmed that consultations would take place shortly and the Action Plan would be updated accordingly.

As the local member for Chickerell and Chesil Bank, Cllr Jean Dunseith raised concerns regarding Superfast Broadband and the need for residents to have access as a priority. It was noted that Cllr Daryl Turner, as the responsible portfolio holder, would consider the local issue outside of the meeting.

Cllr Kathy Garcia, as the local member for Portland Tophill, encouraged the Cabinet to improve access for Portland on and off island which would then improve residents' prospects and quality of life. Cllr Deborah Croney confirmed that this would be considered as part of the prioritisation process of the Action Plan.

Cllr Knox welcomed recent news about Enterprise Advisors who were working with schools to provide linkages with employers, and it was agreed that a message would be sent out to all councillors to share the information and how best elected members could support this work.

**Resolved**

1. That the Western Dorset Growth Strategy Action Plan be approved as the basis for delivery of the Strategy for the next five years.
2. That progress on the action plan be reported to the Western Dorset Growth Strategy Member Board.
3. That Members and officers on the WDGS Members Board consider and clarify effective working roles and responsibilities to effectively deliver the ambitious growth strategy for western Dorset, including better engagement with a wider membership.

**Reason for Decisions**

Successful delivery of the Western Dorset Growth Strategy would make a significant contribution to the economic growth of Dorset, providing high quality and skilled jobs, housing and essential infrastructure. Thereby contributing to each of the four corporate priorities.

**Recommendations from Committees**

69 The Cabinet considered the following recommendations from committees.

**Recommendation - Draft Annual Governance Statement 2016/17**

69a The Cabinet considered the recommendation by the Audit and Governance Committee which provided an overview of the Council's governance arrangements. A request was made for an assurance report to be presented to the Cabinet in July 2017 to ensure oversight of the Council's risk management arrangements, and in particular the quality and use of data in areas of risk, performance and finance.

It was also clarified that the report would be shared with the Audit and Governance Committee as the body responsible for monitoring of governance and risk across the Council. Cllr David Harris, as the Chairman of the Audit and Governance Committee, also indicated that he would raise the need to look at how the Council manages 'outcomes based' work at the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board on 13 July 2017.

In addition it was also asked that future reports, even where addressing more technical matters such as these, should be written in plain English.

**Resolved**

1. That the draft Annual Governance Statement for 2016/17 be approved.
2. That an assurance report be submitted to the Cabinet meeting on 19 July 2017.

**Reason for Decision**

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

**Recommendation - Dorchester Transport and Environment Plan (DTEP) - Proposed Access Only Order in Victoria Road, Dorchester**

69b (Note: Mike Harries (Corporate Director for Environment and Economy) left the room during consideration of the item as he lived near the site of the Order.

**Resolved**

That having considered the objection received, the proposed prohibition of access for Victoria Road, Dorchester be approved, as advertised.

**Reason for Decision**

The proposal was designed to deter inappropriate use of a quiet residential street by unsuitable through traffic.

## **Member Appointments to Outside Bodies and Other Bodies**

70 The Cabinet considered a report by the Leader of the Council on the appointment of members to outside bodies and other bodies that are line with the Council's Plan and aims of the Council. The nominations of Group Leaders were tabled at the meeting.

Cllr Knox introduced the report and explained that the appointments document would be updated as necessary, including the addition of other bodies, in accordance with delegated authority to make appointments. She also encouraged councillors attending on behalf of the Council to report back on any bodies where there was no clear outcome being achieved, so that it could be considered whether other ways of working were more appropriate.

### **Resolved**

1. That the appointment of councillors to the following bodies for the period up to the quadrennial elections of the County Council in May 2021 be approved (attached as an annexure to these minutes):
  - Partner and other organisations;
  - Panels, consultative bodies and project boards
2. That delegated authority be granted to the Leader of the Council after consultation with Group Leaders to make appointments to replace previous nominations and to fill vacancies where appropriate, for the period up to the quadrennial elections of the County Council in May 2021.

### **Reason for Decisions**

To support the corporate aim: Working together for a strong and successful Dorset.

## **Questions from County Councillors**

71 No questions received from County Councillors.

## **Exempt Business**

72 **Resolved**

That in accordance with Section 100 A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 to exclude the public from the meeting in relation to the business specified in minutes 73 and 74 as it was likely that if members of the public were present, there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 2,3 and 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act and the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information to the public.

## **Dorset County Council Block Purchase Agreement with Care South and Care South's Membership of the Dorset County Pension Scheme**

73 The Cabinet considered an exempt report by the Cabinet Member for Health and Care in relation to the Block Purchase Agreement ('BPA') with Care South and Care South's Membership of the Dorset County Pension Scheme.

Cllr Haynes welcomed the report which provided updated contract arrangements between the Council and Care South following negotiations, together with proposed changes to pension arrangements. The Chief Financial Officer provided a detailed overview of the impact and risk associated with the changes to the pension arrangements, and his support for the proposal.

The Cabinet recognised the moral duty on the Council in relation to the pension arrangements, to support the long term pension position for former staff.

### **Resolved**

1. That the changes to the Block Purchase Agreement funding formula for all three homes be approved.
2. That the arrangements pertaining to Care South's cessation as a member of the Dorset LGPS be approved, and that Dorset County Council act as guarantor for future scheme liabilities.

Reason for Decisions

This would afford both clarity and sustainability of the current BPA for the term of the contract.

**Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site Management transition agreements**

74 The Cabinet considered an exempt report by the Cabinet Member for Natural and Built Environment on the progress of the technical transition of site management arrangements in relation to the Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site from the County Council to the Jurassic Coast Trust.

Officers were thanked for their efforts in achieving the transition agreement. It was also noted that ongoing help and support from the Council would continue for the Board of trustees of the Jurassic Coast Trust.

**Resolved**

1. That the approach to pension provision for transferring staff be agreed.
2. That the approach to addressing the cost of potential future redundancies be agreed.
3. That the transfer of the Jurassic Coast trademark to the Jurassic Coast Trust be agreed.
4. That the financial commitments in the proposed grant agreement be agreed.
5. That delegate authority be granted to the Service Director (Environment), following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Natural and Built Environment, to conclude details of the proposed Transfer Agreement and Grant Agreement in line with the principles set out in the Cabinet Member's report to take effect from 1 July 2017.

Reason for Decisions

To enable good World Heritage Site management and contribute to corporate plan outcomes particularly 'Prosperous' and 'Healthy'.

Meeting Duration: 10.00 am - 12.00 pm



### Cabinet

Minutes of a meeting held at County Hall, Colliton Park, Dorchester,  
Dorset, DT1 1XJ on Wednesday, 28 June 2017.

#### Present:

Rebecca Knox	Leader of the Council
Jill Haynes	Acting Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Health and Care
Deborah Croney	Cabinet Member for Economy, Education, Learning and Skills
Toni Ferrari	Cabinet Member for Community and Resources
Daryl Turner	Cabinet Member for Natural and Built Environment

#### Members Attending:

Nick Ireland, County Councillor for Linden Lea

#### Officers Attending:

Richard Bates (Chief Financial Officer), Jonathan Mair (Head of Organisational Development - Monitoring Officer), Andrew Martin (Service Director - Highways and Emergency Planning), Sara Tough (Corporate Director for Children's, Adults and Community Services) and Lee Gallagher (Democratic Services Manager).

#### For certain items, as appropriate:

John Alexander (Senior Assurance Manager - Performance), Michael Carhart-Harris (Senior Communications Officer), Jim McManus (Chief Accountant), Mark Taylor (Group Manager - Governance and Assurance) and David Trotter (Senior Assurance Officer, Corporate Development).

- (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: **Tuesday, 4 July 2017.**
- (2) 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 **Wednesday, 19 July 2017.**
- (3) **RECOMMENDED** in this type denotes that a decision of County Council is required.)

#### **Apologies for Absence**

75 Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Steve Butler, Mike Harries (Director for Environment and the Economy), and Debbie Ward (Chief Executive). Andrew Martin (Service Director – Highways and Emergency Planning) attended for Mike Harries.

#### **Code of Conduct**

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

#### **Minutes**

77 The minutes of the meeting held on 7 June 2017 were confirmed and signed.

## Public Participation

### 78 Public Speaking

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

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

### Petitions

There were no petitions received at the meeting in accordance with the County Council's Petition Scheme.

## Cabinet Forward Plan

79 The Cabinet considered the draft Forward Plan, which identified key decisions to be taken by the Cabinet on or after the next meeting. The following changes were noted:

- July 2017 – Fostering Business Improve and Support Programme.
- September 2017 – Special Educational Needs and Disability – Written Statement of Action and Capacity Update
- November 2017 – Direction of Travel and Programme for Care and Protection.

It was noted that each of the items were being considered by the respective Overview and Scrutiny Committees except for the Fostering item, which was urgent due to the nature of the business case that needed to be brought to the Cabinet for decision, although this had been considered by the Fostering Panel. Cllr Croney also confirmed that the Executive Advisory Panel on Forward Together for Children's Services would be holding a meeting soon to discuss areas within the directorate's programme.

General comments were expressed about the role of Overview and Scrutiny Committees in being able to scrutinise items prior to Cabinet decisions being made. It was confirmed that all Overview and Scrutiny Committees monitored the Cabinet Forward Plan and could scrutinise any matters they wished on the way through the decision making process. It was agreed that a meeting between Cabinet members and Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the committees would be held to discuss the current arrangements, including policy making, and to ensure the right level of engagement with councillors. It was also suggested that there may be too few meetings of the committees, to which it was confirmed that more meetings could be arranged as needed.

### Resolved

1. That the items in the minute above be added to the Cabinet's Forward Plan.
2. That a meeting between Cabinet members and Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the overview and scrutiny committees be arranged, as outlined in the minute above.

## Panels and Boards

80 The Cabinet considered the following minutes from Panels and Boards:

### **Dorset Waste Partnership Joint Committee - 12 June 2017**

80a Cllr Ferrari and Cllr Turner provided summaries of the meeting, which included positive feedback on the budget position and service delivery.

### Noted

## **Corporate Plan - Draft Refresh 2017-18 and Outcomes Focused Monitoring Report, May 2017**

81 The Cabinet considered a report by the Leader of the Council on the County Council's outcome based Corporate Plan 2017/18, together with data relating to indicators for the four outcomes in the Plan. The Cabinet also received a presentation from officers



on the draft Plan, the vision for the Council, the Outcomes Framework, Population Indicators, and the monitoring of performance indicators through the Outcomes Tracker.

Councillors discussed the content of the report, and asked about the provision of up to date information throughout the report in order to inform decision making on a monthly basis rather than some content being up to six months old. It was confirmed that the data used throughout the report was provided by services directly, which informed the live Outcomes Tracker. However, it was clarified that some of the population level information was reported less frequently. More information would be provided on population and performance indicators as the use of the Tracker increased over time.

It was also suggested that benchmarking information needed to be as balanced as possible in order to compare Dorset's performance with other authorities, such as the Delayed Transfers of Care which were higher due to the large number of hospitals within the County. Officers clarified that the benchmark information provided a guide to the national picture (or other relevant benchmark) and it was necessary to consider the background to many areas due to causes, forces, geography and infrastructure.

Cllr Knox highlighted the need for the visibility of population indicators under each of the Corporate Aims to reflect the level of investment and whether this was proportionate to meet each outcome. Officers agreed to support the development of these linkages. It was also noted that there was an outcome delivery strategy being produced for each outcome and that these would help to ensure that both population indicators and corresponding financial information would provide better visibility to enable challenge, and the development of the strategies.

In relation to the role of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees, it was recognised that performance reports were considered by each committee and that a number of current scrutiny activities had been commissioned. It was suggested that scrutiny topics needed to ensure that the work reflected the efforts of partners as necessary, such as the forthcoming Task and Finish Group on Road Traffic Collisions which would also be a priority for the Community Safety Partnership. It was noted that a scoping report on this topic would be considered by the Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 6 July 2017.

It was agreed that a discussion should be held between the Cabinet and Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Overview and Scrutiny Committees to explore the best ways to link scrutiny with priorities, outcomes and performance.

The Chairman of the Council welcomed the report as a vast improvement of previous iterations of the Corporate Plan and performance monitoring.

### **RECOMMENDED**

That the County Council be recommended to approve the draft Corporate Plan at Appendix A of the Leader's report (attached as an annexure to these minutes).

### **Resolved**

1. That the evidence of Dorset's position with regard to the outcome indicators at Appendix B of the Leader's report be developed to link with financial information.
2. That a meeting be scheduled between the Cabinet and the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of Overview and Scrutiny Committees to discuss priorities, outcomes and performance.
3. That the performance monitoring and reporting of the Corporate Plan remain as work in progress in respect of actions to reach the Corporate Aims, particularly in relation to finance, partnership working and reaching priorities.

### Reason for Recommendation

The 2017-18 Corporate Plan provided an overarching strategic framework for monitoring progress towards good outcomes for Dorset. The outcome indicators summarised in the report provided enhanced evidence to the Cabinet, The Audit and Governance Committee and the three Overview and Scrutiny committees so that progress against the corporate plan could be monitored effectively.

### **Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) update**

82 The Cabinet considered a report by the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet member for Community and Resources which provided the first update of the new financial year, and the national and local issues impacting on the County Council's finances to be taken into account when developing the three-year MTFP from 2018/19 to 2020/21. The report also summarised information for consideration by the Audit and Governance Committee on 24 July 2017 related to the 2016/17 outturn, balances at 31 March 2017, and the most recent 2017/18 forecast of outturn.

Cllr Ferrari introduced the report and summarised the outturn position from 2016/17 which included significant overspends for Children's and Adults Services. He then provided an overview of the forecasted budgets for the Council for 2017/18 which indicated that there were projected overspends in both children's and adults services again. He also drew attention to the new practices in the finance team which resulted in a greater level of financial information being available at this point in the financial year, and congratulated officers for their hard work.

The Cabinet recognised that the projected overspends were due to a number of complex areas, but that progress was being made to identify ways of delivering a balanced budget by the end of the year. However, it was noted that the projected overspend in Children's Services was a clear area of concern due to the significant increased projection in comparison to the previous year. The number of children looked after, Special Educational Needs transport, agency workers, and the number of foster carers were highlighted as contributory factors in the potential overspend, and it was noted that a report on fostering would be considered by the Cabinet on 19 July 2017.

In addition to the areas discussed above, it was noted that the Budget Strategy Task and Finish Group would be re-established to consider the ongoing budget position.

The Chief Financial Officer also took the opportunity to outline the discussion held by the One Council group on 27 June 2017, to look at options over the next couple of weeks to develop recovery plans. He also confirmed that when the plans were in place it would be necessary to look corporately at how to address the budget gap in order to deliver a balanced budget.

### **Resolved**

1. That the unaudited outturn position for 2016/17, including the respective underspends and overspends within service Directorates be noted.
2. That the Directors' early estimates included in the forecast of outturn for the current year and the operational reasons causing the Council to diverge from the balanced budget agreed by the County Council in February 2017 be noted.
3. That the starting position for the current MTFP and budget round including the level and adequacy of balances on the general fund be noted.
4. That the latest, savings expectations from the Forward Together programme be noted.
5. That the proposals to consider an increase in the flexible use of capital receipts, subject to formal approval to be brought to a subsequent Cabinet meeting, be noted.
6. That the risks associated with and impacting upon the financial performance for the current and future financial years be recognised and acknowledged.
7. That the work of the One Council group be monitored in relation to the

development of budget recovery plans.

8. That the Budget Strategy Task and Finish Group be re-established to monitor the budget for 2017/18, and that delegated authority be granted to Group Leaders to appoint councillors to serve on the Group.

Reason for Decisions

To enable work to continue on refining and managing the County Council's budget plan for 2017/18 and the overall three-year MTFP period.

**Recommendations from Committees**

83 The Cabinet considered the following recommendations:

**Dorchester Transport and Environment Plan (DTEP) - Proposed waiting restrictions in High West Street/ High East Street, Dorchester**

83a Recommendation 36 - Dorchester Transport and Environment Plan (DTEP) - Proposed waiting restrictions in High West Street/ High East Street, Dorchester  
Cllr Turner introduced the recommendation and summarised the history of the proposal in the context of DTEP. He also confirmed that the local members had been consulted and were in support of the recommendation.

In relation to the proposed changes to Glyde Path Road, it was suggested that further consideration should be given to the use of the road for cyclists. The Head of Highways and Emergency Planning undertook to clarify the position outside of the meeting.

Further discussion related to the availability of disabled parking, noting that due to increased pedestrianisation there would be less disabled parking access. A suggestion was made for improvements for increased disabled access, but it was clarified that through consultation there had been no objections to the proposed changes.

Although the Cabinet supported the recommendation, it was suggested that consideration be given by the Regulatory Committee to enhancing the use of shared space, consideration of cycling, and the health and wellbeing benefits of physical activity when considering this type of proposal.

**Resolved**

That the waiting and loading restrictions for High West Street and High East Street, Dorchester, be approved as advertised.

Reason for Decision

The proposals would allow construction of a disabled access to the Shire Hall Heritage Centre without obstructing through flow of pedestrians on the footway and improve the flow of traffic in the high street at peak periods which should provide some improvement to air quality.

**Proposed Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting - Various Roads, Wimborne**

83b Recommendation 37 - Proposed Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting - Various Roads, Wimborne

The Cabinet noted that the local members had been consulted on the recommendation.

**Resolved**

That the proposed prohibition and restriction of waiting on various roads in Wimborne, be approved as advertised.

Reason for Decision

The proposals would remove the current inconsiderate and dangerous parking

situation at the roundabout and the junctions of Cranfield Avenue, Rowlands Hill, Royston Drive and St John's Hill and would contribute to the Corporate Policy outcomes enabling people to be safe and prosperous.

### **Proposed Toucan Crossing - East Road, Bridport**

#### 83c Recommendation 38 - Proposed Toucan Crossing - East Road, Bridport

The Cabinet welcomed the recommendation, and recognised the wider improvement scheme around East Road Roundabout, and that the crossing would link West Bay to the south and Bradpole to the north, with the longer term aspiration of providing a railway link northwards. It was also acknowledged that the local members fully supported the recommendation.

#### **Resolved**

That the provision of a Toucan Crossing, for East Road Bridport, be approved as advertised.

#### Reason for Decision

The proposals should allow the provision of controlled Toucan crossing facilities on East Road without adversely affecting traffic flows in the vicinity of the roundabout.

### **Questions from County Councillors**

84 No questions were received from County Councillors.

#### Dorset County Council Update following the Grenfell Tower Disaster

At the end of the meeting the Leader of the Council took the opportunity to inform councillors that work was being undertaken across partners in Dorset in the light of the recent fire at Grenfell Tower. It was noted that a statement would be issued regarding the partnership working later in the day.



Meeting Duration: 10.00 am - 11.15 am

## Appendix A

# Draft Corporate Plan 2017-18: Working Together For A Strong and Successful Dorset

## Our Outcomes Framework

Seeking to improve the lives of people in Dorset

<p>People in Dorset are <b>SAFE</b> </p> <p><b>Everyone should feel safe, wherever they are.</b></p> <p><i>But...</i> sadly, we have seen a significant increase in the number of children and vulnerable adults needing protection. There are areas of Dorset with higher levels of crime, substance misuse and domestic abuse. We know that by working with vulnerable families early on we can often help them be stronger and more stable, and to stay together.</p> <p>There are also far too many accidents on our roads. While many of the factors that influence road accidents are outside of our control, we know that by doing things like road safety education, fixing road defects and gritting roads during icy conditions quickly, efficiently and well, we can help make Dorset's roads safer.</p> <p>The safety of all of our residents, and particularly the most isolated and vulnerable, is sometimes seriously affected by extreme weather events such as flooding. As well as providing an emergency response to such events, we will continue to work alongside our communities to plan ahead and minimise the disruption to people's lives when such things inevitably do happen.</p> <p><b>The indicators we will use to measure progress are:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The number of children in care, or in need of our protection in other ways</li> <li>• The number of children being admitted to hospital due to injury</li> <li>• The percentage of children who are persistently absent from school</li> <li>• The number of adult safeguarding concerns</li> <li>• Rates of crime, antisocial behaviour and domestic abuse in Dorset</li> <li>• Number of people killed or seriously injured on Dorset's roads</li> </ul>	<p>People in Dorset are <b>HEALTHY</b> </p> <p><b>Most people are healthy and make good lifestyle choices.</b></p> <p><i>But...</i> unfortunately, this is not the case for everyone. For example, there are many people who suffer from poor mental health, and there are parts of the county where life expectancy is low.</p> <p>If we can help and encourage people to adopt healthy lifestyles and lead active lives, they will be more likely to avoid preventable illnesses as they grow older, and life expectancy will improve.</p> <p>The strong link between a healthy environment and physical and mental health and wellbeing is well known. We will work hard to ensure our natural assets are well managed, accessible and promoted, and that waste and pollution are minimised and controlled.</p> <p><b>The indicators we will use to measure progress are:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inequality in life expectancy between different population groups</li> <li>• Rate of hospital admissions for alcohol-related conditions</li> <li>• Child and adult excess weight</li> <li>• Prevalence of mental health conditions</li> <li>• Under 75 mortality rate from cardiovascular diseases</li> <li>• Levels of physical activity in adults</li> </ul>	<p>People in Dorset are <b>INDEPENDENT</b> </p> <p><b>Confident people living in strong, supportive and vibrant communities are vital to independent living.</b></p> <p><i>But...</i> we need to help more of our young people be confident and successful learners into adulthood – helping them to remain independent and happy.</p> <p>We also have a high number of older people who are isolated and lonely. By coordinating the efforts of social care, health and other agencies, we are striving to help people remain happily independent in their own homes and able to make informed choices about their support needs.</p> <p>This requires us to identify and work with vulnerable families at an early stage, to help them stay close and look after each other.</p> <p><b>The indicators we will use to measure progress are:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The percentage of children “ready to start school” by being at the expected level at Early Years Foundation Stage</li> <li>• The percentage of children with good attendance at school</li> <li>• School achievement at age 11</li> <li>• Percentage of 16 -18 year olds not in education, employment or training (NEET)</li> <li>• The rate of delayed transfers from hospital care</li> <li>• Proportion of clients given self-directed support and/ or direct payments</li> <li>• The rate of volunteering in Dorset</li> </ul>	<p>Dorset's economy is <b>PROSPEROUS</b> </p> <p><b>A thriving local economy provides us all with more opportunities.</b></p> <p><i>But...</i> there are areas where there aren't as many jobs available or chances for young people to train at work and gain the valuable skills that employers need. Many people also struggle to find good quality, affordable housing.</p> <p>We want to help new businesses to thrive and existing businesses become more productive and efficient, taking advantage of the superfast fibre broadband that is now available in most of Dorset. To support that productivity, we want to plan communities well, reducing the need to travel while “keeping Dorset moving”, enabling people and goods to move about the county safely and efficiently.</p> <p><b>The indicators we will use to measure progress are:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The productivity of Dorset's businesses</li> <li>• Rate of start-ups of new business enterprises</li> <li>• Percentage of children gaining 5 or more GCSEs grade A* - C, including Maths and English</li> <li>• Percentage of residents educated to level 4 (or equivalent) and above</li> <li>• Ratio of lower quartile house prices to lower quartile earnings</li> <li>• Rates of uptake of superfast broadband</li> <li>• Employment levels</li> </ul>
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We are fair in balancing competing demands



We are clear and honest about what we're doing and why



We show full and proper respect to everyone we work with



We ensure local tax-payers get the best value for money



We find new ways of working to achieve more for local people

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## People and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held at County Hall, Colliton Park, Dorchester, Dorset, DT1 1XJ on Monday, 26 June 2017.

### Present:

David Walsh (Chairman)

Mary Penfold, Derek Beer, Graham Carr-Jones, Katharine Garcia, Ros Kayes, Andrew Parry, Byron Quayle and Clare Sutton.

### Members Attending

Rebecca Knox (Leader) and Deborah Croney (Cabinet Member for Economy, Education, Learning and Skills).

Officer Attending: Helen Coombes (Transformation Programme Lead for the Adult and Community Forward Together Programme), Steve Hedges (Group Finance Manager), Mark Taylor (Group Manager - Governance and Assurance) and Helen Whitby (Senior Democratic Services Officer).

### For certain items, as appropriate

Jay Mercer (Education Transformation Lead), John Alexander (Senior Assurance Manager - Performance), Harry Capron (Assistant Director - Adult Care), Chris Hook (Travel Operations Manager), Paul Leivers (Assistant Director - Early Help and Community Services), Jonathan Mair (Head of Organisational Development - Monitoring Officer), Patrick Myers (Assistant Director - Design and Development) and Sally Wernick (Strategic Lead for Safeguarding and Quality - Adults).

(Notes: 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 People and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be held on **Wednesday, 11 October 2017.**)

### **Apologies for Absence**

24 There were no apologies for absence received at the meeting.

### **Code of Conduct**

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

### **Terms of Reference**

26 The Committee considered its terms of reference. The Chairman reminded members that they had the ability to co-opt other members to join reviews and he had asked Councillor Kate Wheller to continue the work she had started on workforce capacity as a Committee member last year.

### **Minutes**

27 The minutes of the meeting held on 20 March 2017 were confirmed and signed.

## **Progress on Matters Raised at Previous Meetings**

- 28 The Committee considered a report by the Transformation Programme Lead for Adult and Community Forward Together Programme which updated them on actions arising from the last and previous meetings.

### **Noted**

## **Public Participation**

### 29 Public Speaking

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

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

## **Local Government Reform**

- 30 The Committee considered a report by the Chief Executive on proposals for the Council to be part of two joint committees, with other Dorset councils, to develop future governance arrangements and service provision across the County in order to support Local Government Reorganisation.

The Leader of the Council presented the report and reminded members of the submission to the Secretary of State for proposed changes to Local Government arrangements in Dorset, the purpose of the suggested joint Committees and their composition. She asked the Committee to consider an amendment to the report that the County Council's seats on the Joint Committee should be capped at six irrespective of the number of councils that could join at a later date. Members noted that the report would be considered by all councils in Dorset and this change would be conveyed to them in due course.

In response to a question, the political composition and proportionality for the Joint Committee was clarified by the Head of Organisational Development, as the Monitoring Officer.

Councillor David Jones addressed the Committee on behalf of the County Council's Christchurch members about their concern for Christchurch being linked with Bournemouth and Poole. They were prepared to support the County Council having two members on the East Joint Committee but he suggested that the two seats be taken by Councillors from Christchurch electoral divisions. In proposing this representation, the Christchurch members reserved and confirmed their rights to oppose Option 2B in respect of Local Government Reorganisation. He did not think that County Council representatives would represent Christchurch residents' views on the Joint Committee and he questioned the wording in the report. In response, the Leader of the Council acknowledged that the wording had led to some misunderstanding. There was no intention for County Council representatives on the Joint Committee to represent Christchurch views. The wording should say that the County Council would only represent Christchurch residents because of the services they were receiving from the Council, not as individuals. There was no intention of County Councillors to act on behalf of the Borough Council. Councillor Jones thanked the Leader for her clarification and would report this to his Christchurch colleagues.

It was clarified that Christchurch Borough Councillors would be invited to join the Joint Committee.

The Committee was asked to comment on the report from the County Council's perspective. It was recognised that dual hatted members would also have an opportunity to comment at their District and Borough Council meetings.



### **Resolved (unanimously)**

1. That the proposal to establish two Joint Committees with other Councils across Dorset to support the development of the Future Dorset proposal for Local Government Reorganisation, aiming to deliver sustainable services across Dorset for the future be supported.
2. That the membership of the proposed Joint Committees with the County Council's seats being capped at six, irrespective of the number of councils that could join at a later date be supported.
3. That the minute of the meeting be referred to County Council, to inform the decision to join the Joint Committees and make appointments as appropriate.

### **Reason for Decision**

To enable Dorset County Council to form part of the governance arrangements that would support the progress of local government reform in Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole as part of the Future Dorset Submission made to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in February 2017.

### **Dorset Education Performance 2016: Self Evaluation**

- 31 The Committee considered a report by the Corporate Director for Children and Adults and Communities on the self-assessment of Dorset's Education Performance in 2016.

The Assistant Director - Prevention and Partnerships presented the report and highlighted the national context, reductions in the education support grant, the Council's responsibility for school improvement for local authority maintained schools and academies and the timing of school assessments, exams and results. He then referred to the outcomes for the different key stage areas highlighting particular areas of disappointing performance and the contradiction between performance and Ofsted inspection results.

Members discussed the report in detail, were concerned and disappointed about the current situation and agreed that a review was necessary. They asked whether poor attainment was linked to social and economic disadvantage, how schools who were not performing well were supported, current funding arrangements, the effect on figures of pupils living in Dorset and attending selective education, whether successful schools could be used to help under-performers and whether the Council was putting pressure on Central Government with regard to funding allocations. The Cabinet Member for Economy, Education, Learning and Skills assured members that Government was being lobbied by many councils with regard to funding and the lack of any indication as to future funding levels made planning difficult. She welcomed a review and indicated a couple of areas that any review might include. She was concerned that the limited resources available should be targeted to best effect to improve current performance.

The Committee agreed that an Inquiry Day should be held to undertake the review, that interested parties be invited to take part and that it should be held in Autumn 2017 after the latest provisional examination results were known. It was agreed that Councillor David Walsh would act as Lead Member supported by Councillors Ros Kayes and Kate Wheller. The Cabinet Member for Economy, Education, Learning and Skills would be kept informed of progress.

### **Resolved**

1. That a review of pupil and school performance and school improvement work be undertaken.
2. That Councillor David Walsh would act as Lead member and be supported by Councillors Ros Kayes and Kate Weller. The Lead Member and Leader Officer would meet to progress the review by way of an Inquiry Day to be held in the Autumn.
3. That Councillor Deborah Croney, Cabinet Member for Economy, Education, Learning and Skills, be kept informed of progress.

### **Special Educational Needs Budget**

- 32 The Committee considered a scoping report for a review of the Special Educational Needs Budget. The item had been highlighted for a possible review at a previous meeting in order for members to understand it and the pressures involved. A half day review was suggested with interested parties being invited to take part.

There was some discussion about the role of the County Council and the Schools Forum in allocating funds and members noted that the reducing funds were being used to support increasing numbers of children. In view of the Committee's role to scrutinise areas of financial challenge, members agreed to progress the review. This would be led by Councillor David Walsh, supported by Councillor Ros Kayes. They would meet with the Lead Officer to progress the review.

#### **Resolved**

1. That a half day review be organised to look at the Special Educational Needs Budget.
2. That Councillor David Walsh would act as Lead Member for the review, supported by Councillor Ros Kayes.

### **Draft Annual Report 2016-17**

- 33 The Committee considered its first Draft Annual Report.

#### **Resolved**

That the Draft Annual Report be published.

### **Corporate Plan**

- 34 The Committee considered a report by the Transformation Programme Lead for Adult and Community Forward Together Programme on the Draft Corporate Plan.

The Draft Plan was based on the four corporate outcomes that the Overview and Scrutiny Committees were designed to monitor.

This year's version was more evidence related and measurable, and was supported by population indicators in order to be able to demonstrate whether or not outcomes were improving. A foreword by the Leader and Chief Executive was to be added. Performance measures to measure the County Council's own specific impact on outcomes were being developed and would be presented to the Committee's meeting in October 2017, along with delivery strategies for the "Healthy" and "Independent" outcomes.

Members discussed the role of organisations to support the Corporate Plan and its aim to improve outcomes for residents, tools available to ensure organisations played their part, the role of scrutiny to review local issues in a timely way, and how inequalities in life expectancy rates and the increasing number of people living with diabetes might be better understood and addressed.

Attention was drawn to the Outcomes Tracker which members could access through Dorset for You to gain up to date outcome data.. Members could be given further details on request.

The Transformation Programme Lead for Adult and Community Forward Together Programme reminded members that they needed to be mindful of the Corporate Plan and the Council's financial pressures when identifying and prioritising issues for review.

#### **Recommended**

That the Draft Corporate Plan be recommended to the Cabinet and the County

Council for adoption.

#### Reason for Recommendation

The 2017-18 Corporate Plan provided an overarching strategic framework for monitoring progress towards good outcomes for Dorset. The Overview and Scrutiny committees provided corporate governance and performance monitoring arrangements so that progress against the corporate plan could be monitored effectively.

### **Race and Hate Crime**

35 The Committee considered a scoping report for a review into Race and Hate Crime, which had previously been identified by the Committee as an area for review.

Although there had been an increase in incidents of race and hate crime at the time the issue was identified, this had been a temporary blip. However, members were asked to consider whether to progress the review given recent events. This would provide an opportunity to look at action in Dorset to minimise incidents, partnership working, and support provided for victims. Any review might also consider incidents concerning the disabled or those with mental health issues. A half day review was suggested with the Police, schools, the Islamic Centre and others being invited to participate.

Some members were aware of some incidents within their electoral divisions, and others had found no evidence of such crime. They discussed whether there was benefit in carrying out the review. In view of the recent incidents nationally, the under-reporting of incidents and to show that members were keen to understand the local situation, it was agreed that the review should proceed as suggested and other members should be invited to take part to share their experience.

Members were informed that Dorset's Police and Crime Commissioner was concerned about incidents of race and hate crime and officers would liaise with him about the review.

#### Resolved

1. That a half day review of race and hate crime be undertaken.
2. That Councillor Clare Sutton be Lead Member, supported by Councillor David Walsh.
3. That officers liaise with the Police and Crime Commissioner about the review.

### **Workforce Capacity**

36 The Committee considered a scoping report for a review of workforce issues.

Members noted that workforce issues affected both Adult and Children's Services and provided additional budget pressures for both Directorates. The review linked to the financial efficiency of the County Council and future demand on foster care. It was suggested that the review focus on retention and recruitment. This could include looking at the possible effects of Brexit, external initiatives, multi-agency action, what worked well and what was not working, The review would help officers better manage the budget in future.

The Committee recognised the importance of the review and that it would require several meetings to complete. It was agreed that a working group be established to undertake the review and that Councillor Ros Kayes would act as Lead Member with Councillor Kate Wheller in support.

#### Resolved

1. That a review be undertaken.
2. That Councillor Ros Kayes act as Lead Member with support from Councillor Kate

Wheller.

### **Social Inclusion**

37 The Committee considered a scoping report for the review of social inclusion previously identified by them as an area for review.

The report set out a suggested way of undertaking the review, using the areas of Beaminster and Blandford to try to understand them in order to identify what might be rolled out in other areas. Given the recent changes to the Committee's membership following the election, members' support for the review was sought. Councillor David Walsh had previously been identified as Lead Member.

Members noted that the review would consider social inclusion across all age ranges and that Young Researchers would be used to gain young people's views.

With regard to how surveys were conducted and whether results gave a true reflection, officers agreed to look at response rates and sample sizes.

Links between social isolation, deprivation, loneliness and community transport were highlighted, and a lack of information about the Weymouth and Portland area.

#### **Resolved**

1. That the review continue as set out in the report.
2. That the Group comprise Councillors David Walsh (Lead Member), Derek Beer and Andrew Parry.

### **Review of Community Transport**

38 The Committee considered a briefing report which was provided as Community Transport had been identified previously as an area for review.

Members were reminded that the Audit and Scrutiny Committee had reviewed Community Transport in 2014 and its recommendations had been implemented. Officers were now working with communities to look at alternative provision, and with local Transport Action Groups, operators and the Clinical Commissioning Group to explore options.

Many local members had experience of transport issues within their electoral divisions and supported this approach as a means of addressing cuts to services. They suggested that a press release be issued, particularly for rural areas, to explain how community transport could fill gaps in provision.

With regard to whether operators were coming forward to run routes, it was explained that tenders for inter-urban routes were to be submitted by that day. However, communities did need to come forward with ideas for provision within their areas and it was noted that there had been few responses from East Dorset.

Approaches to community transport being taken in Bridport, Weymouth and Portland were highlighted as well as the need to support local towns and their businesses. Attention was drawn to changes to school arrangements on Portland from September 2017 and that no transport plan had been put in place for this

It was agreed that a review be undertaken by way of an inquiry day, with Councillor Derek Beer acting as Lead Member supported by Councillors Andrew Parry and Mary Penfold.

#### **Resolved**

1. That a review of Community Transport be undertaken by way of an Inquiry day by a group comprising Councillors Derek Beer (Lead Member), Andrew Parry and Mary

Penfold.

2. That officers consider issuing a press release, particularly for rural areas, to explain how community transport could fill gaps in provision.

### **Quality and Cost of Care**

39 The Committee received an update on actions taken following the Inquiry Day into the Quality and Cost of Care held in February 2017.

Members noted that key issues related to work force recruitment and retention, the increasing complexity of the care that was needed, that people were increasingly funding their own care and how this affected the viability of care packages. The Committee had already established a group to look at workforce issues and had added a review of the Better Care Fund to its work programme. An invitation had been issued to members from a care provider to visit a care home and many were keen to do this.

With regard to recent press articles indicating that a number of small care providers were going out of business and how this was impacting on the County Council's provision of care, it was explained that nationally there was a shortage of nursing and skilled staff and this meant that some smaller providers could not sustain their business. Locally work was ongoing across organisations to try to assist providers to facilitate staff retention and address capacity issues. With the increasing complexity of cases it was likely that more nursing care would be needed in future and this needed to be taken into account when future capacity was being considered.

Attention was drawn to recent press coverage of BUPA care homes and members noted that there were three in Dorset, all rated Good by the Care Quality Commission. These were regularly monitored by the County Council.

Members were reminded that other councillors could be invited to take part in reviews, not just members of the Committee, The possibility of using Sharepoint to inform members about reviews being undertaken was suggested.

### **Noted**

### **Work Programme**

40 The Committee considered its current work programme for 2017-18.

The Chairman referred to items still to be scheduled for review and stated that he would lead the Delayed Transfers of Care review to be undertaken in January 2018 and that Councillor Mary Penfold would lead the Mental Health review, supported by Councillor Derek Beer.

Members were referred to the chart included in the work programme report which could be used to prioritise items for review.

### **Noted**

### **Questions from County Councillors**

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

Meeting Duration: 11.15 am - 1.50 pm

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# County Council

## Dorset County Council



Date of Meeting	People and Communities Committee - 26 <sup>th</sup> June 2017
Officer	Debbie Ward, Chief Executive
Subject of Report	<b>Governance arrangements to support local government reform – Joint Committee Proposal</b>
Executive Summary	This report asks members to consider proposals to be part of two joint committees, with other Dorset councils to develop future governance arrangements and service provision across the County. This is intended to support structured and informed progress towards Local Government Reorganisation, as set out in the Future Dorset proposal agreed at the County Council meeting in January 2017 and submitted to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in February 2017.
Impact Assessment:	<p>Equalities Impact Assessment: An initial pan-Dorset EqIA was completed to support the Future Dorset proposal and can be found at Appendix 2 this will be refreshed following a decision from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, this could be a “minded to” or full decision.</p>
	<p>Use of Evidence: The standard report attached at Appendix 1 has been developed in partnership by Dorset Monitoring Officers</p>
	<p>Budget: In the report considered by Full Council on the 26<sup>th</sup> January it was resolved:</p> <p><i>That the Chief Executive be authorised, after consultation with the Leader, to work with other councils that support the same option for reorganisation to develop and implement appropriate plans and allocate appropriate resources to progress local government change in Dorset</i></p> <p>To date, as Christchurch, East Dorset and Purbeck councils resolved not to support submission of the Future Dorset proposal, a formula has been developed between Chief Finance Officers to divide up costs accordingly between the remaining six councils.</p>

A report to consider governance arrangements for local government reform

	<p>Risk Assessment:</p> <p>Having considered the risks associated with this decision using the County Council's approved risk management methodology, the level of risk has been identified as:  Current Risk: MEDIUM  Residual Risk MED</p>
<p>Recommendation</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That this Committee consider the proposal to establish two Joint Committees with other Councils across Dorset to support the development of the Future Dorset proposal for Local Government Reorganisation, aiming to deliver sustainable services across Dorset for the future.</li> <li>2. That this Committee consider the proposed membership of the proposed Joint Committees.</li> <li>3. That this Committee confirms the outcomes of its consideration as comments to be referred to County Council, to inform the decision to join the Joint Committees and make appointments as appropriate.</li> </ol>
<p>Reason for Recommendation</p>	<p>To enable Dorset County Council to form part of the governance arrangements that will support the progress of local government reform in Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole as part of the Future Dorset Submission made to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in February 2017.</p>
<p>Appendices</p>	<p>Appendix 1: Draft County Council Report. July 2017. A report to consider local government reform in Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole.  Appendix 2: Initial pan-Dorset EqIA developed January 2017</p>
<p>Background Papers</p>	<p>DCC County Council Reports, Exploring options for the future local government in Poole, Bournemouth and Dorset</p>
<p>Officer Contact</p>	<p>Name: Debbie Ward  Tel: 01305 224195  Email: <a href="mailto:D.Ward@dorsetcc.gov.uk">D.Ward@dorsetcc.gov.uk</a></p>



## **1. Background**

- 1.1 Following decisions taken by Dorset County Council, West and North Dorset District Councils and Weymouth and Portland Borough Council, Bournemouth Borough Council and Borough of Poole in January this year; a submission proposing reorganisation for local government in Dorset “Future Dorset” was made to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in February 2017.
- 1.2 It had been expected that there would be a decision, most likely to be a “Minded to” rather than “full” in late March. This was not received and no decision has since been possible, with the County Council and General Elections being held. The Future Dorset submission presents a plan to achieve structural change to Local Government by April 2019, to support the future of sustainable services across the County.
- 1.3 To achieve this timetable and maintain the ambition to secure sustainable services across the County joint development needs to take place. To achieve this in a timely and considered way it is proposed that two new joint committees are established with membership from each of the Authorities who have supported The Future Dorset submission, with the opportunity for each of the Authorities who have not, to consider being part of the joint committee structure, should they wish to do so.

## **2. Joint Committees – The Rationale**

- 2.1 The Case for Change considered by the County Council in January 2017 articulated significant opportunities to transform services for our communities through the creation of two new local authorities. The timetable to achieve this has been agreed for April 2019 and if this is to be achieved, there needs to be a method of working that will allow members from partner authorities to work together to plan for this transformation.
- 2.2 The mechanics for setting up the new authorities by March 2019, are significant and to make them achievable it is being proposed that two joint committees are established to carry out preparation and planning prior to the Implementation Executive. The work would include considering difficult questions relating to Council Tax harmonisation and beginning to establish a medium term financial plan for each new authority. It is proposed that it also include:
  - Agreement of a model and process for disaggregation of services and budgets.
  - Agreement of a model and process for Council Tax harmonisation.
  - Authority to request a boundary review.
  - Authority to agree an electoral scheme.
  - Authority to respond to consultation on the content of orders to be made by the Secretary of State, including the new unitary authority name.
  - For the Dorset area to agree a double devolution offer to parish and town councils.

2.3 Whatever the future of local government structures in Dorset, this is an opportunity for all councils to work collaboratively and to consider future operating models and approaches to delivering valued public services against a background of declining resources. It will also provide a valuable forum for agreeing how to deal with current challenges and consider appropriate vehicles for community involvement in decision making processes, such as looking at area board type arrangements. The work would include close working with town and parish councils, as effective development of devolved working is essential across the Dorset area.

As set out in the Case for Change the geographies covered by the proposed joint committees closely reflects the way in which Dorset operates as an entity and the differing needs between the conurbation and the county area. A joint committee would provide the forum in which the potential opportunities to improve the area for our residents collectively can be explored, such as:

- Improved transport links
- Consistent policies
- Improving health and well-being
- Developing a more attractive climate for businesses
- Matching skills requirements to the local economy
- Enhancing our natural environment
- Working across Public Services
- Delivery of the Sustainability and Transformation Plan

With representatives from across the councils the ambition is to develop a jointly owned, participative environment in which strengths, experience and expertise can be shared for the benefit of the whole of Dorset.

Working collaboratively to find solutions to current challenges will strengthen all council's abilities to deal with the on-going challenge of less finance and increased demand on services. It is thought that putting community decision making at the heart of this process, regardless of any decision by government on reorganisation, will improve the conversation and decisions we take collectively as councils in Dorset in the future.

### **3. Joint Committees - The Proposal**

3.1 The details of the joint committees and the proposed membership is set out in full at Appendix 1 and aims to mirror what an Implementation Executive is likely to be. Appendix 1 is in the form of a draft report for County Council and its contents is the same as that which will be included in reports to be considered by each of the other authorities considering the establishment of the joint committees. The joint committees would work to develop the arrangements for the new authorities, should they be agreed, but have no formal decision making powers for the establishment of new authorities until the creation of an Implementation Executive. This would only come into existence once the statutory order is made; which may now not be until late Spring/early Summer 2018.

3.2 In summary the proposal will be to establish two joint committees to reflect the two new authorities proposed in the Future Dorset submission:

## A report to consider governance arrangements for local government reform

For the Dorset area it is proposed that the initial membership of the joint committee should comprise 2 members from each of North Dorset District Council, West Dorset District Council and Weymouth and Portland Borough Council, and 6 members for DCC, reflecting the risk and service responsibility for each geographic area. There would be provision to increase this further should a decision be made by East Dorset District Council and/or Purbeck District Council to wish to be part of this joint committee, with 2 members from each of these authorities and the County Council. This would lead to a maximum membership of the joint committee of 20 members.

For Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole it is proposed that the initial membership of the joint committee should comprise 8 members from Bournemouth Borough Council and 6 members from the Borough of Poole, with provision to add 2 members from Christchurch Borough Council should that Council choose to re-engage with the Future Dorset proposal and 2 members from Dorset County Council (to address the issue of disaggregation only).

In the event that Christchurch Borough Council takes a decision not to re-engage with the Future Dorset proposal, Dorset County Council will represent the Christchurch residents on the joint committee with a membership of 2, negating the need for 2 additional Dorset County Council members.

- 3.3 It is expected that the two joint committees are established to carry out preparation and planning prior to the Implementation Executive, and that its work will enable a smooth transition to those new arrangements, should local government reorganisation take place.

### **4. Nominations Process**

- 4.1 Each sovereign council will need to approve a nominations process suitable for their council's political make-up and reflecting the need for politically proportional representation.
- 4.2 The County Council is required to nominate members for both joint committees. This would be up to 10 members, for the Dorset Joint Committee to match the 2 district councillors from each of the potential five district councils involved. At the time of writing the report only three district councils had supported the Future Dorset submission and therefore the County Council would need to nominate 6 members. A further 2 members would need to be nominated for the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Joint Committee.

### **5. Next steps**

- 5.1 Should those councils who did not take part in the Future Dorset submission accept an invitation to take part in this joint committee, they too will consider this standard report and would each be asked to nominate 2 members to the relevant joint committee.

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# Appendix 1

July 2017

## **A report to consider governance arrangements for local government reorganisation in Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole**

### **1. Purpose of the Report**

The purpose of this report is to enable sovereign councils to consider proposed governance arrangements through which they can oversee work towards local government reorganisation in Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole whilst awaiting a minded to decision from the Secretary of State.

The report recognises that three of the nine councils have decided not to support the submission of a case for the creation of new councils. It provides them with an opportunity to take stock and consider whether they wish, through participation in a joint committee, to be able to influence the work being undertaken to prepare for any new unitary council.

### **2. Recommendation**

That this Council agrees to the establishment of a Joint Committee with the functions set out in the terms of reference at Appendix A / B (delete as appropriate) to this report.

### **3. Background**

During January this year all nine councils in Dorset considered a report which recommended that councils support the submission of a proposal to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government requesting that the existing nine county, district and unitary councils should be replaced by two new councils based upon the following local authority boundaries:

- A) Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole, plus the services currently provided by Dorset County Council in this area
- B) East Dorset, North Dorset, Purbeck, West Dorset, Weymouth and Portland, plus the services currently provided by Dorset County Council in this area.

Six of the nine councils resolved to support this proposal and a “Future Dorset” submission was subsequently presented to the Secretary of State, with a “minded to” decision expected late March 2017. Christchurch Borough Council, East Dorset District Council and Purbeck District Council resolved not to support the proposal.

Alongside the submission to the Secretary of State the six Leaders whose councils support the proposal established the Future Dorset Board. Up until this point local government reorganisation had been discussed by all nine Leaders, with their deputies in attendance, during Leaders and Chief Executives meetings. However, with three councils resolving not to support the proposal, the Future Dorset Board provided a new forum in which to progress associated work with the proposal.

On the 18<sup>th</sup> April 2017 it was announced unexpectedly that there would be a general election on June 8<sup>th</sup>. As a result officers were advised by DCLG that they should not expect any decision from the Secretary of State before the summer recess. This prompted the Future Dorset Board to consider what governance arrangements should be put in place locally to oversee work in anticipation of a “minded to” decision and ahead of a legal order to be made by the Secretary of State.

The Future Dorset Leaders have recognised that each of the other three councils have made their own sovereign decisions not to support Future Dorset. They have though also maintained communication with Christchurch, East Dorset and Purbeck councils to ensure that they are aware of ongoing work.

The preference of the Future Dorset Leaders is that all councils, irrespective of whether they oppose the formation of new councils, should have the opportunity to influence plans being made in anticipation of and in preparation for local government change.

A report previously considered by the Future Dorset Board exploring options was therefore presented to all nine Leaders at a meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> May.

The report provided the Leaders of Christchurch, East Dorset and Purbeck councils with an opportunity to consider whether their councils should engage in work in readiness for local government change within a joint committee arrangement.

No individual Leaders could commit their councils to participate in a joint committee. There was though a general willingness to put the issue before sovereign councils to decide for themselves (notwithstanding the opposition of some to the principle of new councils) whether they should be part of a joint committee arrangement through which they would be able to exercise influence over work to prepare for any new council.

#### **4. Governance**

In light of the announcement of the general election and a subsequent delay of the minded to decision, Future Dorset Monitoring Officers met to consider possible next steps and how, within a shortened timeframe, new councils could be implemented in the most efficient and effective way.

Monitoring Officers have advised and Chief Executives agree that the establishment of two joint committees would provide a means through which councils could work together to prepare themselves for a “minded to decision” and a legal order by the Secretary of State beginning the formal move towards new councils.

If full council meetings in July were to agree to establish joint committees then this would allow sufficient time for initial meetings, perhaps informal, to take place over the summer.

It is suggested that ahead of a ‘minded to’ decision an informal first meeting or workshop could concentrate upon establishing a clear vision, priorities and a work programme. This would provide officers with clear direction and enable some progress to be made.

#### **5. Objectives and decision making**

It is anticipated that a structural change order to be made by the Secretary of State will prescribe arrangements in the Dorset area and arrangements in the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole area to implement each new council. These arrangements will involve councillors representing each of the existing councils.

Based upon previous local government structural change orders Monitoring Officers have advised upon terms of reference and membership for joint committees which anticipate and support arrangements we expect to be prescribed by the Secretary of State in the later establishment of Shadow Authorities. This would provide continuity between any locally agreed arrangements and arrangements prescribed by the Secretary of State.

Suggested terms of reference and membership for each joint committee are appended to this report.

#### **6. Commentary on the terms of reference and membership**

The very first of the terms of reference states the role of the Joint Committees as being:

“To identify and promote collaborative and joint working between Councils”

This is important in that irrespective of local government reorganisation the Joint Committees provide a member forum for collaboration and joint working across councils.

When the Secretary of State makes any structural change order the central purpose will be described in terms of taking steps to prepare for the transfer of the functions, property, rights and liabilities of the existing councils to new councils. It is suggested that this purpose needs to be replicated in the joint committee arrangements.

Anticipating and replicating governance arrangements to be prescribed by the Secretary of State in a Structural Change order has been an important part of the work of the Monitoring Officers. By reviewing past Structural Change Orders the Monitoring Officers have been able to design proposed terms of reference and membership for the joint committees which mirror the arrangements to be prescribed by DCLG in any next phase of governance (i.e. the Implementation Executives/Shadow Authorities).

It is open to councils to agree to form joint committees with quite different membership arrangements from those which will be prescribed by DCLG but in doing so we would lose consistency between the joint committees and the Implementation Executives/Shadow Authorities which succeed them. The shortened timeline for implementation make the speed and efficiency of this transition more important than ever. Consistency between the phases of governance will be critical.

Like the arrangements to be prescribed by the Secretary of State the function of each joint committee is to undertake work in preparation for new councils taking the place of existing councils. The third suggested term of reference reflects the fact that councils will be working together in advance of prescribed arrangements and so the joint committees are each described as the forum in which councils will cooperate with each other to secure the early, economic, effective, efficient and timely transfer of functions etc.

At their meeting on 12 April 2017 the Leaders considered a report from Monitoring Officers on the process for the appointment of Chief Executives as an important and early decision in preparation for any new council. Monitoring Officers are progressing work to secure access for Leaders to independent external advice on the options open to them. Whilst the proposed terms of reference for each joint committee include agreeing a process for the appointment of a Chief Executive, it is important to note that the actual decision will not be made by either joint committee.



Other details in the terms of reference include:

- Agreement of a model and process for disaggregation of services and budgets.
- Agreement of a model and process for council tax harmonisation.
- Authority to request a boundary review.
- Authority to agree an electoral scheme.
- Authority to respond to consultation on the content of orders to be made by the Secretary of State, including the new authority name.
- For the Dorset area to agree a double devolution offer to parish and town councils.

For the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole area it is proposed that the initial membership of the joint committee should comprise 8 members from Bournemouth Borough Council, 6 members from the Borough of Poole, 2 members from Christchurch Borough Council and 2 members from Dorset County Council (to address the issue of disaggregation only).

In the event that Christchurch Borough Council does not agree to re-engage with the Future Dorset proposal, Dorset County Council will represent Christchurch residents on the Joint Committee with a membership of 2, who would also address the issue of disaggregation, negating the need for 2 additional Dorset County Council members.

For the Dorset area it is proposed that the initial membership of the joint committee should comprise 2 members from each of North Dorset District Council, West Dorset District Council and Weymouth and Portland Borough Council and 6 members from Dorset County Council. Again there would be provision to increase this further should a decision be made by East Dorset District Council and/or Purbeck District Council to re-engage with Future Dorset.

The representation on the Dorset area Joint Committee is intended to reflect the budget and service risk and recognises the representation anticipated to be required through any Structural Change Order to be made through DCLG.

If LGR does not go ahead, the joint committees will perform an equally important function in providing a forum for councils to discuss further partnership working. A clause is included to the Dorset area joint committee terms of reference to make provision for the committee to 'act as the forum within which the district councils and the county council consult and co-operate with each other in order to secure the economic, effective, efficient and timely transfer of functions, property, rights and liabilities'.

## **7. Member engagement and scrutiny**

Even with a joint committee for the Dorset area of between 12 and 20 members and for the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole area of 15 or 17 members there will still be a very significant number of councillors outside of the formal joint committee arrangements.

Monitoring officers have considered options to ensure that all members have an opportunity to engage. The terms of reference for each joint committee therefore include an expectation that they will commission other councillors to carry out work on a task and finish basis. Not only will this build member engagement but it is also a reflection of the size of the task and that the joint committees alone cannot do all that is needed to prepare to establish two new councils.

## Appendix A – Dorset Area Joint Committee

### Purpose

1. To identify and promote collaborative and joint working between Councils
2. To take steps to prepare for the transfer of the functions, property, rights and liabilities of the district councils and the county council to a new Dorset Council including the preparation of an implementation plan
3. To act as the forum within which the district councils and the county council consult and co-operate with each other in order to secure the economic, effective, efficient and timely transfer of functions, property, rights and liabilities
4. To identify and establish early design principles that assist shape the development of the new Council and relevant staffing models
5. To ensure that councillors are kept fully briefed and engaged in establishing a new Dorset Council
6. To oversee the development and delivery of a comprehensive communications and engagement strategy that address the requirements of councillors, staff, local partners and wider stakeholders
7. To agree and monitor relevant finance associated to issues of transition and transformation
8. To monitor risks associated to the establishment of a new Dorset Council
9. To monitor the development of early enabling strategies including, but not limited to, organisational design process and principles, ICT, digital transformation, medium term finance, organisational development and assets
10. To identify and approve a policy framework and thereafter monitor the introduction of draft policy statements (including supporting procedures ) relevant to the required statutory compliance of the new Council
11. To liaise with relevant internal and external auditors and ensure their focus supports the development of the new Dorset Council
12. To agree a process for the appointment of a Chief Executive and make a recommendation on the appointment of a new Chief Executive to the new authority
13. To agree a model and process for disaggregation in respect of the provision of Services provided by Dorset County Council to Christchurch communities
14. To examine options and agree a model and process for council tax harmonisation
15. To request a boundary review
16. To agree an electoral scheme
17. To respond to consultation on the content of Orders, for example the new authority name

18. To take a decision on any required consents
19. To carry out any other tasks where Member engagement is necessary
20. To promote joint work with town and parish councils to identify and plan for the most effective governance and delivery arrangement for local public services

### Membership

- 6 Members from Dorset County Council
- 2 Members from Weymouth and Portland Borough Council
- 2 Members from North Dorset District Council
- 2 Members from West Dorset District Council
- The provision to increase this further (4 additional from Dorset County Council, 2 from East Dorset District Council and 2 from Purbeck District Council) should a decision be taken by these Councils to re-engage with the Future Dorset proposal
- Each member will nominate a named substitute who will have the same rights as the member whose place they are substituting. The named substitute should not affect political proportionality.

Note – if political proportionality was to be applied it is anticipated that on the current numbers a joint committee would comprise 4 Conservative representatives and 2 Labour/Liberal Democrat from the Districts (WPBC, NDDC, WDDC) and 4 Conservative and 2 Liberal Democrat representatives from the County. (With eight county councillors this would change to 6 Conservative and 2 Liberal Democrat, with 10 county councillors this would change to 7 Conservative and 2 Liberal Democrats and 1 Green.

### Quorum

- The Joint Committee shall be quorate if 50% +1 of the members are present

## **Appendix B – Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Area Joint Committee**

### Purpose

1. To identify and promote collaborative and joint working between Councils
2. To take steps to prepare for the transfer of the functions, property, rights and liabilities of Bournemouth Borough Council, Christchurch Borough Council and the Borough of Poole councils and the relevant functions, property, rights and liabilities of Dorset County Council to a new council including the preparation of an implementation plan
3. To act as the forum within which existing councils consult and co-operate with each other in order to secure the economic, effective, efficient and timely transfer of functions, property, rights and liabilities
4. To identify and establish early design principles that assist shape the development of the new Council and relevant staffing models
5. To ensure that councillors are kept fully briefed and engaged in establishing a new Council
6. To oversee the development and delivery of a comprehensive communications and engagement strategy that address the requirements of councillors, staff, local partners and wider stakeholders
7. To agree and monitor relevant finance associated to issues of transition and transformation
8. To monitor risks associated to the establishment of a new Council
9. To monitor the development of early enabling strategies including, but not limited to, organisational design process and principles, ICT, digital transformation, medium term finance, organisational development and assets
10. To identify and approve a policy framework and thereafter monitor the introduction of draft policy statements (including supporting procedures) relevant to the required statutory compliance of the new Council
11. To liaise with relevant internal and external auditors and ensure their focus supports the development of the new Council
12. To agree a process for the appointment of a Chief Executive and make a recommendation on the appointment of a new Chief Executive to the new Council
13. To agree a model and process for disaggregation
14. To agree a model and process for council tax harmonisation
15. To request a boundary review
16. To agree an electoral scheme
17. To respond to consultation on the content of Orders, for example the new authority name
18. To take a decision on any required consents

19. To carry out any other tasks where Member engagement is necessary

### Membership

- 8 Members from Bournemouth Borough Council
- 6 Members from Poole Borough Council
- 2 Members from Christchurch Borough Council (should a decision be taken by Christchurch Borough Council to re-engage with the Future Dorset proposal)
- 2 County Councillors (to address the question of disaggregation only)

In the event that Christchurch Borough Council does not re-engage with the Future Dorset proposal then Dorset County Council will represent Christchurch residents on the Joint Committee with a membership of 2, who would also address the issue of disaggregation, negating the need for 2 additional Dorset County Council members.

Each member will nominate a named substitute who will have the same rights as the member whose place they are substituting. The named substitute should not affect political proportionality.

For South East Dorset, democratic services would carry out a calculation to ensure that Membership was representative as will be expected within the Order.

### Quorum

- The Joint Committee shall be quorate if 50% +1 of the members are present.

# Equality Impact Needs Assessment



Page 79

Title	Exploring the options for the reorganisation of local authorities in Bournemouth, Poole and Dorset
Service(s) under analysis	All functions and services provided by all nine Dorset councils: Borough of Poole, Bournemouth Borough Council, Christchurch Borough Council, Dorset County Council, East Dorset District Council, North Dorset District Council, , Purbeck District Council, West Dorset District Council and Weymouth and Portland Borough Council.
Lead Responsible Officers	<p>Chief Executives of all nine councils</p> <p>Borough of Poole (BoP) - Andrew Flockhart          Bournemouth Borough Council (BBC) - Tony Williams          Christchurch and East Dorset Partnership (CEDP) - David McIntosh          Dorset County Council (DCC) - Debbie Ward          North Dorset District Council, West Dorset District Council and Weymouth &amp; Portland Borough Council (DCP) - Matt Prosser          Purbeck District Council (PDC) - Steve Mackenzie</p>
Members of the Assessment Team:	<p>Beverly Elliott – Organisational Development Co-ordinator(CEDP)          Daniel Biggs – Strategic Communities and Equalities Officer (BoP)          Rebecca Murphy – Research and Policy Officer (DCC)          Sam Johnson – Equality and Diversity Manager (BBC)          Sue Joyce – General Manager Resources (PDC)          Susan Ward-Rice – Community Development Team Leader (DCP)</p>

Date assessment started:	27 <sup>th</sup> October 2016
Date assessment completed:	15 <sup>th</sup> December 2016

## About the Policy/Service/Project:

<p>Type of policy</p> <p>The potential to re-organise the structure of local government in Dorset will affect all nine existing councils.</p> <p>This Equality Impact Needs Assessment (EINA) considers the high-level equality implications of the 4 potential local government re-organisation options in Dorset that have been subject to consultation. It is for each of the Dorset councils to take strategic policy decisions based on their understanding of the quality and sustainability of each option. This EINA forms part of the evidence pack from which councils will review the considerations that emerge from the public consultation report, financial analysis and wider case for change. If the decision to move to 2 unitary authorities is taken, a change of such magnitude will undoubtedly impact on service delivery and by association impact residents, communities and members of staff. The merits of the various options must pay 'due regard' to the equality impacts of any decision formed as the basis for future public policy.</p> <p>Option 1 has been referred to as the no change option, as the number of councils and the areas covered by them will not change, however, it is clear that this option would also require significant transformational change in order to deliver the level of budget cuts required over the coming years. This EINA has not focused on this option as the existing organisations already have in place their own equality processes and will address each potential policy change as appropriate. At this stage the EINA has focused on Options 2a, 2b and 2c, which have the potential to change the number of councils from 9, down to 2 unitary councils, with resulting changes to the geographical areas covered by the new organisations. The EINA has focused on very high level potential impacts resulting from: the changes to the areas covered by each of the councils, which will change the demographic make up to the communities each unitary will be serving; the potential impact of moving from two tiers of local councils to one; and some potential transformational changes.</p>
<p>Conclusion of this review</p> <p>PWC's case for change report and Opinion Research Services' (ORS) consultation report do not present any issues which would be considered unlawful from an equalities perspective.</p> <p>The equalities group have undertaken a very high level assessment of potential equality impacts that might result from adoption of Options 2a, 2b or 2c and again have not identified any issues which would be considered unlawful from an equalities perspective.</p> <p>As nothing has been identified as potentially unlawful the equalities duty has been met.</p>



## What are the aims/objectives of the policy

The proposed options for change to council structures is intended to provide a sustainable model that is most effective to deliver services in line with the reducing funding levels year on year.

The current configuration of councils under a No Change scenario are projected to have aggregate budget gaps in each of the years from 2019/20 to 2024/25 which would require total savings of approximately £30m to be found.

There is the potential to save annually circa £28 million by the creation of two unitary councils.

It should also be noted that bringing services together under unitary authorities can be expected to present opportunities to remodel services to produce transformational savings that might not otherwise be achievable.<sup>1</sup>

Four options were considered: Option 1 no change; and Options 2a, 2b, and 2c based on the creation of two unitary councils.

The consultation information produced by ORS sets out the following key features of each option

### Option 1 – No change

This option does not require an EINA as it will not result in any changes to existing policies as an immediate outcome to the decision about the future shape of local government in Dorset.

### Option 2A – Large Conurbation (LC)<sup>2</sup>

#### KEY FEATURES:

- This option would provide a total contribution of £39.6 million towards meeting the 6 year cumulative funding gap by 2024/25, providing £62.9 million for the Large Conurbation's 6 year cumulative budget gap but creating a £23.3 million deficit in the Small Dorset's 6 year cumulative budget.
- A large urban unitary council would be financially viable, with a high national profile, however there may be significant challenges to the Small Dorset unitary council.
- The population in the Small Dorset unitary (286,400) is lower than the government guidelines (400,000 to 600,000) for an efficiently-functioning unitary council.
- There is a one-off complexity and cost involved in separating and transferring services currently provided by Dorset County Council in Christchurch and East Dorset to the Large Conurbation.

### Option 2B – Medium Conurbation (MC)

#### KEY FEATURES:

<sup>1</sup> 2016: Potential options for the reconfiguration of local authorities - Financial analysis

<sup>2</sup> Reshaping your councils survey <https://www.ors.org.uk/web/upload/surveys/333423/files/Reshaping%20your%20councils%20PRINT%20no%20crop.pdf>

- This option would provide a total contribution of £46.7 million towards meeting the 6 year cumulative funding gap by 2024/25, providing £45.3 million for the Medium Conurbation's 6 year cumulative budget gap and £1.4 million for the Medium Dorset's 6 year cumulative budget.
- Of the various two-unitary options this is the option that is most financially beneficial.
- Most of Dorset's urban and suburban areas are served by one council, with the largely rural area served by another council.
- This option potentially provides the most effective and efficient way to deliver services for the future.
- This option has the most balanced population split of the three options.
- A medium-sized urban unitary council would have a profile nationally.
- There is a one off complexity and cost involved in separating and transferring services currently provided by Dorset County Council in Christchurch to the Medium Conurbation and for East Dorset District Council and Christchurch Borough Council in separating and transferring services currently provided jointly between the Medium Dorset and the Medium Conurbation.

#### Option 2C – Small Conurbation (SC)

##### KEY FEATURES:

- This option would provide a total contribution of £32.8 million towards meeting the 6 year cumulative funding gap by 2024/25, providing £18.7 million for the Small Conurbation's 6 year cumulative budget gap and £14.1 million for the Large Dorset's 6 year cumulative budget.
- It makes the least savings overall, of the three two-unitary council options.
- The savings made are most evenly split across the two unitary councils.
- The services currently provided by Dorset County Council remain with the Large Dorset unitary council — there is no separation work required, but services provided by the district, borough and county councils would need to be integrated into the new unitary council.

#### Associated services, policies and procedures

If a decision is taken to restructure from 9 councils to 2 unitary councils in Dorset, existing policies of all the nine councils in Dorset will potentially be replaced by the policies of the new authorities created from re-organisation.

The reshaping of councils in Dorset has the potential to impact all residents, service users, staff, councillors and visitors

All businesses, statutory, voluntary and community organisations could also be impacted by the reorganisation of Dorset's councils

## Consultation:

Public consultation on the proposals for change started on 30 August and closed on 25 October 2016. This consultation was available to the public, staff and organisations. ORS was appointed by Dorset's councils to provide an independent report of the formal programme of work that forms part of the Reshaping your Councils consultation on the possible reconfiguration of council services in Dorset. The document [dorset-councils-ors-on-interpreting-the-consultation-findings](#) summarises ORS's approach in that role.<sup>3</sup>

In the Reshaping your Councils consultation ORS looked to capture a range of different responses from individuals and organisations as a result of the following activities:

- The Open Consultation Questionnaire available on-line, with paper copies in council reception areas, local libraries and on road shows;
- The Household Postal Survey;
- A town and parish council survey;
- Resident forums recruited and facilitated by ORS in each of the local authority areas in Dorset;
- 16 facilitated workshops with residents, business and voluntary sector representatives and parish/town councillors;
- 42 roadshows held across Dorset at different times of the day and different days of the week, including Saturdays, staffed by councillors, communications staff, finance staff and other senior staff; and
- Written responses and petitions.

The household survey was sent to a representative sample of the Dorset population. 20,000 addresses were selected at random from all addresses in each of Dorset's local authority areas. **4,258** residents responded (5% online and 95% postal). The household survey responses have been statistically weighted to take account of the size of the population in each local authority area and different response rates for different types of households. This ensures that the household survey results are statistically reliable and representative of the whole population in each area.

The open consultation questionnaire gave all Dorset residents and other stakeholders the chance to have their say; and a total of **12,536** responses were received (85% online and 15% postal).

From the household survey and the open consultation questionnaire a total of **16,794** responses were received.

ORS have prepared an independent analysis taking into account all of the responses and the report was available from 5<sup>th</sup> December 2016. ORS set out to highlight findings, for example where they may be:

- Relevant;
- Well evidenced;
- Representative of the general population or specific localities;

<sup>3</sup> <https://news.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/reshapingyourcouncils/>

- Deliberative – based on thoughtful discussion in public meetings and other informed dialogue;
- Focused on views from under-represented people or equality groups; and
- ‘Novel’ – in the sense of raising ‘different’ issues to those being repeated by a number of respondents or arising from a different perspective.

ORS also aimed to identify where strength of feeling may be particularly intense while recognising that interpreting consultation is not simply a matter of ‘counting heads’, representation of response would be considered when drawing conclusions.

A review of the ORS report indicates that the consultation appears to have been thorough. Whilst it did not collect data on all protected characteristics it did not appear to actively exclude any. Data on equalities is clearly presented and responses appear to be presented neutrally.

## Monitoring and Research:

### External View

Independent consultants were commissioned by the nine Dorset councils to carry out a set of assessments of the four options being considered to help inform Dorset councillors in their decision-making

- Dorset Councils Local Partnerships - Independent Financial Analysis: published 24<sup>th</sup> August 2016
- Opinion Research Services - Consultation Report: published on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2016
- PricewaterhouseCoopers – Case for Change (Appraisal of options): published on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2016

To further inform the Dorset councillors, the EINA team have put together Appendix 3 – Census data factsheet on the options for reshaping your councils to provide base data on the demographic profiles of the four options. This data is summarised in Appendix 1 Demographic Profiles by Option.

Both documents will form the foundation of future EINAs.

The Census Factsheet shows the demographic distribution of the following indicators across the four options:

- Age profile
- Household type
- Ethnicity
- Religion

- Health/ Disability
- Economic Activity
- Education levels
- Profession levels

If a decision is made to create two new unitary councils in Dorset EINAs will be undertaken where necessary to identify the impact of the changes on: service users; residents; and those with protected characteristics. This will enable consideration to be given to ways of removing or mitigating the negative impacts.

None of the information presented by the external consultants or from the work undertaken by the equalities group present any issues which would be considered unlawful from an equalities perspective.

### Internal View

Human Resources teams in all councils will hold data about their staff. This data will need to be pooled should the new organisations be created and will be needed to identify the potential impact on any particular staff groups. Completion of full EINAs will help management document and highlight the impacts of any proposed changes and help in formulating final proposals which seek outcomes that avoid, minimise or mitigate the impacts identified.

## Assessing the Impact

The main driver for consideration of unitary councils across Dorset is the continuing significant reductions in available funding to deliver frontline services. It is anticipated that the introduction of unitary councils will reduce costs and improve efficiencies, particularly in respect of back office services, to help protect the continued delivery of frontline services. It is also anticipated that the creation of unitary councils will provide opportunities to innovate in the future delivery of services.

Until any new councils are defined it is impossible to assess the impact of change as it is not known which services will be affected and when and how they will change. However, it is possible to identify some potential, high level, general impacts on groups with protected characteristics and a table of these, analysed by protective characteristic, is attached as Appendix 2. This has not identified any potential issues that could be unlawful from an equalities perspective.

PWC's Case for Change report and Opinion Research Services' (ORS) consultation report do not present any issues which would be considered unlawful from an equalities perspective.

## Next steps

If new councils are formed, as new policies and changes in service delivery are considered, further detailed EINAs are required to be undertaken to identify the potential impacts on those with protected characteristics and seek to mitigate any issues, if possible. In due course when more detail about proposed changes is known it will also be possible to assess the cumulative impact where people fall into more than one protected characteristic – age, disability, etc.

Appendix 1 – Demographic Profiles by Option

Protective characteristic	2a		2b		2c	
	Large Conurbation	Small Dorset	Medium Conurbation	Medium Dorset	Small Conurbation	Large Rural
<b>Age</b>  <i>(ONS<sup>4</sup> Mid-Year Estimate 2015)</i>	Distribution of the 185,580 residents aged 65+ (24% in total)					
	65+ 110,646 (23%) 85+ 18,175 (4%)	65+ 74,927 (26%) 85+ 10,569 (3%)	65+ 83,411 (21%) 85+ 13,916 (4%)	65+ 102,162 (27%) 85+ 14,828 (4%)	65+ 68,003 (20%) 85+ 11,342 (3%)	65+ 117,570 (28%) 85+ 17,402 (4%)
<b>Disability</b>  <i>Dept. of Work and Pensions Nov. 2015 DLA<sup>5</sup> and AA<sup>6</sup></i>	Distribution of the 52,220 people with disabilities and % of population (7% in total)					
	31,380 (6%)	20,840 (7%)	25,640 (7%)	26,580 (7%)	21,600 (6%)	30,620 (7%)
<b>Gender</b>  <i>(ONS Mid-Year Estimate 2015)</i>	No major differences across the options					
	Slightly higher proportion of females for Large Conurbation than any of the other options for the conurbation.	All Dorset gender proportions are very similar.	Similar proportion of females for medium and small conurbations	All Dorset gender proportions are very similar.	Similar proportion of females for medium and small conurbations	All Dorset gender proportions are very similar.
<b>Gender reassignment</b>	No data					
<b>Pregnancy and Maternity</b>	No data					

<sup>4</sup> Office for National Statistics

<sup>5</sup> Disability Living Allowance

<sup>6</sup> Attendance Allowance

Protective characteristic	2a		2b		2c	
	Large Conurbation	Small Dorset	Medium Conurbation	Medium Dorset	Small Conurbation	Large Rural
<b>Marriage and Civil Partnership</b>	No data					
<b>Race (BME<sup>7</sup>)</b> <i>ONS Census 2011</i>	Distribution of the 60,241 BME population (8% in total)					
	47,314 (10.2%)	12,927 (4.7%)	44,024 (11.6%)	16,217 (4.4%)	41,686 (12.6%)	18,555 (4.5%)
<b>Religion or Belief</b> <i>ONS Census 2011</i>	Distribution of the 495,395 residents who express a religious faith (65%)					
	297,998 (63.9%)	183,565 (66.1%)	238,617 (63%)	242,946 (66.6%)	205,841 (62.2%)	275,722 (67.8%)
<b>Sexual Orientation</b>	Main data missing, limited information, see fact sheet.					
<b>Deprivation</b> <i>Dept of Work and Pensions Mar 2013, CTB<sup>8</sup></i>	Distribution of the 124,495 people on benefit (17% in total)					
	80,857 (17%)	43,638 (16%)	70,957 (18%)	53,538 (15%)	63,177 (19%)	61,318 (15%)
<b>Rurality</b> <i>ONS Census 2011</i>	Distribution of the 575,089 urban population and the 168,952 rural population (23% in total)					
	Urban Pop 443,843 (95%)  Rural Pop 22,211 (5%)	Urban Pop 131,246 (47%)  Rural Pop 146,741 (53%)	Urban Pop 377,844 (100%)  Rural Pop 1,044 (0%)	Urban Pop 197,245 (54%)  Rural Pop 167,908 (46%)	Urban Population 330,761 (100%)  Rural Population 375 (0%)	Urban Population 244,328 (59%)  Rural Population 168,577 (41%)

## Appendix 2 A high level assessment of the potential impact

<sup>7</sup> Black and minority ethnic<sup>8</sup> Council Tax Benefit



Protected characteristic	Context	Actual or potential positive benefit	Actual or potential negative benefit
All protected characteristics	Creating new unitary organisations changes the geographical boundaries for the delivery of future services in Dorset.	Changes the profile of service users which may facilitate a greater focus and support for those with protected characteristics if their numbers are greater.	Changes the profile of service users, which may have implications for the sustainability of the services to those with protected characteristics, particularly if their numbers are significantly reduced, risking marginalisation.
	Larger local authority organisations.	Reducing the cost of back office and support services to protect frontline services.	
		Easier for community and focus groups to engage with the new, fewer, larger councils.	
		Staff drawn from a wider community may lead to a workforce more representative of the community it serves and customers with protected characteristics may benefit from this diversity.	Possible changes in funding for voluntary and community organisations that support people with protected characteristics
			May lead to a greater sense of remoteness for customers, in particular, those with protected characteristics.
		Potential for increased, dedicated, equality resources to help support the organisations comply with equalities legislation as they grow and evolve. This should help improve the quality and equality of the services provided to benefit all those with protected characteristics	

Protected characteristic	Context	Actual or potential positive benefit	Actual or potential negative benefit
		within the community and employed by the organisations.	
	All "Dorset" options bring together upper and lower tier services.	This should lead to more joined up service provision across the range of local authority services provided to customers with protected characteristics, which may improve the service to these customers. People with protected characteristics may be able to access services easier as there will be one point of contact, not two councils providing different services.	
	Conurbation options 2a and 2b bring together upper and lower tier services in the former lower tier areas.	This should lead to more joined up service provision across the range of local authority services provided to customers with protected characteristics in the former lower tier areas.	
Age	Options 2a, 2b and 2c change the distribution of the elderly (29% of population) between the potential new unitary councils.		The conurbation varies between 79,000 and 129,000, whilst "Dorset" is between 85,000 and 135,000. Increased numbers could impact on the ability of new organisations to deliver effective services to older people. Services would include: social care, benefits, transport etc.
	Further investment in digitisation of services.	Being able to access services from home may make access to services easier for people aged 65+ who have difficulty getting to council offices.	People aged 65+ may struggle to engage with digital services making it harder to access services, especially if there are less council offices/hubs.

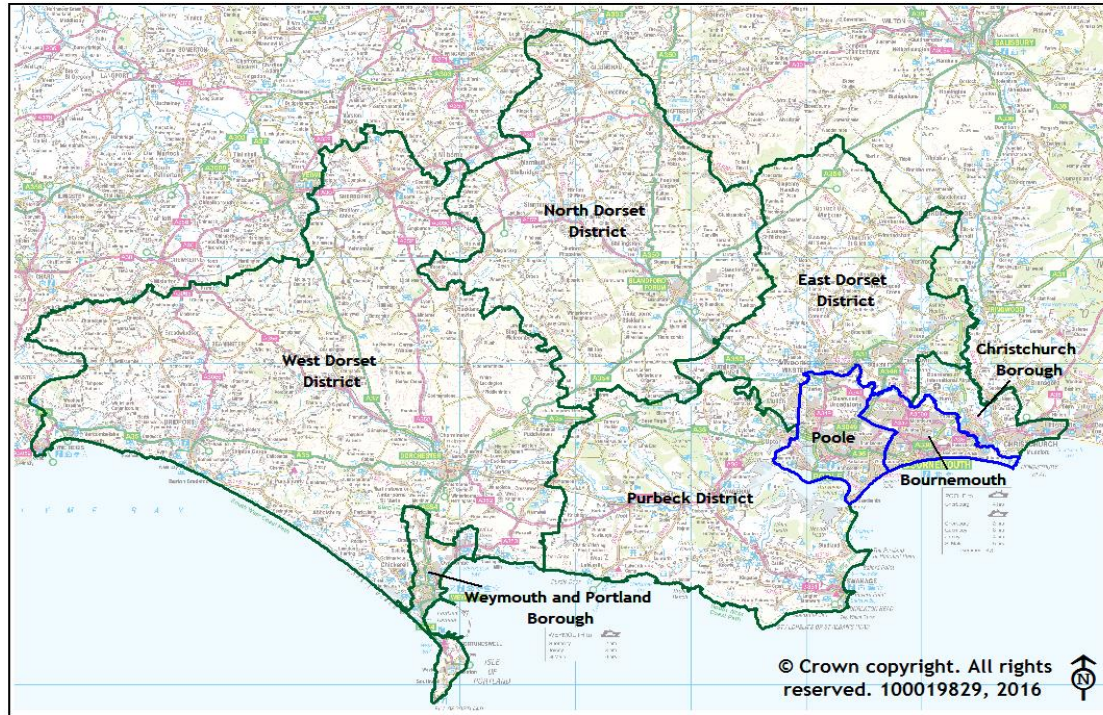
Protected characteristic	Context	Actual or potential positive benefit	Actual or potential negative benefit
	Rationalisation of assets leading to fewer buildings and reduced access to services through council offices/hubs.		People aged 65+ may struggle to access services if council offices/hubs are reduced in number e.g. increased travel time and lack of public transport in rural areas.
	Rationalisation of staffing.		Reductions in senior staff may impact older staff disproportionately.
Disability	Options 2a, 2b and 2c change the distribution of the 7% disabled population between the potential new unitary councils.		The conurbation varies between 22,000 and 31,000, and "Dorset" is between 21,000 and 31,000. This increase in the number could impact on the ability of the new organisations to deliver effective services to disabled people. These services would include: social care, benefits, transport etc.
	Further investment in digitisation of services.	Being able to access services from home may make access to services easier for people with disabilities who have difficulty getting to council offices.	People with disabilities may struggle to engage with digital services making it harder for them to access services, especially if council offices/hubs are reduced in number.
	Rationalisation of assets leading to fewer buildings and reduced access to services through council offices/hubs.		People with disabilities may struggle to access services if there are less council offices/hubs.
Gender	For the community, at this stage of the proposals, it is not possible to identify any potential positive or negative impacts to this specific protected characteristic.		
	Rationalisation of staffing.		Reductions in staff could

Protected characteristic	Context	Actual or potential positive benefit	Actual or potential negative benefit
			disproportionately impact females.
	Rationalisation of assets leading to fewer buildings.	A change in centre of duty may reduce travelling time for some staff, helping carers, who tend to be female.	A change in centre of duty may disproportionately affect female staff who tend to be carers and have family commitments.
		Increase flexible working may lead to more home working which may help female members of staff who tend to be carers.	
Gender reassignment	At this stage of the proposals, it is not possible to identify any potential positive or negative impacts to this specific protected characteristic within the community.		
Pregnancy and maternity	At this stage of the proposals, it is not possible to identify any potential positive or negative impacts to this specific protected characteristic within the community.		
	Rationalisation of assets leading to fewer buildings.	Increase flexible working may lead to more home working which may help female members of staff stay in work after having children.	
Marriage and civil partnerships	At this stage of the proposals, it is not possible to identify any potential positive or negative impacts to this specific protected characteristic within the community.		

Protected characteristic	Context	Actual or potential positive benefit	Actual or potential negative benefit
Race	Majority of the 60,241 (69%) of BME people live in Bournemouth and Poole.	Bringing these areas together would allow for a greater focus on BME groups. Options 2a, 2b and 2c support this.	Bringing these areas together may leave BME population more marginalised. Affected by options 2a, 2b and 2c.
Religion or belief	496,000 people expressed a religious faith and represent 65% of the population of Dorset. Under options 2a, 2b and 2c this group is sufficiently large that its distribution is between 62% and 68% of the new unitary populations and so there is unlikely to be any significant impact on this group as a whole. Further analysis would be required for the sub groups.		
Sexual orientation	The majority of same sex marriages and civil partnerships are in Bournemouth and Poole.	Bringing these areas together would allow greater support for these people. Options 2a, 2b and 2c support this.	
Deprivation	Options 2a, 2b and 2c change the distribution of the 124,000 (17%) people on council tax benefit between the potential new unitary councils.		The conurbation varies between 63,000 and 81,000, whilst for "Dorset" is between 44,000 and 61,000. This could impact on the ability of the new organisations to deliver effective services to help poorer families and members of the community.
	Further investment in digitisation of services.	Being able to access services from home may make access to services easier for people on benefit who may have difficulty meeting the cost of getting to council offices.	People on benefit may struggle to engage with digital services making it harder to make claims and access services, especially if council offices/hubs are reduced in number.
	Rationalisation of assets leading to fewer buildings and reduced access to services through council offices/hubs.		People on benefit may struggle to access services if there are less council offices/hubs, making them less accessible and more costly to get to.

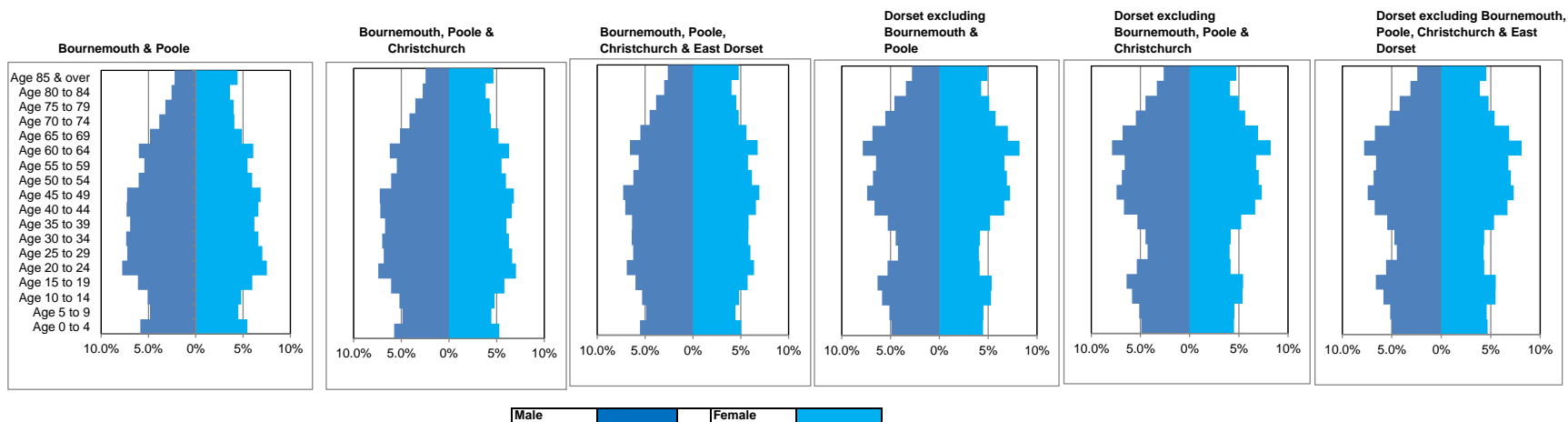
Protected characteristic	Context	Actual or potential positive benefit	Actual or potential negative benefit
Rurality	Options 2a, 2b and 2c change the distribution of the 169,000 (23%) rural population between the potential new unitary councils.	For “Dorset” this varies between 147,000 (53%) of the population and 169,000 (41%) of the population. At around half of the total population in all options, means that there can be more focus on rural community issues.	For the conurbation this varies between 375 and 22,000. Option 2b only increases the rural population from 375 to 1,044, so will have a minimal effect, although rural interests are likely to be marginalised. Option 2a could result in greater isolation of a larger proportion of the rural communities in the lower tier areas included within the conurbation.
	Further investment in digitisation of services.	Being able to access services from home may make access to services easier for people in rural communities who have difficulty getting to council offices, particularly with the lack of public transport.	People in rural communities may struggle to engage with digital services making it harder for them to access services, especially if council offices/hubs are reduced in number.
	Rationalisation of assets leading to fewer buildings and reduced access to services through council offices/hubs.		People in rural communities may find it even harder, or more expensive, to access services if council offices/hubs are reduced in number.

# Census data factsheet on the options for reshaping your councils



Age	Bournemouth & Poole		Bournemouth, Poole & Christchurch		Bournemouth, Poole, Christchurch & East Dorset		Dorset excluding Bournemouth & Poole		Dorset excluding Bournemouth, Poole & Christchurch		Dorset excluding Bournemouth, Poole, Christchurch & East Dorset	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Total resident population	331,136		378,888		466,054		412,905		365,153		277,987	
Usual resident population	163,507	167,629	186,381	192,507	228,371	237,683	201,271	211,634	178,397	186,756	136,407	141,580
Age 0 to 4	9,593	9,132	10,699	10,169	12,631	11,974	9,861	9,472	8,755	8,435	6,823	6,630
Age 5 to 9	7,911	7,533	9,076	8,582	11,172	10,578	10,294	9,549	9,129	8,500	7,033	6,504
Age 10 to 14	8,292	8,031	9,678	9,207	12,132	11,455	11,828	11,195	10,442	10,019	7,988	7,771
Age 15 to 19	10,005	10,005	11,301	11,221	13,733	13,590	12,746	11,376	11,450	10,160	9,018	7,791
Age 20 to 24	12,716	12,594	13,821	13,552	15,806	15,199	10,704	8,746	9,599	7,788	7,614	6,141
Age 25 to 29	11,846	11,801	12,756	12,773	14,248	14,294	8,530	8,561	7,620	7,589	6,128	6,068
Age 30 to 34	12,041	11,103	13,045	12,115	14,602	13,759	9,021	8,813	8,017	7,801	6,460	6,157
Age 35 to 39	11,336	10,387	12,502	11,613	14,528	13,836	10,648	11,001	9,482	9,775	7,456	7,552
Age 40 to 44	11,971	11,087	13,428	12,696	16,158	15,671	13,376	14,065	11,919	12,456	9,189	9,481
Age 45 to 49	11,869	11,493	13,519	13,127	16,647	16,480	14,919	15,343	13,269	13,709	10,141	10,356
Age 50 to 54	9,881	9,966	11,284	11,498	14,222	14,643	13,685	14,644	12,282	13,112	9,344	9,967
Age 55 to 59	8,883	9,173	10,187	10,644	12,966	13,661	13,075	14,104	11,771	12,633	8,992	9,616
Age 60 to 64	9,846	10,172	11,561	12,178	15,022	16,072	15,806	17,398	14,091	15,392	10,630	11,498
Age 65 to 69	7,898	8,161	9,547	10,026	12,556	13,317	13,804	14,863	12,155	12,998	9,146	9,707
Age 70 to 74	6,318	6,847	7,708	8,486	10,311	11,392	11,143	12,180	9,753	10,541	7,150	7,635
Age 75 to 79	5,263	6,694	6,551	8,208	8,801	10,769	9,284	10,830	7,996	9,316	5,746	6,755
Age 80 to 84	4,172	6,051	5,132	7,439	6,832	9,605	6,906	9,072	5,946	7,684	4,246	5,518
Age 85 and over	3,666	7,399	4,586	8,973	6,004	11,388	5,641	10,422	4,721	8,848	3,303	6,433

Age	Bournemouth & Poole	Bournemouth, Poole & Christchurch	Bournemouth, Poole, Christchurch & East Dorset	Dorset excluding Bournemouth & Poole	Dorset excluding Bournemouth, Poole & Christchurch	Dorset excluding Bournemouth, Poole, Christchurch & East Dorset
Age 0 to 4	5.9%	5.4%	5.7%	5.3%	5.5%	5.0%
Age 5 to 9	4.8%	4.5%	4.9%	4.5%	4.9%	4.5%
Age 10 to 14	5.1%	4.8%	5.2%	4.8%	5.3%	4.8%
Age 15 to 19	6.1%	6.0%	6.1%	5.8%	6.0%	5.7%
Age 20 to 24	7.8%	7.5%	7.4%	7.0%	6.9%	6.4%
Age 25 to 29	7.2%	7.0%	6.8%	6.6%	6.2%	6.0%
Age 30 to 34	7.4%	6.6%	7.0%	6.3%	6.4%	5.8%
Age 35 to 39	6.9%	6.2%	6.7%	6.0%	6.4%	5.8%
Age 40 to 44	7.3%	6.6%	7.2%	6.6%	7.1%	6.6%
Age 45 to 49	7.3%	6.9%	7.3%	6.8%	7.3%	6.9%
Age 50 to 54	6.0%	5.9%	6.1%	6.0%	6.2%	6.2%
Age 55 to 59	5.4%	5.5%	5.5%	5.5%	5.7%	5.7%
Age 60 to 64	6.0%	6.1%	6.2%	6.3%	6.6%	6.8%
Age 65 to 69	4.8%	4.9%	5.1%	5.2%	5.5%	5.6%
Age 70 to 74	3.9%	4.1%	4.1%	4.4%	4.5%	4.8%
Age 75 to 79	3.2%	4.0%	3.5%	4.3%	3.9%	4.5%
Age 80 to 84	2.6%	3.6%	2.8%	3.9%	3.0%	4.0%
Age 85 & over	2.2%	4.4%	2.5%	4.7%	2.6%	4.8%

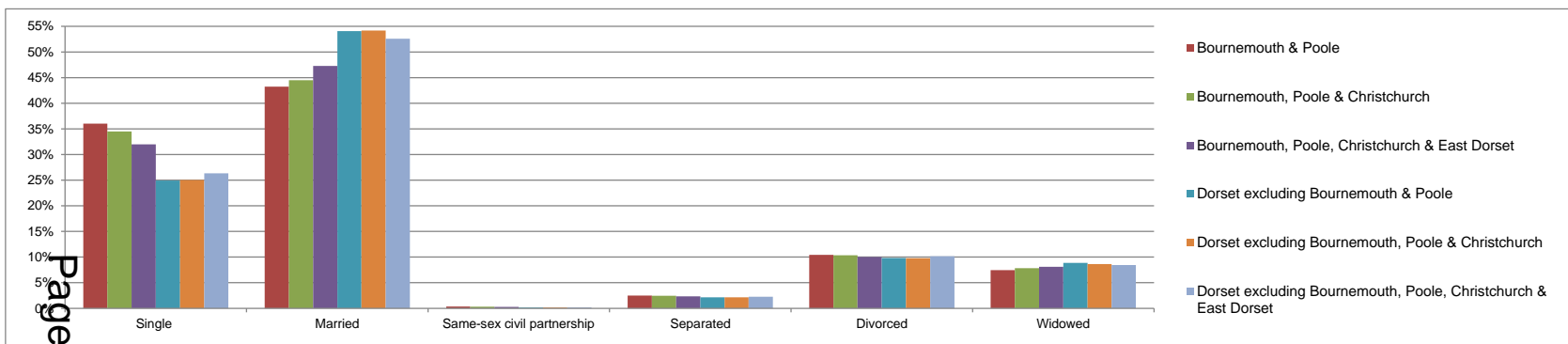




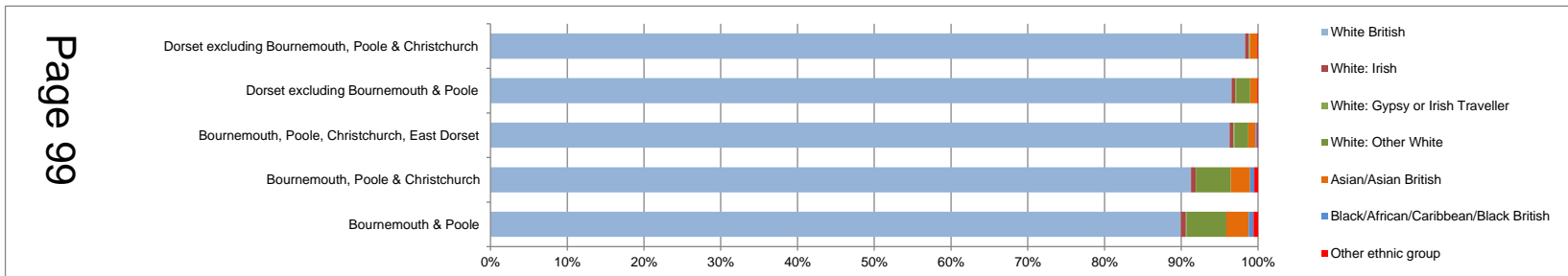
	Bournemouth & Poole		Bournemouth, Poole & Christchurch		Bournemouth, Poole, Christchurch & East Dorset		Dorset excluding Bournemouth & Poole		Dorset excluding Bournemouth, Poole & Christchurch		Dorset excluding Bournemouth, Poole, Christchurch & East Dorset	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
<b>Lives in a household</b>	160,599	163,642	183,311	188,228	224,986	232,746	195,916	207,450	173,204	182,864	131,529	138,346
<b>Percentage living in a household</b>	98.2%	97.6%	98.4%	97.8%	98.5%	97.9%	97.3%	98.0%	97.1%	97.9%	96.4%	97.7%
Age 0 to 4	9,582	9,116	10,685	10,152	12,614	11,953	9,842	9,460	8,739	8,424	6,810	6,623
Age 5 to 9	7,906	7,528	9,071	8,577	11,163	10,570	10,264	9,507	9,099	8,458	7,007	6,465
Age 10 to 14	8,215	7,962	9,590	9,137	12,032	11,376	11,323	10,774	9,948	9,599	7,506	7,360
Age 15 to 19	9,292	9,280	10,574	10,487	12,966	12,829	11,295	10,668	10,013	9,461	7,621	7,119
Age 20 to 24	12,254	12,155	13,352	13,109	15,320	14,744	9,850	8,600	8,752	7,646	6,784	6,011
Age 25 to 29	11,644	11,689	12,550	12,660	14,030	14,170	8,102	8,490	7,196	7,519	5,716	6,009
Age 30 to 34	11,920	11,029	12,923	12,039	14,466	13,669	8,703	8,749	7,700	7,739	6,157	6,109
Age 35 to 39	11,230	10,339	12,393	11,564	14,405	13,773	10,390	10,936	9,227	9,711	7,215	7,502
Age 40 to 44	11,859	11,028	13,312	12,635	16,031	15,603	13,176	14,018	11,723	12,411	9,004	9,443
Age 45 to 49	11,784	11,430	13,430	13,063	16,547	16,409	14,745	15,288	13,099	13,655	9,982	10,309
Age 50 to 54	9,774	9,916	11,174	11,439	14,109	14,573	13,554	14,583	12,154	13,060	9,219	9,926
Age 55 to 59	8,807	9,125	10,110	10,594	12,887	13,601	12,987	14,032	11,684	12,563	8,907	9,556
Age 60 to 64	9,784	10,107	11,493	12,110	14,949	15,999	15,715	17,350	14,006	15,347	10,550	11,458
Age 65 to 69	7,828	8,090	9,473	9,951	12,474	13,230	13,749	14,804	12,104	12,943	9,103	9,664
Age 70 to 74	6,252	6,762	7,634	8,394	10,227	11,285	11,067	12,116	9,685	10,484	7,092	7,593
Age 75 to 79	5,162	6,509	6,441	8,001	8,672	10,534	9,171	10,670	7,892	9,178	5,661	6,645
Age 80 to 84	4,014	5,676	4,954	7,027	6,616	9,099	6,751	8,707	5,811	7,356	4,149	5,284
Age 85 and over	3,292	5,901	4,152	7,289	5,478	9,329	5,232	8,698	4,372	7,310	3,046	5,270

	Bournemouth & Poole		Bournemouth, Poole & Christchurch		Bournemouth, Poole, Christchurch & East Dorset		Dorset excluding Bournemouth & Poole		Dorset excluding Bournemouth, Poole & Christchurch		Dorset excluding Bournemouth, Poole, Christchurch & East Dorset	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
<b>Lives in a communal establishment</b>	2,908	3,987	3,070	4,279	3,385	4,937	5,355	4,184	5,193	3,892	4,878	3,234
Age 0 to 4	11	16	14	17	17	21	19	12	16	11	13	7
Age 5 to 9	5	5	5	5	9	8	30	42	30	42	26	39
Age 10 to 14	77	69	88	70	100	79	505	421	494	420	482	411
Age 15 to 19	713	725	727	734	767	761	1,451	708	1,437	699	1,397	672
Age 20 to 24	462	439	469	443	486	455	854	146	847	142	830	130
Age 25 to 29	202	112	206	113	218	124	428	71	424	70	412	59
Age 30 to 34	121	74	122	76	136	90	318	64	317	62	303	48
Age 35 to 39	106	48	109	49	123	63	258	65	255	64	241	50
Age 40 to 44	112	59	116	61	127	68	200	47	196	45	185	38
Age 45 to 49	85	63	89	64	100	71	174	55	170	54	159	47
Age 50 to 54	107	50	110	59	113	70	131	61	128	52	125	41
Age 55 to 59	76	48	77	50	79	60	88	72	87	70	85	60
Age 60 to 64	62	65	68	68	73	73	91	48	85	45	80	40
Age 65 to 69	70	71	74	75	82	87	55	59	51	55	43	43
Age 70 to 74	66	85	74	92	84	107	76	64	68	57	58	42
Age 75 to 79	101	185	110	207	129	235	113	160	104	138	85	110
Age 80 to 84	158	375	178	412	216	506	155	365	135	328	97	234
Age 85 and over	374	1,498	434	1,684	526	2,059	409	1,724	349	1,538	257	1,163

Marital Status (persons aged 16+)	Bournemouth & Poole		Bournemouth, Poole & Christchurch		Bournemouth, Poole, Christchurch & East Dorset		Dorset excluding Bournemouth & Poole		Dorset excluding Bournemouth, Poole & Christchurch		Dorset excluding Bournemouth, Poole, Christchurch & East Dorset	
	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%
All people aged 16+ living in households	277,210		317,499		391,056		345,596		305,307		231,750	
Single (never married or never registered a same-sex civil partnership)	99,908	36.0%	109,583	34.5%	125,035	32.0%	86,153	24.9%	76,478	25.0%	61,026	26.3%
Married	119,874	43.2%	141,306	44.5%	184,847	47.3%	186,830	54.1%	165,398	54.2%	121,857	52.6%
In a registered same-sex civil partnership	963	0.3%	1,049	0.3%	1,171	0.3%	640	0.2%	554	0.2%	432	0.2%
Separated (but still legally married or still legally in a same-sex civil partnership)	6,902	2.5%	7,780	2.5%	9,132	2.3%	7,508	2.2%	6,630	2.2%	5,278	2.3%
Divorced or formerly in a same-sex civil partnership which is now legally dissolved	28,898	10.4%	32,884	10.4%	39,215	10.0%	33,882	9.8%	29,896	9.8%	23,565	10.2%
Widowed or surviving partner from a same-sex civil partnership	20,665	7.5%	24,897	7.8%	31,656	8.1%	30,583	8.8%	26,351	8.6%	19,592	8.5%

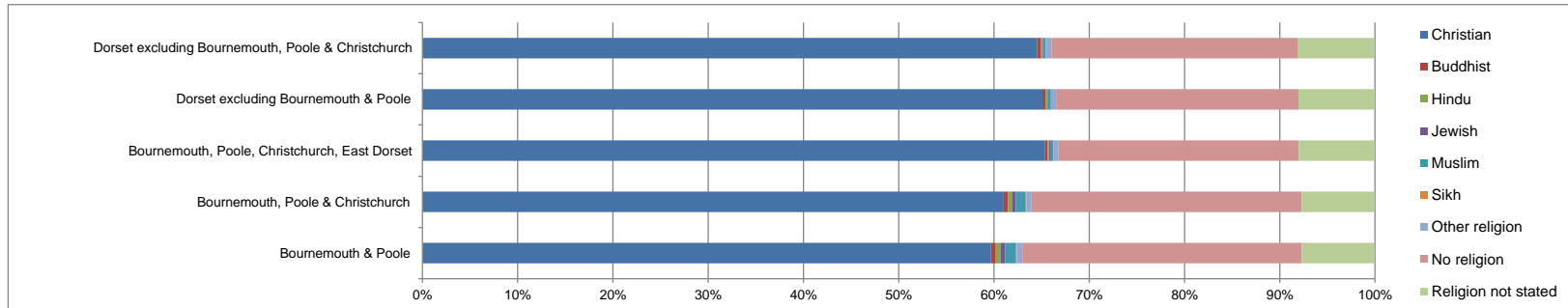


Ethnicity	Bournemouth & Poole		Bournemouth, Poole & Christchurch		Bournemouth, Poole, Christchurch & East Dorset		Dorset excluding Bournemouth & Poole		Dorset excluding Bournemouth, Poole & Christchurch		Dorset excluding Bournemouth, Poole, Christchurch & East Dorset	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
All usual residents	163,507	167,629	186,381	192,507	228,371	237,683	201,271	211,634	178,397	186,756	136,407	141,580
White	152,687	157,633	175,025	181,886	216,267	226,289	196,859	207,458	174,521	183,205	133,279	138,802
White: English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British	143,071	146,379	164,908	169,956	205,422	213,318	192,435	201,915	170,598	178,338	130,084	134,976
White: Irish	979	1,132	1,112	1,298	1,258	1,523	896	1,079	763	913	617	688
White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller	228	204	248	232	337	314	299	256	279	228	190	146
White: Other White	8,409	9,918	8,757	10,400	9,250	11,134	3,229	4,208	2,881	3,726	2,388	2,992
Mixed/multiple ethnic groups	3,114	2,993	3,370	3,242	3,669	3,537	1,764	1,636	1,508	1,387	1,209	1,092
Mixed/multiple ethnic groups: White and Black Caribbean	758	776	822	822	916	891	546	406	482	360	388	291
Mixed/multiple ethnic groups: White and Black African	441	406	473	443	502	481	210	221	178	184	149	146
Mixed/multiple ethnic groups: White and Asian	1,118	958	1,218	1,053	1,321	1,179	612	600	512	505	409	379
Mixed/multiple ethnic groups: Other Mixed	797	853	857	924	930	986	396	409	336	338	263	276
Asian/Asian British	5,159	5,183	5,357	5,480	5,709	5,865	1,819	2,014	1,621	1,717	1,269	1,332
Asian/Asian British: Indian	1,667	1,371	1,714	1,421	1,797	1,495	388	349	341	299	258	225
Asian/Asian British: Pakistani	186	123	189	125	213	144	88	63	85	61	61	42
Asian/Asian British: Bangladeshi	434	356	452	382	578	454	311	214	293	188	167	116
Asian/Asian British: Chinese	1,150	1,388	1,227	1,490	1,290	1,594	407	536	330	434	267	330
Asian/Asian British: Other Asian	1,722	1,945	1,775	2,062	1,831	2,178	625	852	572	735	516	619
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British	1,283	1,001	1,325	1,042	1,373	1,100	589	335	547	294	499	236
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British: African	835	702	855	732	880	768	310	208	290	178	265	142
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British: Caribbean	305	194	324	202	342	213	214	81	195	73	177	62
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British: Other Black	143	105	146	108	151	119	65	46	62	43	57	32
Other ethnic group	1,264	819	1,304	857	1,353	892	240	191	200	153	151	118
Other ethnic group: Arab	557	263	571	264	590	271	81	35	67	34	48	27
Other ethnic group: Any other ethnic group	707	556	733	593	763	621	159	156	133	119	103	91

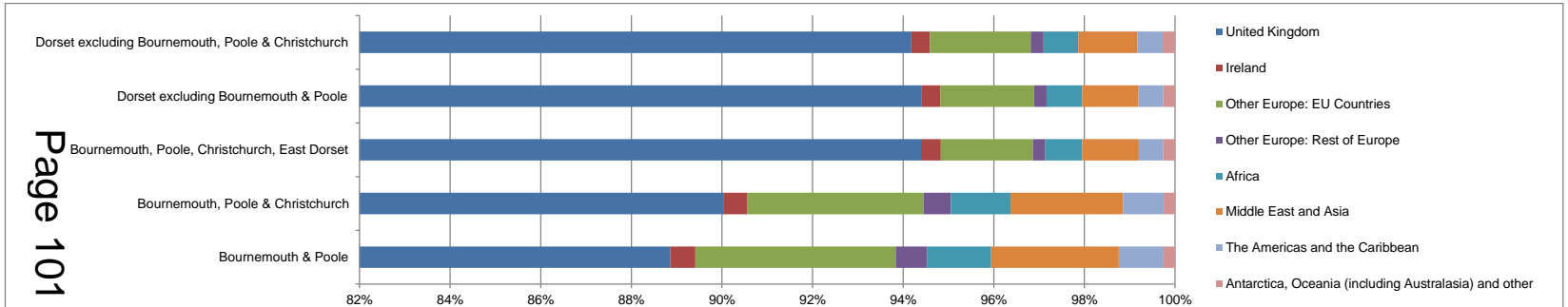


	Bournemouth & Poole		Bournemouth, Poole & Christchurch		Bournemouth, Poole, Christchurch & East Dorset		Dorset excluding Bournemouth & Poole		Dorset excluding Bournemouth, Poole & Christchurch		Dorset excluding Bournemouth, Poole, Christchurch & East Dorset	
	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%
All usual residents	331,136		378,888		466,054		412,905		365,153		277,987	
White	310,320	93.7%	356,911	94.2%	442,556	95.0%	404,317	97.9%	357,726	98.0%	272,081	97.9%
White: English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British	289,450	87.4%	334,864	88.4%	418,740	89.8%	394,350	95.5%	348,936	95.6%	265,060	95.3%
White: Irish	2,111	0.6%	2,410	0.6%	2,781	0.6%	1,975	0.5%	1,676	0.5%	1,305	0.5%
White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller	432	0.1%	480	0.1%	651	0.1%	555	0.1%	507	0.1%	336	0.1%
White: Other White	18,327	5.5%	19,157	5.1%	20,384	4.4%	7,437	1.8%	6,607	1.8%	5,380	1.9%
Mixed/multiple ethnic groups	6,107	1.8%	6,612	1.7%	7,206	1.5%	3,400	0.8%	2,895	0.8%	2,301	0.8%
Mixed/multiple ethnic groups: White and Black Caribbean	1,534	0.5%	1,644	0.4%	1,807	0.4%	952	0.2%	842	0.2%	679	0.2%
Mixed/multiple ethnic groups: White and Black African	847	0.3%	916	0.2%	983	0.2%	431	0.1%	362	0.1%	295	0.1%
Mixed/multiple ethnic groups: White and Asian	2,076	0.6%	2,271	0.6%	2,500	0.5%	1,212	0.3%	1,017	0.3%	788	0.3%
Mixed/multiple ethnic groups: Other Mixed	1,650	0.5%	1,781	0.5%	1,916	0.4%	805	0.2%	674	0.2%	539	0.2%
Asian/Asian British	10,342	3.1%	10,837	2.9%	11,574	2.5%	3,833	0.9%	3,338	0.9%	2,601	0.9%
Asian/Asian British: Indian	3,038	0.9%	3,135	0.8%	3,292	0.7%	737	0.2%	640	0.2%	483	0.2%
Asian/Asian British: Pakistani	309	0.1%	314	0.1%	357	0.1%	151	0.0%	146	0.0%	103	0.0%
Asian/Asian British: Bangladeshi	790	0.2%	834	0.2%	1,032	0.2%	525	0.1%	481	0.1%	283	0.1%
Asian/Asian British: Chinese	2,538	0.8%	2,717	0.7%	2,884	0.6%	943	0.2%	764	0.2%	597	0.2%
Asian/Asian British: Other Asian	3,667	1.1%	3,837	1.0%	4,009	0.9%	1,477	0.4%	1,307	0.4%	1,135	0.4%
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British	2,284	0.7%	2,367	0.6%	2,473	0.5%	924	0.2%	841	0.2%	735	0.3%
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British: African	1,537	0.5%	1,587	0.4%	1,648	0.4%	518	0.1%	468	0.1%	407	0.1%
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British: Caribbean	499	0.2%	526	0.1%	555	0.1%	295	0.1%	268	0.1%	239	0.1%
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British: Other Black	248	0.1%	254	0.1%	270	0.1%	111	0.0%	105	0.0%	89	0.0%
Other ethnic group	2,083	0.6%	2,161	0.6%	2,245	0.5%	431	0.1%	353	0.1%	269	0.1%
Other ethnic group: Arab	820	0.2%	835	0.2%	861	0.2%	116	0.0%	101	0.0%	75	0.0%
Other ethnic group: Any other ethnic group	1,263	0.4%	1,326	0.3%	1,384	0.3%	315	0.1%	252	0.1%	194	0.1%

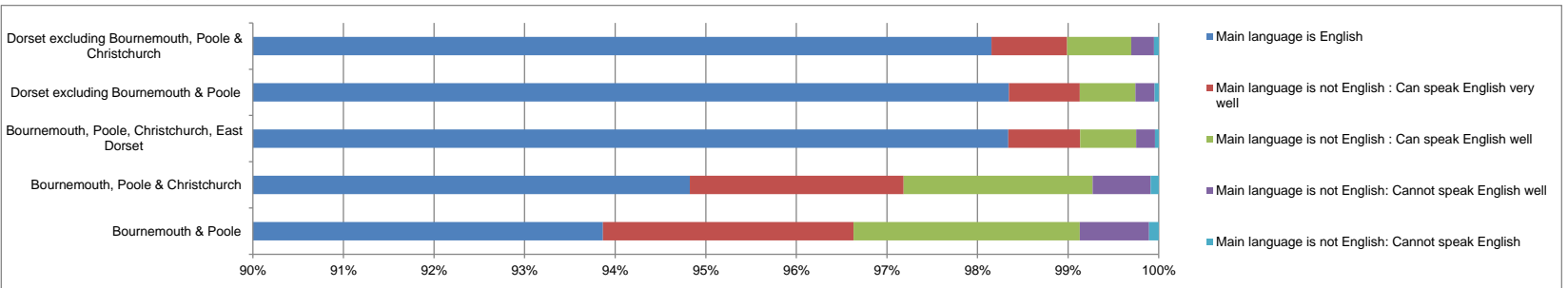
Religion	Bournemouth & Poole		Bournemouth, Poole & Christchurch		Bournemouth, Poole, Christchurch & East Dorset		Dorset excluding Bournemouth & Poole		Dorset excluding Bournemouth, Poole & Christchurch		Dorset excluding Bournemouth, Poole, Christchurch & East Dorset	
	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%
All usual residents	331,136		378,888		466,054		412,905		365,153		277,987	
Christian	194,071	58.6%	226,128	59.7%	284,379	61.0%	269,737	65.3%	237,680	65.1%	179,429	64.5%
Buddhist	1,753	0.5%	1,910	0.5%	2,066	0.4%	1,280	0.3%	1,123	0.3%	967	0.3%
Hindu	1,803	0.5%	1,854	0.5%	1,957	0.4%	550	0.1%	499	0.1%	396	0.1%
Jewish	1,747	0.5%	1,843	0.5%	1,991	0.4%	519	0.1%	423	0.1%	275	0.1%
Muslim	4,299	1.3%	4,445	1.2%	4,797	1.0%	1,318	0.3%	1,172	0.3%	820	0.3%
Sikh	235	0.1%	240	0.1%	252	0.1%	88	0.0%	83	0.0%	71	0.0%
Other religion	1,933	0.6%	2,197	0.6%	2,556	0.5%	2,230	0.5%	1,966	0.5%	1,607	0.6%
No religion	99,833	30.1%	111,124	29.3%	132,227	28.4%	104,221	25.2%	92,930	25.4%	71,827	25.8%
Religion not stated	25,462	7.7%	29,147	7.7%	35,829	7.7%	32,962	8.0%	29,277	8.0%	22,595	8.1%



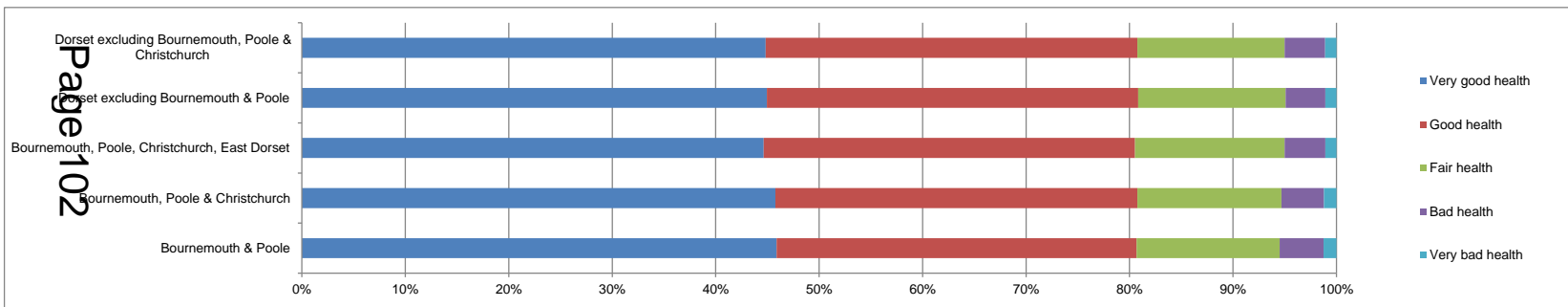
Country of Birth	Bournemouth & Poole		Bournemouth, Poole & Christchurch		Bournemouth, Poole, Christchurch & East Dorset		Dorset excluding Bournemouth & Poole		Dorset excluding Bournemouth, Poole & Christchurch		Dorset excluding Bournemouth, Poole, Christchurch & East Dorset	
	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%
All usual residents	331,136		378,888		466,054		412,905		365,153		277,987	
United Kingdom	291,642	88.1%	336,690	88.9%	419,587	90.0%	389,748	94.4%	344,700	94.4%	261,803	94.2%
England	280,371	84.7%	323,923	85.5%	403,942	86.7%	375,817	91.0%	332,265	91.0%	252,246	90.7%
Northern Ireland	1,270	0.4%	1,437	0.4%	1,731	0.4%	1,604	0.4%	1,437	0.4%	1,143	0.4%
Scotland	5,161	1.6%	5,803	1.5%	7,110	1.5%	6,249	1.5%	5,607	1.5%	4,300	1.5%
Wales	4,811	1.5%	5,496	1.5%	6,770	1.5%	6,044	1.5%	5,359	1.5%	4,085	1.5%
Great Britain not otherwise specified	10	0.0%	10	0.0%	12	0.0%	18	0.0%	18	0.0%	16	0.0%
United Kingdom not otherwise specified	19	0.0%	21	0.0%	22	0.0%	16	0.0%	14	0.0%	13	0.0%
Ireland	1,799	0.5%	2,084	0.6%	2,476	0.5%	1,821	0.4%	1,536	0.4%	1,144	0.4%
Other Europe: Total	18,401	5.6%	19,362	5.1%	20,944	4.5%	9,518	2.3%	8,557	2.3%	6,975	2.5%
Other Europe: EU countries: Total	15,933	4.8%	16,753	4.4%	18,130	3.9%	8,380	2.0%	7,560	2.1%	6,183	2.2%
Other Europe: EU countries: Member countries in March 2001	7,097	2.1%	7,645	2.0%	8,650	1.9%	5,415	1.3%	4,867	1.3%	3,862	1.4%
Other Europe: EU countries: Accession countries April 2001 to March 2011	8,836	2.7%	9,108	2.4%	9,480	2.0%	2,965	0.7%	2,693	0.7%	2,321	0.8%
Other Europe: Rest of Europe	2,468	0.7%	2,609	0.7%	2,814	0.6%	1,138	0.3%	997	0.3%	792	0.3%
Africa	4,887	1.5%	5,373	1.4%	6,124	1.3%	3,358	0.8%	2,872	0.8%	2,121	0.8%
Middle East and Asia	10,054	3.0%	10,669	2.8%	11,581	2.5%	5,157	1.2%	4,542	1.2%	3,630	1.3%
The Americas and the Caribbean	3,513	1.1%	3,749	1.0%	4,186	0.9%	2,233	0.5%	1,997	0.5%	1,560	0.6%
Antarctica, Oceania (including Australasia) and other	840	0.3%	961	0.3%	1,156	0.2%	1,070	0.3%	949	0.3%	754	0.3%



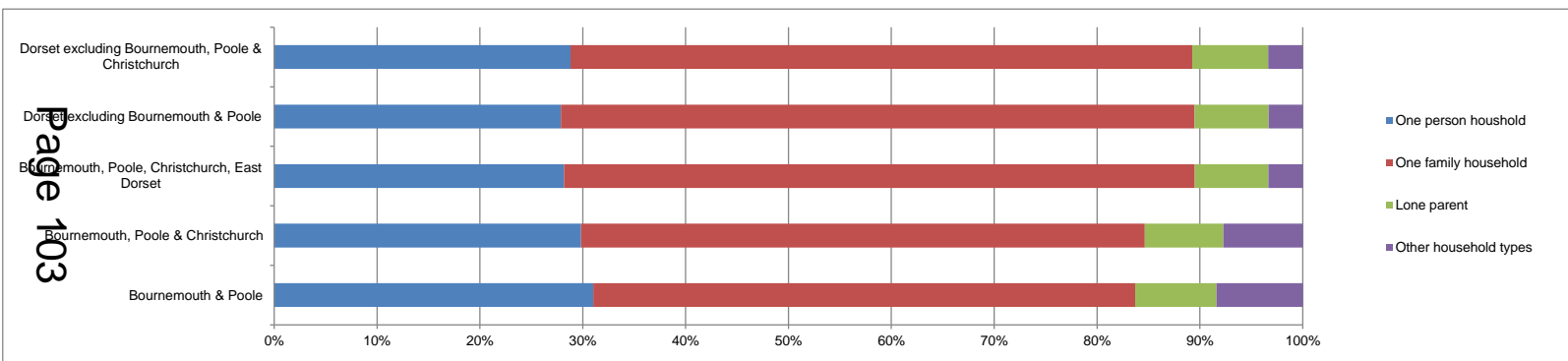
Proficiency in English	Bournemouth & Poole		Bournemouth, Poole & Christchurch		Bournemouth, Poole, Christchurch & East Dorset		Dorset excluding Bournemouth & Poole		Dorset excluding Bournemouth, Poole & Christchurch		Dorset excluding Bournemouth, Poole, Christchurch & East Dorset	
	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%
Resident Population (aged 3 and over)	319,673		366,176		451,190		401,567		355,064		270,050	
Main language is English	297,998	93.2%	343,708	93.9%	427,833	94.8%	394,903	98.3%	349,193	98.3%	265,068	98.2%
Main language is not English: Total	21,675	6.8%	22,468	6.1%	23,357	5.2%	6,664	1.7%	5,871	1.7%	4,982	1.8%
Main language is not English : Can speak English very well	9,721	3.0%	10,128	2.8%	10,654	2.4%	3,182	0.8%	2,775	0.8%	2,249	0.8%
Main language is not English : Can speak English well	8,847	2.8%	9,147	2.5%	9,414	2.1%	2,482	0.6%	2,182	0.6%	1,915	0.7%
Main language is not English: Cannot speak English well	2,728	0.9%	2,806	0.8%	2,887	0.6%	835	0.2%	757	0.2%	676	0.3%
Main language is not English: Cannot speak English	379	0.1%	387	0.1%	402	0.1%	165	0.0%	157	0.0%	142	0.1%



Health	Bournemouth & Poole		Bournemouth, Poole & Christchurch		Bournemouth, Poole, Christchurch & East Dorset		Dorset excluding Bournemouth & Poole		Dorset excluding Bournemouth, Poole & Christchurch		Dorset excluding Bournemouth, Poole, Christchurch & East Dorset	
	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%
All categories: Long-term health problem or disability	331,136		378,888		466,054		412,905		365,153		277,987	
Day-to-day activities limited a lot	27,898	8.4%	32,527	8.6%	39,679	8.5%	35,339	8.6%	30,710	8.4%	23,558	8.5%
Day-to-day activities limited a little	33,457	10.1%	39,528	10.4%	49,551	10.6%	47,528	11.5%	41,457	11.4%	31,434	11.3%
Day-to-day activities not limited	269,781	81.5%	306,833	81.0%	376,824	80.9%	330,038	79.9%	292,986	80.2%	222,995	80.2%
Population aged 16-64	214,741		240,843		290,081		241,451		215,349		166,111	
Day-to-day activities limited a lot: Age 16 to 64	11,372	5.3%	12,759	5.3%	14,776	5.1%	12,124	5.0%	10,737	5.0%	8,720	5.2%
Day-to-day activities limited a little: Age 16 to 64	15,398	7.2%	17,512	7.3%	20,928	7.2%	18,428	7.6%	16,314	7.6%	12,898	7.8%
Day-to-day activities not limited: Age 16 to 64	187,971	87.5%	210,572	87.4%	254,377	87.7%	210,899	87.3%	188,298	87.4%	144,493	87.0%
Very good health	153,644	46.4%	173,847	45.9%	213,352	45.8%	184,353	44.6%	164,150	45.0%	124,645	44.8%
Good health	114,746	34.7%	131,862	34.8%	163,045	35.0%	148,166	35.9%	131,050	35.9%	99,867	35.9%
Fair health	44,715	13.5%	52,396	13.8%	64,832	13.9%	59,671	14.5%	51,990	14.2%	39,554	14.2%
Bad health	13,850	4.2%	16,058	4.2%	19,220	4.1%	16,248	3.9%	14,040	3.8%	10,878	3.9%
Very bad health	4,181	1.3%	4,725	1.2%	5,605	1.2%	4,467	1.1%	3,923	1.1%	3,043	1.1%
Provides no unpaid care	297,599	89.9%	339,363	89.6%	415,634	89.2%	363,583	88.1%	321,819	88.1%	245,548	88.3%
Provides 1 to 19 hours unpaid care a week	22,041	6.7%	25,974	6.9%	33,421	7.2%	33,362	8.1%	29,429	8.1%	21,982	7.9%
Provides 20 to 49 hours unpaid care a week	4,106	1.2%	4,792	1.3%	5,940	1.3%	5,456	1.3%	4,770	1.3%	3,622	1.3%
Provides 50 or more hours unpaid care a week	7,390	2.2%	8,759	2.3%	11,059	2.4%	10,504	2.5%	9,135	2.5%	6,835	2.5%

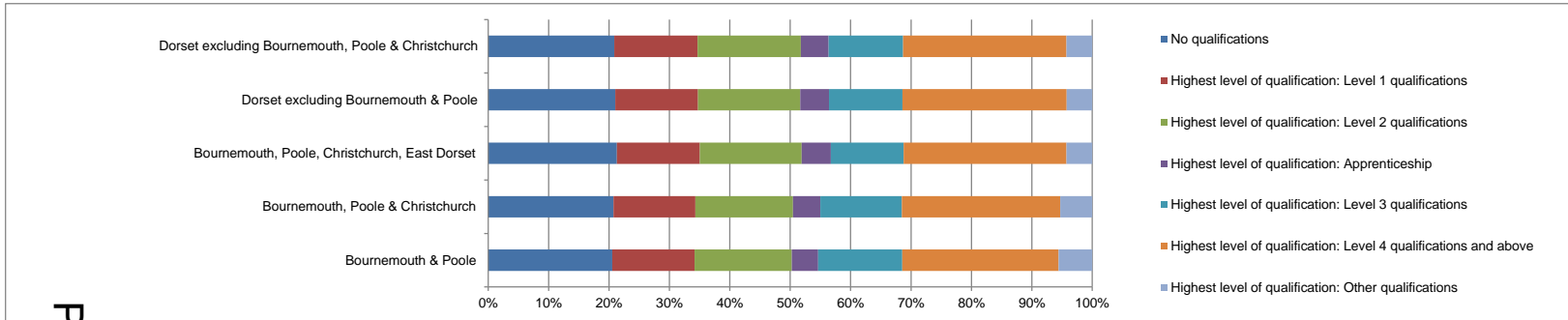


Household Composition by HRP	Bournemouth & Poole		Bournemouth, Poole & Christchurch		Bournemouth, Poole, Christchurch & East Dorset		Dorset excluding Bournemouth & Poole		Dorset excluding Bournemouth, Poole & Christchurch		Dorset excluding Bournemouth, Poole, Christchurch & East Dorset	
	Household	%	Household	%	Household	%	Household	%	Household	%	Household	%
All categories: Household composition	145,904		167,379		204,943		180,213		158,738		121,174	
One person household	49,524	33.9%	56,380	33.7%	66,200	32.3%	53,769	29.8%	46,913	29.6%	37,093	30.6%
Aged 65 and over	20,559	14.1%	24,923	14.9%	31,176	15.2%	30,049	16.7%	25,685	16.2%	19,432	16.0%
Other	28,965	19.9%	31,457	18.8%	35,024	17.1%	23,720	13.2%	21,228	13.4%	17,661	14.6%
One family household	82,357	56.4%	95,742	57.2%	121,619	59.3%	117,056	65.0%	103,671	65.3%	77,794	64.2%
All aged 65 and over	12,733	8.7%	16,176	9.7%	22,532	11.0%	25,066	13.9%	21,623	13.6%	15,267	12.6%
Married or same-sex civil partnership couple	42,314	29.0%	49,015	29.3%	63,303	30.9%	63,181	35.1%	56,480	35.6%	42,192	34.8%
Married or same-sex civil partnership couple: No children	17,065	11.7%	19,851	11.9%	26,021	12.7%	28,076	15.6%	25,290	15.9%	19,120	15.8%
Married or same-sex civil partnership couple: Dependent children	18,837	12.9%	21,610	12.9%	27,353	13.3%	25,088	13.9%	22,315	14.1%	16,572	13.7%
Married or same-sex civil partnership couple: All children non-dependent	6,412	4.4%	7,554	4.5%	9,929	4.8%	10,017	5.6%	8,875	5.6%	6,500	5.4%
Cohabiting couple	14,535	10.0%	16,201	9.7%	18,823	9.2%	15,124	8.4%	13,458	8.5%	10,836	8.9%
Cohabiting couple: No children	8,674	5.9%	9,554	5.7%	10,942	5.3%	8,053	4.5%	7,173	4.5%	5,785	4.8%
Cohabiting couple: Dependent children	5,224	3.6%	5,922	3.5%	6,992	3.4%	6,287	3.5%	5,589	3.5%	4,519	3.7%
Cohabiting couple: All children non-dependent	637	0.4%	725	0.4%	889	0.4%	784	0.4%	696	0.4%	532	0.4%
Lone parent	12,775	8.8%	14,350	8.6%	16,961	8.3%	13,685	7.6%	12,110	7.6%	9,499	7.8%
Dependent children	8,280	5.7%	9,192	5.5%	10,721	5.2%	8,526	4.7%	7,614	4.8%	6,085	5.0%
All children non-dependent	4,495	3.1%	5,158	3.1%	6,240	3.0%	5,159	2.9%	4,496	2.8%	3,414	2.8%
Other household types	14,023	9.6%	15,257	9.1%	17,124	8.4%	9,388	5.2%	8,154	5.1%	6,287	5.2%
With dependent children	3,248	2.2%	3,690	2.2%	4,300	2.1%	3,016	1.7%	2,574	1.6%	1,964	1.6%
Other (including all full-time students and all aged 65 and over)	10,775	7.4%	11,567	6.9%	12,824	6.3%	6,372	3.5%	5,580	3.5%	4,323	3.6%

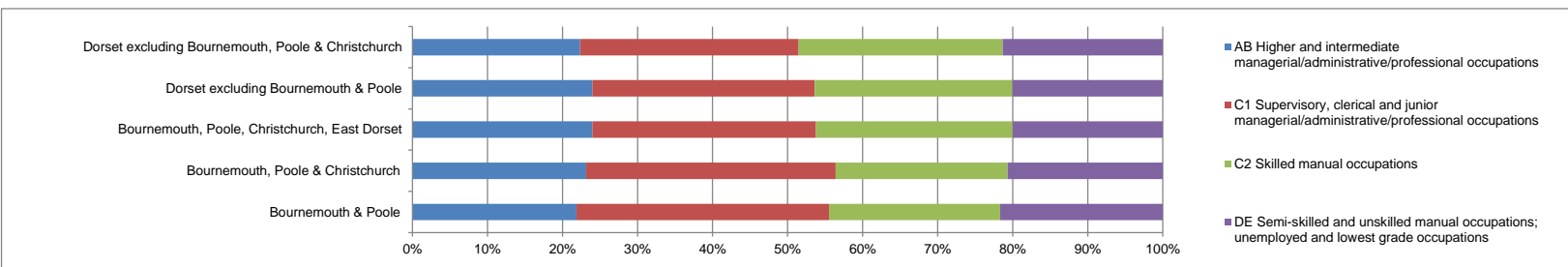


Economic Activity	Bournemouth & Poole		Bournemouth, Poole & Christchurch		Bournemouth, Poole, Christchurch & East Dorset		Dorset excluding Bournemouth & Poole		Dorset excluding Bournemouth, Poole & Christchurch		Dorset excluding Bournemouth, Poole, Christchurch & East Dorset	
	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%
All usual residents aged 16 to 74	243,965		276,610		337,657		293,441		260,796		199,749	
Economically active	171,737	70.4%	193,157	69.8%	234,733	69.5%	199,943	68.1%	178,523	68.5%	136,947	68.6%
In employment	152,547	62.5%	172,178	62.2%	210,781	62.4%	184,949	63.0%	165,318	63.4%	126,715	63.4%
Employee: Part-time	34,504	14.1%	39,606	14.3%	49,267	14.6%	46,265	15.8%	41,163	15.8%	31,502	15.8%
Employee: Full-time	93,189	38.2%	103,975	37.6%	125,272	37.1%	101,952	34.7%	91,166	35.0%	69,869	35.0%
Self-employed	24,854	10.2%	28,597	10.3%	36,242	10.7%	36,732	12.5%	32,989	12.6%	25,344	12.7%
Unemployed	8,675	3.6%	9,682	3.5%	10,991	3.3%	7,986	2.7%	6,979	2.7%	5,670	2.8%
Full-time student	10,515	4.3%	11,297	4.1%	12,961	3.8%	7,008	2.4%	6,226	2.4%	4,562	2.3%
Economically Inactive	72,228	29.6%	83,453	30.2%	102,924	30.5%	93,498	31.9%	82,273	31.5%	62,802	31.4%
Retired	34,015	13.9%	41,505	15.0%	55,000	16.3%	59,463	20.3%	51,973	19.9%	38,478	19.3%
Student (including full-time students)	15,106	6.2%	16,173	5.8%	17,790	5.3%	9,336	3.2%	8,269	3.2%	6,652	3.3%
Looking after home or family	9,225	3.8%	10,384	3.8%	12,623	3.7%	10,556	3.6%	9,397	3.6%	7,158	3.6%
Long-term sick or disabled	9,662	4.0%	10,716	3.9%	12,070	3.6%	9,080	3.1%	8,026	3.1%	6,672	3.3%
Other	4,220	1.7%	4,675	1.7%	5,441	1.6%	5,063	1.7%	4,608	1.8%	3,842	1.9%

Qualifications	Bournemouth & Poole		Bournemouth, Poole & Christchurch		Bournemouth, Poole, Christchurch & East Dorset		Dorset excluding Bournemouth & Poole		Dorset excluding Bournemouth, Poole & Christchurch		Dorset excluding Bournemouth, Poole, Christchurch & East Dorset	
	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%
All people aged 16 and over	277,210		317,499		391,056		345,596		305,307		231,750	
No qualifications	55,828	20.1%	65,249	20.6%	81,079	20.7%	73,629	21.3%	64,208	21.0%	48,378	20.9%
Highest level of qualification: Level 1 qualifications	37,678	13.6%	43,187	13.6%	53,084	13.6%	47,384	13.7%	41,875	13.7%	31,978	13.8%
Highest level of qualification: Level 2 qualifications	44,384	16.0%	51,102	16.1%	63,149	16.1%	58,321	16.9%	51,603	16.9%	39,556	17.1%
Highest level of qualification: Apprenticeship	11,769	4.2%	13,879	4.4%	17,763	4.5%	16,675	4.8%	14,565	4.8%	10,681	4.6%
Highest level of qualification: Level 3 qualifications	39,641	14.3%	44,197	13.9%	52,702	13.5%	41,655	12.1%	37,099	12.2%	28,594	12.3%
Highest level of qualification: Level 4 qualifications and above	72,094	26.0%	82,226	25.9%	102,590	26.2%	93,218	27.0%	83,086	27.2%	62,722	27.1%
Highest level of qualification: Other qualifications	15,816	5.7%	17,659	5.6%	20,689	5.3%	14,714	4.3%	12,871	4.2%	9,841	4.2%



Approximate Social Grade	Bournemouth & Poole		Bournemouth, Poole & Christchurch		Bournemouth, Poole, Christchurch & East Dorset		Dorset excluding Bournemouth & Poole		Dorset excluding Bournemouth, Poole & Christchurch		Dorset excluding Bournemouth, Poole, Christchurch & East Dorset	
	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%
Resident population aged 16-64 based on household representative person	211,093		237,118		286,118		236,493		210,468		161,468	
AB Higher and intermediate managerial/administrative/professional occupations	45,583	21.6%	51,829	21.9%	66,195	23.1%	56,687	24.0%	50,441	24.0%	36,075	22.3%
C1 Supervisory, clerical and junior managerial/administrative/professional occupations	71,758	34.0%	79,838	33.7%	95,179	33.3%	70,463	29.8%	62,383	29.6%	47,042	29.1%
C2 Skilled manual occupations	47,519	22.5%	54,029	22.8%	65,597	22.9%	61,977	26.2%	55,467	26.4%	43,899	27.2%
DE Semi-skilled and unskilled manual occupations; unemployed and lowest grade occupations	46,233	21.9%	51,422	21.7%	59,147	20.7%	47,366	20.0%	42,177	20.0%	34,452	21.3%





	Bournemouth & Poole		Bournemouth, Poole & Christchurch		Bournemouth, Poole, Christchurch & East Dorset		Dorset excluding Bournemouth & Poole		Dorset excluding Bournemouth, Poole & Christchurch		Dorset excluding Bournemouth, Poole, Christchurch & East Dorset	
	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%
All usual residents aged 16+	277,210		317,499		391,056		345,596		305,307		231,750	
In a registered same-sex civil partnership	963	0.3%	1,049	0.3%	1,171	0.3%	640	0.2%	554	0.2%	432	0.2%

**Benefit claimants - Employment and Support Allowance**

	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%
Total population age 16-64 (Mid-Year Estimate 2015)	219,400		245,300		293,300		235,800		209,800		161,900	
Total	12,990	5.9%	14,320	5.8%	15,960	5.4%	11,590	4.9%	10,260	4.9%	8,620	5.3%
White	9,560	73.6%	10,520	73.5%	11,610	72.7%	8,330	71.9%	7,370	71.8%	6,270	72.7%
White : British	9,180	70.7%	10,120	70.7%	11,190	70.1%	8,150	70.3%	7,210	70.3%	6,140	71.2%
White : Irish	70	0.5%	80	0.6%	80	0.5%	50	0.4%	40	0.4%	40	0.5%
White : Other white	310	2.4%	320	2.2%	340	2.1%	130	1.1%	120	1.2%	90	1.0%
Ethnic minority	400	3.1%	410	2.9%	420	2.6%	100	0.9%	90	0.9%	70	0.8%
Prefer not to say or unknown	3,030	23.3%	3,400	23.7%	3,920	24.6%	3,170	27.4%	2,800	27.3%	2,280	26.5%

Source: DWP, February 2016

**Disability related benefits, November 2015\*\***

	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%
Population (MYE 2015)	345,100		394,160		482,850		420,590		371,530		282,840	
Attendance Allowance	8,500		10,540		13,680		14,320		12,280		9,140	
Disability Allowance	13,100		15,100		17,700		16,300		14,300		11,700	
Disability based benefit	21,600	6%	25,640	7%	31,380	6%	30,620	7%	26,580	7%	20,840	7%

**Rurality (2011 Census)**

	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%
Population	331,136		378,888		466,054		412,905		365,153		277,987	
Urban Population	330,761	100%	377,844	100%	443,843	95%	244,328	59%	197,245	54%	131,246	47%
Rural Population	375	0%	1,044	0%	22,211	5%	168,577	41%	167,908	46%	146,741	53%

**Benefit Population - Claimants of Council Tax Benefit, their partners and dependents as of March 2013**

	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%
Total Population (MYE 2013)	337,742		386,110		474,009		416,721		368,353		280,454	
Benefit Population (Source: DWP March 2013)	63,177	19%	70,957	18%	80,857	17%	61,318	15%	53,538	15%	43,638	16%

**Explanatory Notes**

Population totals may differ due to different population base (check age groups included).

Communal Establishment residents excludes staff and their families.

A dependent child is any person aged 0 to 15 in a household (whether or not in a family) or a person aged 16 to 18 in full-time education and living in a family with his or her parent(s) or grandparent(s). It does not include any people aged 16 to 18 who have a spouse, partner or child living in the household.

Social Grade is the socio-economic classification used by the Market Research and Marketing Industries, most often in the analysis of spending habits and consumer attitudes. Although it is not possible to allocate Social Grade precisely from information collected by the 2011 Census, the Market Research Society has developed a method for using Census information to provide a good approximation of Social Grade. Each individual aged 16 or over is assigned the approximated social grade of their Household Reference Person, according to standard market research practice.

The age range for this table has been restricted to 16 to 64. The approximated social grade algorithm used in the census produces results for this age range that are consistent with those from other data sources. The information collected in the census produces less accurate results for those outside of this age range and therefore will not be made available.

- No Qualifications: No academic or professional qualifications
- Level 1 qualifications: 1-4 O Levels/CSE/GCSEs (any grades), Entry Level, Foundation Diploma, NVQ level 1, Foundation GNVQ, Basic/Essential Skills
- Level 2 qualifications: 5+ O Level (Passes)/CSEs (Grade 1)/GCSEs (Grades A\*-C), School Certificate, 1 A Level/ 2-3 AS Levels/VCEs, Intermediate/Higher Diploma, Welsh Baccalaureate Intermediate Diploma, NVQ level 2, Intermediate GNVQ, City and Guilds Craft, BTEC First/General Diploma, RSA Diploma
- Apprenticeship
- Level 3 qualifications: 2+ A Levels/VCEs, 4+ AS Levels, Higher School Certificate, Progression/Advanced Diploma, Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced Diploma, NVQ Level 3; Advanced GNVQ, City and Guilds Advanced Craft, ONC, OND, BTEC National, RSA Advanced Diploma
- Level 4+ qualifications: Degree (for example BA, BSc), Higher Degree (for example MA, PhD, PGCE), NVQ Level 4-5, HNC, HND, RSA Higher Diploma, BTEC Higher level, Foundation degree (NI), Professional qualifications (for example teaching, nursing, accountancy)
- Other qualifications: Vocational/Work-related Qualifications, Foreign Qualifications (Not stated/ level unknown).

HRP Household Representative Person

\*\* Department of Work & Pensions February 2016 (Based on 5% Sample)

The final three sections are supplied by DCC. These look at:

**Disability** - The data set measures the number of people that were claiming attendance allowance and disability living allowance as of February 2016. This data set is a 5% sample set but gives a good indication of those who are considered to be suffering from a disability under the age of 65 (Disability Living Allowance) and those aged 65+ who have disability (Attendance Allowance).

**Rurality** - This is based on data from the ONS Census 2011 and considers the population that live in areas deemed to be either **urban** or **rural** based on the density of population and spatial distribution.

**Deprivation** - The data set from the Department of Work and Pensions considers **deprivation** and this data set looks at those in receipt of council tax benefit in March 2013 as a proxy for low income. The data set considers the claimants, their partners and dependents and together

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## Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held at County Hall, Dorchester, Dorset,  
DT1 1XJ on Thursday, 6 July 2017

### Present:

Pauline Batstone (Chairman)  
Katharine Garcia, Kevin Brookes, Kate Wheller, Steven Lugg and Bill Pipe

### Members Attending

Steve Butler, Cabinet Member for Safeguarding.

Officer Attending: Sara Tough (Corporate Director for Children's, Adults and Community Services), John Alexander (Senior Assurance Manager - Performance), Sarah Baker (Group Finance Manager), Paul Beecroft (Communications Officer (Internal)), Vanessa Glenn (Assistant Director for Care and Protection), Mike Harries (Corporate Director for Environment and Economy), Jon Lake (Technical Officer (Traffic Engineering)), Patrick Myers (Assistant Director - Design and Development), Simon Parker (County Emergency Planning Officer), David Roe (Buildings & Construction Service Manager), Mark Taylor (Group Manager - Governance and Assurance) and Fiona King (Senior Democratic Services Officer).

### For certain items, as appropriate

Daniel Cadisch, Chief Officer, Citizen's Advice Bureau.

(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 Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be held on:  
**Thursday, 12 October 2017**

### Apologies for Absence

24 Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Toni Coombs, Lesley Dedman and Beryl Ezzard.

### Code of Conduct

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

### Minutes

26 The minutes from the meeting held on 15 March 2017 were agreed and signed.

The Chairman welcomed Daniel Cadisch, Chief Officer at the Citizens Advice Bureau, to the meeting and reflected on Minute 9 from the meeting held on 19 January 2017. Following a question from the Chairman as to whether there had been any improvement in Personal Independence Payments (PIP), following correspondence from the Director on behalf of the Committee, Mr Cadisch advised that there were still huge delays in processing applications for PIP and many clients were still being disadvantaged. He reported that this had been the single greatest issue that the Citizens Advice Bureau had faced which affected the most vulnerable clients in our communities. The Chairman had understood that more training had been given to staff but it was noted that this had still not made a great deal of difference. Officers attending appeals with clients were still successful which showed that the decisions that were made in the first place were not correct. The Chairman thanked Mr Cadisch for attending and invited him to attend a future meeting to again update members on any progress with PIPs.

The Chairman proposed that a motion be presented to the County Council meeting on July 20 2017 as follows:

“That the County Council express its extreme concern to the Secretary of State for the Department of Work and Pensions in respect of the significant distress being caused to Dorset residents as a direct consequence of poor administration of the Personal Independence Payments process; as evidenced by the Dorset Citizens Advice Bureau. We call on the Secretary of State to urgently review the process to ensure improved outcomes for all residents.

Should this motion be supported that a copy be sent to all Dorset MP’s.”

### **Resolved**

That the motion put forward by the Chairman of the Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the County Council meeting on 20 July 2017 be supported.

### **Public Participation**

#### 27 Public Speaking

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

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

#### Petitions

There were no petitions received at the meeting in accordance with the County Council’s Petition Scheme.

### **Terms of Reference**

28 The Committee noted their terms of reference.

### **Emergency Planning**

29 The Committee considered a report from the County Emergency Planning Officer which gave members an overview as to how the County Council prepared and responded to incidents.

The County Emergency Planning Officer advised members that Emergency Planning was a very wide ranging subject. His report aimed to give members assurance that safeguarding was in place. He explained that with regard to a response of threats, part of the planning included the threat but it was not their role to provide a direct response to it but how it was responded to the threat. He advised that there was a Duty Officer on call for Emergency Planning at all times. He also referenced the gold and silver rota of Senior Officers within the County Council.

Members were provided with a statement following the recent Grenfell Tower tragedy, in order to give assurance as to how this organisation could respond with partners in such a situation.

One member made reference to the problems in relation to people identifying their responsibilities in Kensington, therefore how did the role of the Leader and Cabinet members fit into this. The County Emergency Planning Officer advised that the Local Resilience Forum had a planning and response phase included. There was a Strategic Co-ordination Group, which included Leaders and Chief Executives, within this Forum and their role was to take the significant lead in any event. Officers would welcome stronger engagement with elected members in this regard.

Following a question from the Chairman regarding Town and Parish Councils, the County Emergency Planning Officer advised that there was strong engagement with the Dorset Association of Town and Parish Councils (DAPTC) and officers had provided training for them.

In response to a question about if there was a need to house 500 people in an emergency situation, the County Emergency Planning Officer advised that the local Resilience Forum worked closely with all councils which incorporated close working with the District Councils as they had responsibility for housing.

The Director for Environment and the Economy highlighted to members that the responses provided by the County Council's staff to civil contingency events were entirely based on a best endeavours approach, no staff were contractually obliged to provide a 24 hour service and there was significant reliance on voluntary effort. He suggested it could be worthwhile for members to hold a dedicated emergency planning session as part of their member development to highlight how it all worked in Dorset. The County Emergency Planning Officer suggested it might be helpful to have smaller drop in sessions for members to visit the team's offices and see how they worked.

One member felt it would be opportune to consider some scrutiny on the role of the Leader and Cabinet members, including the role of the elected member. Cllr Brookes agreed to lead on this piece of work with Cllr Lugg and Simon Parker.

#### **Resolved**

1. To arrange an emergency planning development session for all elected members and to provide members with the opportunity of a drop-in session with the Emergency Planning Officers.
2. Cllr Brookes to lead a piece of scrutiny work with Cllr Lugg and Simon Parker.

#### **Task and Finish Group in respect of Road Traffic Collisions**

- 30 The Committee considered as report from the Service Director, Highways and Emergency Planning which set out the scope and responsibilities for a small Task and Finish Group in regard to the number of road traffic collisions.

Following a discussion, members agreed the contents of the scoping report and it was agreed that Cllr Wheller and Cllr Ezzard would work with the Collision Reduction and Traffic Engineering Team along with a representative from the Outcome Based Accountability (OBA) team with regards to the number of road traffic collisions.

#### **Resolved**

That the following members be elected to the Task and Finish Group: Cllr Wheller and Cllr Ezzard and provide an update for members at their next meeting on 12 October 2017.

#### **Reason for Decision**

An action was taken at the Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting in March 2017 to establish a Task and Finish Group to scrutinise the existing work undertaken by the County Council and partner agencies to improve road safety.

#### **Update on arrangements for the Inquiry Day relating to the key challenges in Domestic Abuse.**

- 31 The Group Manager for Governance and Assurance advised members that Tuesday 17 October 2017 had been highlighted as the day on which to hold the Inquiry Day and invitations would be sent out shortly.

The Chairman advised members that this was an opportunity to look critically with partners about services relating to domestic abuse.

The Director highlighted the number of agencies who would be invited to attend which included: Police, CCG, Volunteer agencies, Public Health, Police and Crime Commissioner, Housing, Education, Community Safety Partnership, Front line staff etc.

### **Noted**

#### **Approval of the Youth Justice Plan 2017-18**

32 The Committee considered a report from the Corporate Director for Children's, Adults and Community Services which advised members that the Youth Offending Teams were required to publish an annual Youth Justice Plan which needed to be approved by the County Council, Borough of Poole and Bournemouth Borough Council, and highlighted areas for improvement.

The Chairman noted that the format of the Plan was now more readable and user friendly than previously. She highlighted the reference to partnership working which she felt was very useful.

### **Recommended**

That the Cabinet approves the Youth Justice Plan 2017-18.

### **Reason for recommendation**

The draft Youth Justice Plan has been approved by the Youth Offending Service (YOS) Management Board. The plan reviewed achievements in the previous year, detailed the structure, governance and resources of the YOS, and set out the priorities for 2017-18.

#### **Corporate Plan**

33 The Committee considered a report from the Corporate Director for Children's, Adults and Community Services which included a draft refresh of the Corporate Plan 2017-18 and an Outcomes Focussed Monitoring Report for May 2017.

The Senior Assurance Manager advised members that this was now an evidence led process and that outcome indicators were now incorporated into the Plan. Future work included the development of outcome delivery strategies along with the development of some performance measures to show the County Council's impact on outcomes.

Following a question from the Cabinet Member for Safeguarding regarding the number of children persistently absent from school, the Deputy Director for Design and Development highlighted to members the change in parameters for measuring absenteeism and made reference to the explanatory text that sat underneath the indicators in the Plan.

Following a discussion regarding benchmarking, the Group Manager noted that if there was a better benchmark that could be used this needed to be brought forward by the relevant officers.

Members were given a demonstration on the performance web pages including the Dorset Outcomes Tracker, which contained up-to-date data and commentaries relating to the Corporate Plan indicators.

The Deputy Director for Care and Protection informed members there were at present 450 children in care which included 16 unaccompanied refugees, which showed they

were on track for reducing the looked after population. Following a question about where particular refugee children were placed, the Deputy Director advised that young people were placed where it was most appropriate for their needs.

The Director advised that the reason that the Children in Care budget was under pressure was as a result of the complexity and cost of some placements rather than the total number of looked after children.

**Noted**

**Update from the Community Safety Partnership**

- 34 Cllr Pipe as the Vice Chairman of the Dorset Community Safety Partnership, updated members on the impact of a change in respect of prisons and noted that the reporting of crimes was likely to change in the very near future. He added that Dorset was safer than it was last year.

**Noted**

**Work Programme**

- 35 The Committee considered its Work Programme and gave consideration to the inclusion of a number of items which had been discussed earlier in the meeting.
- EHCPs – these had been raised with the Committee and reassurance had been received that work was ongoing. The Director undertook to update members at a future relevant point. There was a written statement of action being presented to Cabinet in September 2017, the headlines of which would be brought to members at their meeting on 12 October 2017.
  - Youth Services Provision – Members felt it was important to know that the service to young people had improved as a result of all the changes. The Director advised that initially it would be important for the EAP on Children's Services to have the opportunity to look into this for them to be satisfied that the task had been achieved and to then report back as they had been instrumental in working with staff to work towards the new arrangements.

**Resolved**

That the Committee's Work Programme be updated accordingly.

**Questions from County Councillors**

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

Meeting Duration: 11.15 am - 12.50 pm

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