

Agenda

Public Document Pack

Dorset County Council



Meeting: Economic Growth Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Time: 10.00 am
Date: Wednesday, 15 June 2016
Venue: Committee Room 1, County Hall, Colliton Park, Dorchester, Dorset, DT1 1XJ

Daryl Turner (Chairman)	Hilary Cox (Vice-Chairman)
Richard Biggs	Mike Byatt
Andy Canning	Ronald Coatsworth
Mervyn Jeffery	Mike Lovell
Margaret Phipps	John Wilson

Notes:

- The reports with this agenda are available at 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>.

(a) 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 10 June 2016, and statements by midday the day before the meeting.

(b) Petitions

The Committee will consider petitions submitted in accordance with the County Council's Petition Scheme.

Debbie Ward
Services Officer
Chief Executive

Contact: David Northover, Senior Democratic
County Hall, Dorchester, DT1 1XJ
01305 224175 - n.r.northover@dorsetcc.gov.uk

Date of Publication:
07 June 2016

1. **Chairman's Introductions**

2. **Apologies for Absence**

To receive any apologies for absence.

3. **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 Councillor 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.

4. **Public Participation**

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(a) Public Speaking

To consider any requests for public speaking.

(b) Petitions

To consider the submission of two petitions, namely:-

- (i) Procedure for Petitions - Petition entitled "Superfast Broadband for Ridge"

To consider a report by the Head of Economy (attached).

- (ii) Procedure for Petitions – "Petition for Superfast Broadband for Pulham and surrounding areas".

To consider a report by the Head of Economy (attached).

5. **Terms of Reference**

To note the Committee's Terms of Reference, as follows:-

Overview and Scrutiny Committees

- **Purpose:** Delivering good outcomes for the residents and communities we serve through a constructive, proactive and objective approach to the consideration, scrutiny and review of policies, strategies, financial and performance issues.
- **Overview Function**
 - To review and develop policy at the Committee's own initiative or at the request of the Cabinet or the Public Health Joint Board and make recommendations to the Cabinet, Joint Committee or the Full Council.
 - To oversee major consultations and make recommendations to the

- Cabinet, Joint Committee or the Full Council.
- To give advice on any matters as requested by the Cabinet or the Joint Committee.
- **Scrutiny Function**
 - To hold the Executive to account through a process that seeks and considers necessary explanations, information and evidence to ensure good outcomes for our residents and communities.
 - Through proactive scrutiny inquiry work, to contribute to improving the lives of our residents and communities, through an active contribution to the Council's improvement agenda.
 - To scrutinise key areas of strategic and operational activity and, where necessary, make recommendations to the Full Council, Cabinet or Joint Committee in respect of;
 - Matters which affect the Council's area or its residents.
 - Performance of services in accordance with the targets in the Corporate Plan or other approved service plans.
 - To provide a clear focus on finding efficiency savings in accordance with requirements in the Council's financial strategy.
 - To monitor expenditure against available budgets and, where necessary, make recommendations to the Cabinet or the Joint Committee.
 - To consider proposed budget plans, service plans and any other major planning or strategic statements and to make recommendations to the Cabinet or the Joint Committee.

Specific responsibilities for the Economic Growth Overview and Scrutiny Committee are:-

- To exercise a proactive and effective overview and scrutiny of functions to ensure the effective delivery of those specific outcomes as contained in the Corporate Plan.
- Outcome - To ensure that Dorset's Economy is **Prosperous**
- A thriving local economy provides us all with more opportunities as.....
 - New businesses thrive and existing businesses become more productive;
 - More people secure the employment opportunities of their choice;
 - Dorset's residents are well educated, with the skills that Dorset's employers need;
 - Good quality, affordable homes are available for Dorset's people;
 - People and goods are able to move about the County safely and efficiently.

The Committee has the power to co-opt additional (non-voting) persons to provide routine and / or ad-hoc support to provide access to specific skills and knowledge.

6. Corporate Plan

13 - 14

To note the Corporate Plan and its Corporate Aims (attached).

7. The Committee, in Context - Dorset's economy is Prosperous

The Cabinet Member for Economy and Growth to address the Committee on the vision for delivering economic growth throughout Dorset for it to be **prosperous** and the strategy for doing this, with the purpose and aims of the Committee being set in context by the Lead Officer, as Director for Environment and the Economy and the Head of Economy, together with an initial induction from supporting

officers on the principles of the Committee, including :-

- what scrutiny entails and how this function should be applied;
- understanding the purpose of the Committee and making sense of the part it plays in meeting the aims of the Corporate Plan;
- the means by which this might be achieved;
- an explanation of the State of Dorset Economy, the role of the Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership and the relationship these will have with the Committee.

An opportunity will also be provided to meet principal officers and those relevant Heads of Service who will regularly service the Committee.

8. Outcomes Based Accountability - Context Setting 15 - 30

To consider a report by the Chief Executive (attached).

9. Work Programme 31 - 32

To provide the opportunity to develop the Committee's Draft Work Programme (attached).

So as to stimulate debate, the Chairman and Lead Officers actively encourage members to reflect on the Committee's Terms of Reference with a view to prior consideration being given to items they consider could benefit from scrutiny in looking at the Committee's Work Programme. These can be then given due consideration at the meeting.

As a prelude to this, Councillors Canning and Biggs have proposed the establishment of a Policy Development Panel on a new residents' parking strategy for the County Council.

Useful hyperlinks relating to the responsibilities of the Committee are as follows:-

- Enabling Economic Growth Strategy – <https://www.dorsetforyou.com/article/369382/Economic-development---Dorset-County-Council>
- State of Dorset Economy – <https://apps.geowessex.com/stats/Reports/Topic/Economy>
- Cabinet Forward Plan - <http://dorset.moderngov.co.uk/mqListPlans.aspx?RPId=137&RD=0>
- Cabinet decisions taken in previous 12 months - <http://dorset.moderngov.co.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CommitteId=137>

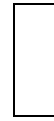
10. Dorset County Council Action Plan for Management of Pollinators 33 - 38

To consider a report by the Director for Environment and the Economy, which is to be subsequently considered by Cabinet at their meeting on 29 June 2016 (attached).

11. Questions from County Councillors

To answer any questions received in writing by the Chief Executive by not later than 10.00am on Friday 10 June 2016.

Economic Growth and Overview and Scrutiny Committee



Dorset County Council

Date of Meeting	15 June 2016
Officer	Penny Syddall
Subject of Report	Procedure for Petitions - Petition entitled “Superfast broadband for Ridge”
Executive Summary	<p>A petition has been received (in accordance with the County Council’s published petitions scheme) in relation to superfast broadband for Ridge.</p> <p>The scheme states that If a petition is supported by 50 or more signatories then it will be reported by the Chairman to the relevant Council committee.</p> <p>It is for the Committee to decide how to respond to the petition at this meeting.</p>
Impact Assessment:	<p>Equalities Impact Assessment: The Superfast Dorset programme has been subject to an equalities impact assessment, which confirmed the positive impact that improved broadband will have. The assessment noted that some hard to reach areas may not achieve significant speed uplifts - these will tend to be in the most rural parts of the county.</p>
	<p>Use of Evidence: Open market and public consultation to determine broadband delivery by infrastructure providers and define areas for gap funding – the “intervention area”.</p>

	Superfast Dorset contract with BT to provide superfast broadband to 95% of premises in Dorset has been used in writing this report.
	Budget/ Risk Assessment: No budget is directly committed in this report. Any divergence from the contractual agreement as a result of this or any future petitions would disadvantage other parishes that did not submit a petition. The level of residual risk is considered to be LOW.
Recommendation	The Committee is invited to note the receipt of this petition and decide how to respond to it.
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.
Background Papers	Dorset County Council Petitions Scheme Superfast Dorset Action Plan
Appendices	None
Report Originator and Contact	Name: Penny Syddall Tel: p.syddall@dorsetcc.gov.uk Email: 01305 225065

1. Background to the Petition Scheme

- 1.1 The County Council's Petitions Scheme (based on the national model) was adopted on 29 April 2010 and came into effect on 15 June 2010.
- 1.2 If a petition is supported by 50 or more signatories then it will be reported by the Chairman to the relevant Council committee. 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 – Superfast broadband for Ridge

- 2.1 The county council received a petition signed by 222 residents organised by Arne parish councillor Ray Scragg on 25 April. This reads as follows:-

Representatives from the Ridge Residents' Association and Arne Parish Council have for some time been trying to communicate with the Dorset Superfast Team to establish a timeline for the installation of Superfast Broadband for the community of Ridge, near Wareham. As we haven't been able get any answers either by email, telephone or ideally in meetings we have raised a petition seeking a mandate to seek answers to our queries.

We have been pointed towards the 'Superfast Map for the Superfast Dorset Project' - (above) which shows progress for Ridge as:

a] *Either "Fibre Broadband may be available in this area as part of a separate roll-out programme. The majority of work is complete, however there is still some more work to be done. (As shown in the purple areas.)*

If the majority of the work is complete, when will it be completed so that all residents can enjoy >24mbs Superfast?

If we are under a separate rollout programme we wish to be able to communicate sensibly with that team.

In the remaining part of Ridge:

b] *"We are developing plans for this area. Improved broadband will be available for those who currently have less than 2Mps by autumn 2016."* (as shown in the yellow area)

Does this mean that households on typically 3-8mbs mbs at present will receive no Superfast at all? What plans are being developed for the area? There is completely no information on any of this!

I accordingly submit 222 Signatures from 113 (65%) of households from the settlement of Ridge together with the header sheet. Please be aware that 27%of respondents described themselves as business users and 61% describe themselves as using the internet for some kind of working from home activity. We're not just talking about the 'mere' ability to use catch-up TV services prohibited from use to many Ridge residents.

Can you please process this petition under the Dorset County Council Petitions Scheme?

2.2 As this petition contains more than 50 signatures, the Committee are invited to note and discuss this.

2.3 This discussion should conclude with a decision as to how to respond to the petition. This may include:

- taking the action requested in the petition
- holding an inquiry into the matter
- undertaking research into the matter
- holding a public meeting
- holding a consultation
- holding a meeting with petitioners
- referring the petition for consideration by the council's audit and scrutiny committee
- calling a referendum
- writing to the petition organiser setting out our views about the request in the petition

2.4 Alternatively, the Council may determine a combination of the options above, or decide on another course of action as appropriate.

3. Context

3.1 Universal provision of superfast broadband is critical to the future economic and social prosperity of the county of Dorset. The Superfast Dorset programme aims to deliver the most appropriate superfast broadband solution for communities, maximising benefits in a cost effective manner across the business and domestic community.

3.2 Across the project area, Dorset Bournemouth and Poole the outcomes are modelled on the basis of maximising coverage for the available budget The plans are produced by BT based on value for money considerations and

deployment of the infrastructure for Superfast Dorset is implemented in accordance with the Implementation Plan and Project Plan, agreed as part of the contract between the Superfast Dorset funding partnership and BT, signed on 10 July 2013, and as amended from time to time through agreed change control processes.

- 3.3 The current Superfast Dorset contract is to reach 95% of the premises in Dorset, including Bournemouth and Poole. It also takes into consideration the premises already served with superfast access through the previous rollout by the commercial providers.
- 3.4 This is a significant step-change in superfast broadband availability in Dorset with levels of predicted coverage higher than most other equivalent programmes nationally. Although Dorset is well-placed, the headline percentages risk masking a problem in our most rural of areas, due to already very high levels of coverage in the urban conurbation of Bournemouth and Poole.
- 3.5 The SFD team has received a small number of enquiries from Ridge and Arne and responded with standard messaging. To clarify the situation for both villages:
- The centre of Ridge is served by a cabinet in Stoborough enabled through the BT rollout which preceded this programme (the ‘separate rollout’ referred to above. ‘Further work’ is happening in some areas but we are not aware of any further work in Ridge).
 - Unfortunately, Ridge residents are not able to access superfast speeds because of their distance from the cabinet. Superfast Dorset cannot currently provide service in this area because it is not within the project’s intervention area.
 - In the rural areas outside the main settlement of Ridge (including Arne), properties are not expected to be served through the current Superfast Dorset contract with BT or the second contract next year.
 - Residents across the parish with speeds below 2Mbps can apply for a subsidised connection to satellite or wireless service through the Basic Broadband Scheme.
- 3.6 Following previous petitions from hard to reach communities like these, the Environment Overview Committee set up a members’ Task and Finish group which made recommendations to the committee in February. Recommendations included:
- That a comprehensive analysis of superfast broadband “not-spots” across the county is carried out, detailing communities, clusters of properties and isolated properties
 - That the Superfast Dorset team continues to work with the supplier to ensure solutions deliver value for money in order to maximise the potential underspend for reinvestment
 - That additional funding opportunities are pursued, including the part that the South West Ultrafast Fund will play in this.
- 3.7 These recommendations have been incorporated into the Superfast Dorset action plan. Progress against these actions is shown in the following chart.

That a comprehensive analysis of superfast broadband “not-spots” across the county is carried out, detailing communities, clusters of properties and isolated properties.	Estimated completion date end June 2016 – will be informed by updated data on Superfast Dorset rollout and from commercial suppliers through Open Market Review and Public Consultation
That the Superfast Dorset team continues to work with the supplier to ensure solutions deliver value for money in order to maximise the potential underspend for reinvestment – it is understood that additional investment will be available for further delivery at the end of the current deployment period, i.e. into 2018.	£1.8m of early gainshare and unallocated sums being modelled for extra coverage. State aid public consultation on intervention area complete 15/4/16.
That the Task and Finish Group supports actively pursuing the benefits of a marketing action plan with all of the strategic stakeholders for the development of a business case for revenue funding of activities that will drive greater take-up, from 19% to 50%.	Current take up 24%. Revenue support to expand programme to reach Govt target of 50% take-up is proving problematic
That additional funding opportunities are pursued, including the part that the South West Ultrafast Fund will play in this.	On-going, partly addressed through ultrafast programme
Should additional funding be available, market engagement and open procurement should be a requirement to maximise competition, drive value for money and innovative solutions. Any alternative solution must be demonstrably no more expensive in on-going user costs than mainstream commercial offerings and must have no greater restrictions on volume of use and on hospitality to future extension.	Ultrafast programme to be procured through open procurement, in compliance with DCMS’s National Broadband Scheme
That Dorset’s Digital Infrastructure Strategy is used to gain traction with the Dorset LEP and other stakeholders to provide a strategic base for actions in the medium term to develop a digital Dorset and maximise economic growth and prosperity.	EOI for growth deal 3 submitted. Dorset LEP partnering in funding and delivery of Ultrafast programme

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 This report alerts the Committee to the petition and proposes a response.
- 4.2 The Economic Growth and Overview and Scrutiny Committee recognises that some communities and individual residential and business premises will not be provided with superfast broadband coverage through current contracts. Residents and businesses with less than 2Mbps can apply for a subsidised connection through the Basic Broadband Scheme.
- 4.3 The Superfast Dorset team will communicate this situation directly with the Ridge Residents Association and Arne Parish Council.
- 4.4 Superfast Dorset team continues to explore all options to access further funding to extend superfast coverage to the final 3-5%, including supporting marketing activities to increase take-up to ensure gainshare opportunities are maximised.

Matthew Piles
 Head of Economy
 June 2016

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Agenda Item:

Economic Growth and Overview and Scrutiny Committee



Dorset County Council

Date of Meeting	15 June 2016
Officer	Penny Syddall
Subject of Report	Procedure for Petitions - Petition for Superfast Broadband for Pulham and Surrounding Areas
Executive Summary	<p>A petition has been received (in accordance with the County Council's published petitions scheme) in relation to superfast broadband for Pulham.</p> <p>The scheme states that If a petition is supported by 50 or more signatories then it will be reported by the Chairman to the relevant Council committee.</p> <p>It is for the Committee to decide how to respond to the petition at this meeting.</p>
Impact Assessment:	<p>Equalities Impact Assessment:</p> <p>The Superfast Dorset programme has been subject to an equalities impact assessment, which confirmed the positive impact that improved broadband will have. The assessment noted that some hard to reach areas may not achieve significant speed uplifts - these will tend to be in the most rural parts of the county.</p>
	<p>Use of Evidence:</p> <p>Open market and public consultation to determine broadband delivery by infrastructure providers and define areas for gap</p>

	<p>funding - the “intervention area”.</p> <p>Superfast Dorset contract with BT to provide superfast broadband to 95% of premises in Dorset has been used in writing this report.</p>
	<p>Budget/ Risk Assessment:</p> <p>No budget is directly committed in this report. Any divergence from the contractual agreement as a result of this or any future petitions would disadvantage other parishes that did not submit a petition.</p> <p>The level of residual risk is considered to be LOW.</p>
Recommendation	The Committee is invited to note the receipt of this petition and decide how to respond to it.
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.
Background Papers	Dorset County Council Petitions Scheme Superfast Dorset Action Plan
Appendices	None
Report Originator and Contact	Name: Penny Syddall Tel: p.syddall@dorsetcc.gov.uk Email: 01305 225065

1. Background to the Petition Scheme

- 1.1 The County Council's Petitions Scheme (based on the national model) was adopted on 29 April 2010 and came into effect on 15 June 2010.
- 1.2 If a petition is supported by 50 or more signatories then it will be reported by the Chairman to the relevant Council committee. 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 - Superfast broadband for Pulham

- 2.1 Dorset County Council received a petition of 96 signatures from Mr Mark Vye on 2 June 2016. It reads:

It is now clear that Pulham is not included in the current plan (out to 2017) for the installation of superfast broadband after correspondence with the Superfast Dorset and the MP for North Dorset, Simon Hoare.

Pulham must be included in the installation of superfast broadband fibre optic in the current 2017 plan.

Further notes from Mr Vye:

Proposals/information requirements and requests to be developed and presented at the EGOSC

- The petition asks that Pulham should be included in the 2016 plan, as advertised, having been slipped from 2015 and that at minimum:

'Pulham must be included in the installation of Superfast Broadband fibre optic in the current 2017 plan.'
 - The difference in the cable between Hazelbury Bryan and King's Stag and the purpose of the cable from King's Stag to East Pulham at KW Autos are yet to be established.
 - What are the commercial/technical criteria for inclusion/exclusion in the roll out plans?
 - Why is Pulham (amongst others) not named/included/mentioned on the list of villages on the N Dorset progress page of the Dorset for You Superfast web site? What are/were the criteria for inclusion/exclusion?
 - What compliance/quality/assurance checks are in place? Who is in control of this roll out – Openreach, Superfast Dorset or the elected Council?
 - That Councillors develop a collective scrutiny action to address the provision of fibre optic cable to the rural environment and compliance/quality/ assurance, not just 'not spots'.
- 2.2 As this petition contains more than 50 signatures, the Committee is invited to note and discuss this.

- 2.3 This discussion should conclude with a decision as to how to respond to the petition. This may include:
- taking the action requested in the petition
 - holding an inquiry into the matter
 - undertaking research into the matter
 - holding a public meeting
 - holding a consultation
 - holding a meeting with petitioners
 - referring the petition for consideration by the council's audit and scrutiny committee
 - calling a referendum
 - writing to the petition organiser setting out our views about the request in the petition
- 2.4 Alternatively, the Council may determine a combination of the options above, or decide on another course of action as appropriate.

3. Context

- 3.1 Universal provision of superfast broadband is critical to the future economic and social prosperity of the county of Dorset. The Superfast Dorset programme aims to deliver the most appropriate superfast broadband solution for communities, maximising benefits in a cost effective manner across the business and domestic community.
- 3.2 Across the project area, Dorset Bournemouth and Poole the outcomes are modelled on the basis of maximising coverage for the available budget. The plans are produced by BT based on value for money considerations and deployment of the infrastructure for Superfast Dorset is implemented in accordance with the Implementation Plan and Project Plan, agreed as part of the contract between the Superfast Dorset funding partnership and BT, signed on 10 July 2013, and as amended from time to time through agreed change control processes.
- 3.3 The current Superfast Dorset contract is to reach 95% of the premises in Dorset, including Bournemouth and Poole. It also takes into consideration the premises already served with superfast access through the previous rollout by the commercial providers.
- 3.4 This is a significant step-change in superfast broadband availability in Dorset with levels of predicted coverage higher than most other equivalent programmes nationally. Although Dorset is well-placed, the headline percentages risk masking a problem in our most rural of areas, due to already very high levels of coverage in the urban conurbation of Bournemouth and Poole.
- 3.5 The Superfast Dorset team has had various communication with Mr Vye in Pulham over the past six months or so.

The team has explained that current plans are to provide superfast broadband to East Pulham but not to the main village of Pulham. He has been informed that residents with speeds below 2Mbps can apply for a subsidised connection to satellite or wireless service through the Basic Broadband Scheme and that a local operator has network nearby.

The rollout is planned by Openreach against value for money criteria determined by Superfast Dorset. The aim has been to connect as many properties to the network as possible within the available funding.

The map is clearly marked as indicative only. It is made clear that plans change. Changes occur when further information comes to light through the detailed surveys.

Pulham was included as an area on the guidance map where service was indicated subject to detailed surveys. Because it is so close to an area that remains in current plans, Superfast Dorset has asked Openreach to explore the possibility of extending service to Pulham. The additional cost could be met by dropping another area from the rollout.

Pulham is not included in the list of villages as this details where service has been provided.

3.6 Following previous petitions from hard to reach communities like this, the Environment Overview Committee set up a members' Task and Finish group which made recommendations to the committee in February.

Recommendations included:

- That a comprehensive analysis of superfast broadband “not-spots” across the county is carried out, detailing communities, clusters of properties and isolated properties
- That the Superfast Dorset team continues to work with the supplier to ensure solutions deliver value for money in order to maximise the potential underspend for reinvestment
- That additional funding opportunities are pursued, including the part that the South West Ultrafast Fund will play in this.

3.7 These recommendations have been incorporated into the Superfast Dorset action plan. Progress against these actions is shown in the following chart.

That a comprehensive analysis of superfast broadband “not-spots” across the county is carried out, detailing communities, clusters of properties and isolated properties.	Estimated completion date end June 2016 – will be informed by updated data on Superfast Dorset rollout and from commercial suppliers through Open Market Review and Public Consultation
That the Superfast Dorset team continues to work with the supplier to ensure solutions deliver value for money in order to maximise the potential underspend for reinvestment - it is understood that additional investment will be available for further delivery at the end of the current deployment period, ie into 2018.	£1.8m of early gainshare and unallocated sums being modelled for extra coverage. State aid public consultation on intervention area complete 15/4/16.
That the Task and Finish Group supports actively pursuing the benefits of a marketing action plan with all of the strategic stakeholders for the development of a business case for revenue funding of activities that will drive greater take-up, from 19% to 50%.	Current take up 24%. Revenue support to expand programme to reach Govt target of 50% take-up is proving problematic
That additional funding opportunities are pursued, including the part that the South West Ultrafast Fund will play in this.	On-going, partly addressed through ultrafast programme

<p>Should additional funding be available, market engagement and open procurement should be a requirement to maximise competition, drive value for money and innovative solutions. Any alternative solution must be demonstrably no more expensive in on-going user costs than mainstream commercial offerings and must have no greater restrictions on volume of use and on hospitality to future extension.</p>	<p>Ultrafast programme to be procured through open procurement, in compliance with DCMS's National Broadband Scheme</p>
<p>That Dorset's Digital Infrastructure Strategy is used to gain traction with the Dorset LEP and other stakeholders to provide a strategic base for actions in the medium term to develop a digital Dorset and maximise economic growth and prosperity.</p>	<p>EOI for growth deal 3 submitted. Dorset LEP partnering in funding and delivery of Ultrafast programme</p>

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 This report alerts the Committee to the petition and proposes a response.
- 4.2 The Economic Growth and Overview and Scrutiny Committee recognises that some communities and individual residential and business premises will not be provided with superfast broadband coverage through current contracts. Residents and businesses with less than 2Mbps can apply for a subsidised connection through the Basic Broadband Scheme.
- 4.3 The Superfast Dorset map is indicative only and may be subject to change.
- 4.4 Superfast Dorset team continues to explore all options to access further funding to extend superfast coverage to the final 3-5%, including supporting marketing activities to increase take-up to ensure gainshare opportunities are maximised.

Matthew Piles
 Head of Economy
 June 2016

Working Together for a Strong and Successful Dorset

Dorset County Council's Corporate Plan

Foreword

Dorset is a great place to live, work and visit. We are proud and ambitious for the whole county, from the most rural to the most urban. That is why we must work together to make Dorset even more successful than it is now.

Dorset has unique environmental assets which underpin our economy and wellbeing. More than 50% of the county is designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the 'Jurassic Coast' between Lyme Regis and Swanage has World Heritage Site status. The richness of our natural environment is matched by our heritage, with an abundance of historic buildings and sites helping to give our towns and villages their distinctive character.

We have always focused our efforts on creating a vibrant economy and making sure that we do all we can for the health and wellbeing of all our residents. Maintaining a healthy and accessible environment is critical for the health, wellbeing and prosperity of current and future generations. The quality of the environment is highly attractive to businesses, employees and visitors and helps our economy to thrive, so we will always work with our partners and communities to ensure that our environment is well managed, enhanced and invested in.

We also need to confront inequality and do more for those people in Dorset who, due to their circumstances, have poorer outcomes in life - and this plan describes how we will support those who need our services the most. Some of our services are under increasing pressure as we take care of vulnerable children and adults, those whose outcomes in life are not as good as they could be. We will do everything we can to make sure people are safe and well but we have to think of different ways to deliver our services as money becomes tighter.

The changes we need to make are already well under way, through our transformation programme (known as Forward Together). The principles of the programme guide how we develop our work in the future. They are:

- **Greater independence** – we'll work hard to support communities and individuals to support themselves
- **Smarter services** – reducing costs and overheads, making sure we deliver cost effective services
- **Empowered people** – ensuring staff, communities and partners are valued, skilled and empowered to work together for a strong and successful Dorset.

We are committed to working together with local people and others to make better use of the money and resources that we have. We want you to have the best outcomes possible, and we will achieve this by constantly checking that we are efficient and effective. We will do this by reviewing evidence to judge whether or not our services have made a difference. This involves regularly scrutinising:

1. How much we do
2. How well we do it

And most importantly:

3. Is anyone better off?

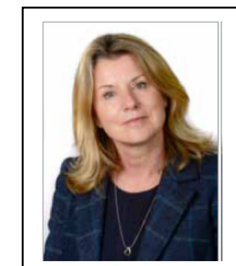
Improving outcomes for our customers contributes to improving outcomes for the whole population of Dorset. For instance, A Highways Service that keeps roads in good condition contributes to reducing road traffic accidents, thereby making Dorset a safer place in which to travel.

Longer term, as we need to keep saving money, we will have to make decisions about the council structures across Dorset. But any changes will be made with the people of the whole county in mind, since whatever we do has to be in the best interests of residents and communities. We will make sure that we find ways to make our Towns and Parishes stronger in any changes that occur. They are the closest level of local government to you and we need to make sure your voice is heard through those organisations.

This plan talks a lot about outcomes. We are focusing on what we do, but more importantly what we achieve *with you*, our residents. We want to make sure that as we join together across the county we continue our efforts to encourage economic growth, and help everyone to be safe, healthy and independent.



Robert Gould
Leader of Dorset County Council



Debbie Ward
Chief Executive

Working Together for a Strong and Successful Dorset

Our Outcomes Framework

Seeking to improve the lives of people in Dorset

Our outcomes framework is made up of four outcomes, reflecting the county council's commitment to helping residents be **safe, healthy and independent**, with an economy that is **prosperous**. The framework supports a common way of working for a **strong and successful Dorset**, with a relentless focus on making a difference and improving the quality of life of residents. It sets out what "good" looks like but empowers staff to think and behave differently, to show initiative and to innovate.

The aspirational outcome statements below define what the priorities are in Dorset under these four headings. Working together with our communities and our partners, we will use the best evidence available to **challenge inequality** and focus our resources on the people and places in most need of help.

Everyone should focus more on prevention – making sure people are supported early on to stop problems from escalating. We will also help and encourage local residents to come up with, and often deliver, their own solutions to improve their quality of life.

People in Dorset are SAFE	People in Dorset are HEALTHY	People in Dorset are INDEPENDENT	Dorset's economy is PROSPEROUS
<p>Everyone should feel safe, wherever they are.</p> <p><i>But... 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 substance misuse and domestic abuse. There are also far too many accidents on our roads.</i></p> <p>So we want to help make sure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children and vulnerable adults are safe wherever they are • Crime, antisocial behaviour and domestic abuse across Dorset is minimised • There are fewer accidental injuries and deaths – including those on Dorset's roads • People and communities are better able to cope with environmental change and other emergencies 	<p>Most people are healthy and make good lifestyle choices.</p> <p><i>But... 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.</i></p> <p>So we want to help make sure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children and families know what it means to be healthy and happy • People adopt healthy lifestyles and lead active lives • People enjoy emotional and mental wellbeing • People stay healthy, avoiding preventable illnesses as they grow older • people live in healthy, accessible communities and natural environments where waste is minimised 	<p>We all want to live independent lives and have a choice over how we live.</p> <p><i>But... we have a high number of older people who are isolated and lonely; they need help to live at home for longer and to be in control of the support they receive.</i></p> <p>So we want to help make sure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Families are strong and stable and experience positive relationships • Children and young people are confident learners and are successful as they grow into adulthood • People remain happily independent and stay in their own homes for as long as possible • People are part of inclusive communities and don't feel lonely or isolated • People who do need help have control over their own care 	<p>A thriving local economy provides us all with more opportunities.</p> <p><i>But... 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.</i></p> <p>So we want to help make sure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New businesses thrive and existing businesses become more efficient and productive • More people secure the employment opportunities of their choice • Dorset's residents are well educated, with the skills that Dorset's employers need • Good quality, affordable, healthy homes are available for Dorset's people • The need to travel is reduced, and people and goods are able to move about the county safely and efficiently

Our Guiding Principles

We know we need to focus our resources on activities that produce the best outcomes for our residents in the most cost-effective ways possible. This means that we will focus our efforts on those people and communities who need the most help. Where appropriate we will focus on whole families, rather than just individuals, and offer help early so that people remain independent for longer and have less need for more specialist, expensive services.

We know that we're not always the best-placed organisation to solve people's problems. We will always look for opportunities to work with other organisations, as well as people and communities themselves, to reach the best possible outcomes. And we will make systematic use of the best available evidence, to make sure our chosen activities are effective.

We will always try to make sure that what we do improves the wider prosperity of Dorset – for example, by buying goods and services from local businesses whenever we can.

Our values

- **Fairness** – we are fair in balancing competing demands
- **Openness** – we are clear and honest about what we are doing and why
- **Respect** – we show full and proper respect to everyone we work with
- **Effectiveness** – we ensure local tax-payers get the best value for money
- **Innovation** – we find new ways of working to achieve more for local people

Agenda Item:



Overview & Scrutiny Committees

Dorset County Council



Date of Meeting	June 2016
Officer	Chief Executive / Corporate Directors
Subject of Report	Outcomes Based Accountability (OBA) Context Report
Executive Summary	<p>This report provides background and context in relation to Outcomes Based Accountability and the how the council is using this methodology to ensure a clear focus is maintained on those priority outcomes which have been agreed for inclusion in our Corporate Plan.</p> <p>It sets out the key principles of this approach and summarises some of the key features of the OBA methodology.</p> <p>The appendices to this report also include example documentation to help demonstrate to elected members how the OBA methodology can be actively used to support scrutiny work. <i>(NB: - It should be noted that these examples are for illustrative purposes only.)</i></p>
Impact Assessment:	<i>Equalities Impact Assessment:</i> There are no specific issues associated with this report.
	<i>Use of Evidence:</i> Not applicable.
	<i>Budget:</i> No specific cost implications are associated with this report.

	<p><i>Risk Assessment:</i> 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:</p> <p>Current Risk: LOW Residual Risk LOW</p> <hr/> <p><i>Other Implications:</i> None</p>
<p>Recommendation</p>	<p>That the Committee consider and reflect upon the OBA principles and methodology and, through the sample report provided, reflect on how the OBA methodology will be used to provide focused information to support elected members deliver their overview & scrutiny challenge and assurance responsibilities.</p>
<p>Reason for Recommendation</p>	<p>To provide information to assist the council deliver against its corporate plan commitments and to support us in <i>'Working Together for a Strong and Successful Dorset.'</i></p>
<p>Appendices</p>	<p>Appendix A – Sample documentation <i>(Domestic Abuse – Children who are subject to child protection)</i></p>
<p>Background Papers</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Report Originator and Contact</p>	<p>Name: Mark Taylor Group Manager – Governance & Assurance Tel: (01305) 224982 Email: m.taylor@dorsetcc.gov.uk</p>

1. What is Outcomes Based Accountability?

- 1.1 Outcomes Based Accountability (OBA) is a structured approach to thinking, assessing and taking action to improve the life conditions of residents and communities.
- 1.2 It starts from the end result – or outcome – and works backwards to identify those actions that actually make a difference. In other words we work from ‘Ends’, backwards to clearly identify the ‘Means’ that have got us there and assess whether the resultant outcome is good, bad or indifferent.
- 1.3 It is designed to get from ‘talk to action’ as quickly, as the methodology actively encourages appropriate, timely, evidence based action to deliver improvement.
- 1.4 It works well if done by directly involving those that have a role to play in improving the outcome. It therefore starts by getting colleagues and partners talking about a particular problem and discussing the ‘causes and forces’ at work behind the issue. Once these are properly understood clear actions can then be agreed and assigned to help tackle and address any gaps.
- 1.5 OBA tries to use plain language and common sense methods that everyone can understand.

2. So how does OBA work?

- 2.1 Firstly we identify which ‘life condition’ we are actively seeking to assess and, if necessary, improve – in doing so we establish a clear focus on a specific ‘outcome’.
- 2.2 Dorset County Council has articulated those priority ‘life conditions (outcomes)’ that we believe are important in our Corporate Plan. These are set out under our four key outcomes SAFE; HEALTHY; INDEPENDENT; and PROSPEROUS.
- 2.3 An example from our Corporate Plan would be that ‘People in Dorset are SAFE’. Within this outcome the council has agreed that we are committed to ensuring that:
 - Children and vulnerable adults are safe wherever they are;
 - Crime, antisocial behaviour and domestic abuse across Dorset is minimised;
 - There are fewer accidental injuries and deaths – including those on Dorset’s roads.
 - People and communities are better able to cope with environmental change and other emergencies.
- 2.4 In seeking to assess whether we are achieving these, we would select a particular aspect, and we would then select some trends – these are called:
 - i) **Population Indicators** – *A measure that helps quantify the achievement of an outcome. Indicators answer the question “How would we recognise this result if we fell over it?”*
(E.g. The crime rate helps to quantify whether we are living in a safe community).
 - ii) **Performance Measures** – *A measure of how well a programme, organisation or service is working*
(E.g. The percentage of crimes that have been solved).

- 2.5 We can then take the most important indicators and measures to understand the reasons why the current situation is as it is.
- 2.6 We identify who should play a role in making a difference and then decide what action to take to improve the outcome.
- 2.7 Significantly this enables the County Council to take an objective view of its own contribution and performance and thus assess what specific improvement(s) it could make. This is either through aspects of its own of service delivery, or through its influence with others.
- 2.8 We can then analyse to try to find out those things that are contributing to the current situation, identify who should play a part in improving the situation and decide what action should be taken to make a difference.

3. What questions do we need to ask?

- 3.1 OBA takes a structured approach to ensure focus, clarity and objectivity is maintained during the assessment process.
- 3.2 In seeking to assess the current situation we must first consider outcomes at the at 'population' level. This stage uses seven specific questions, normally referred to as 'The 7 Population Accountability Questions'. These are as follows;
 - 1. What are the quality of life conditions we want for our children, adults and families who live in our community?
 - 2. What would these conditions look like if we could see them?
 - 3. How can we measure these conditions?
 - 4. How are we doing with the most important of these measures?
 - 5. Who are the partners that have a role to play in doing better?
 - 6. What works to do better, including no-cost and low-cost ideas?
 - 7. What do we propose to do?
- 3.3 In assessing 'population outcomes' we also need to be clear that the council will not have sole accountability for outcomes. For example, if we again consider the example of seeking a reduction in crime. Responsibility for this is also shared by others as it requires local people, partners and partnerships (e.g. the Community Safety Partnership) to come together to bear down over time on the causes of crime. *(This is reflected by question 5.)*
- 3.4 Having reflected on the answers to these 7 population accountability questions we are better able to understand the current situation and assess where any challenges may be.
- 3.5 Then in order to assess whether we as a county council are in a position to be able to influence and hopefully improve these outcomes, we can then also drill down further to look at the 'performance accountability' level.
- 3.6 Whilst 'The 7 Performance Accountability Questions' are similar, as can be seen, these specifically look to assess the council's own contribution:
 - 1. Who are our clients / customers?
 - 2. How can we measure if they are better off?
 - 3. How can we measure if we are delivering services well?

4. How are we doing on the most important of these measures?
 5. Who are the partners that have a role to play in doing better?
 6. What works to do better including no-cost and low-cost ideas?
 7. What do we propose to do?
- 3.7 This provides us with a clear indication of what impact we are having on the outcome and what we are doing to change the behaviour, attitude, knowledge, skills or circumstances of clients or a group of people.
- 3.8 At this stage the OBA methodology also allows us to use and apply information we have gleaned to actively look to influence the outcomes. This is known as 'Turning the Curve', which seeks measurable improvement and moves us from 'Talk to Action' i.e. What are we actually going to do to deliver better outcomes?
- 3.9 This aspect of the process is similarly supported through a structured assessment process, which again is organised around seven key questions. We refer to these as 'The 7 Killer Questions':
1. If we do nothing where is the trend heading, is this OK?
 2. What's helping and hindering the trend ('causes and forces')?
 3. Are local service sand partnership working making a difference and providing value for money?
 4. What additional information / research do we need to properly understand the 'causes and forces'?
 5. Who are the key partners we need to be working with (including local residents)?
 6. What could work to turn the trend in the right direction, including 'low cost and no cost solutions'? Additional information/research around 'what works'?
 7. What is the Council's and Members role and specific contribution?
- 3.10 To be effective turning the curve exercises need to be clear on their purpose, properly scoped and carried out in accordance with a strict time limit. Routinely only 55 minutes is allocated. This is to ensure that the discussions remain focused and lead to the identification of clear actions, which are agreed and allocated to lead individuals to ensure clear ownership and accountability.
- 3.11 These help to inform us whether our own contribution is effective and/or whether improvements could be achieved and, if so, which aspects of our work could deliver these.
- 3.12 The process supports the council to reach clear conclusions and recommendations for change, focusing on priority outcomes and monitoring and evidencing progress towards those desired outcomes.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 The County Council has adopted the OBA approach to help ensure we maintain a clear focus on the priority outcomes (life conditions) for the residents and communities we serve, constantly striving to do better.
- 4.2 Appendix A provides an example committee scrutiny scoping document and report, which has been included for illustrative purposes only.
- 4.3 The particular example relates to one of the council's corporate plan stated outcomes that Dorset People are SAFE. It considers Domestic Abuse and specifically reviews

the 'rate of children subject to child protection where domestic abuse is a feature'.

- 4.4 This example document has been specifically drafted to help to demonstrate how the OBA approach could be used to support the work of all of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees in scrutinising progress against delivery of those priority outcomes contained in our Corporate Plan.

Debbie Ward
Chief Executive
June 2016

Scrutiny Review - Planning & Scoping Document

DOMESTIC ABUSE

(Rate of children subject to Child Protection where Domestic Abuse is a feature)

<p>What is the Purpose of the Review?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specify exactly which Outcome(s) the review is examining? • Also being clear what the review is <u>not</u> looking at • What is the Scrutiny Review seeking to achieve? • Where possible refer to VFM issues of service cost, service performance and/or customer satisfaction. 	<p><u>Corporate Plan Outcome & Priority:</u></p> <p>OUTCOME = SAFE PRIORITY = Crime, antisocial behaviour and domestic abuse across Dorset in minimised.</p> <p><u>Outcome Indicator / Measure:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rate of children subject to a Child Protection where domestic abuse is a feature. <p><u>Supporting Rationale for the review:</u> From a recent audit completed by Children’s Services, 97% of children subject to a Child Protection Plan showed that domestic abuse was a concern. The evidence suggests locally and nationally that incidents of domestic abuse is rising and is impacting significantly on outcomes for children, young people and carers.</p> <p>If we do nothing then the trend is likely to continue locally and hence this matter requires specific attention.</p>
<p>What are the Criteria for Selection?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Why has this particular topic been considered to be a priority issue for scrutiny? ➤ Which of the principle criteria promoted by the Centre for Public Scrutiny does it satisfy? 	<p><u>Scrutiny review prioritisation assessment criteria:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is the topic/issue likely to have a significant impact on the delivery of council services? YES 2. Is the issue of included in the Corporate Plan (e.g. of strategic importance to the council or its partners/stakeholders), or have the potential to be if not addressed? YES 3. Is a focused scrutiny review likely to add value to the performance of its services? YES 4. Is a proactive scrutiny process likely to lead to efficiencies / savings? Potentially - but not main aim. 5. Has other review work been undertaken which is likely to result in duplication? NO 6. Do sufficient scrutiny resources already exist, or are readily available, to ensure that the necessary work can be carried out in a timely manner? YES <p style="text-align: right;">Assessed Priority = HIGH</p>



<p>What are the Indicators of Success?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>What factors / outcomes will demonstrate that this Scrutiny Review has been a success?</i> 	<p>We aim to identify opportunities to improve outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ To help to ‘turn the curve’ to minimise the impact of domestic abuse on children, adults and communities. ○ Arrive at clear conclusions and recommendations to deliver tangible outcome improvements. <p><u>Good Scrutiny Principles</u></p> <p>Will the review actively:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tackle issues of direct relevant to local people? YES ○ Tackle issues where, through the unique perspective of elected members, it can add the most value? YES ○ Talk to wide range of people, drawing them together and building consensus? YES ○ Challenge the accepted ways of doing things and acting as a champion for developing a culture of improvement in an area? YES
<p>What Methodology / Approach is to be followed?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>What types of enquiry will be used to gather evidence.</i> <p><i>Following a structured and proportionate review process, which is likely to involve the active consideration of evidence, direct representation(s), a review of financial, performance and risk data to arrive at an objective opinion against some Key Lines of Enquiry;</i></p>	<p>An Outcomes Based Accountability (OBA) methodology will be used to conduct and structure the scrutiny review process. This will involve provision and consideration of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Context, performance, financial and risk information - Evidence will be collated and assessed (incl. consideration of previous work, reports & data, verbal representations etc. - Other specific contributions from relevant organisations, agencies and individuals...list these e.g. Chairman Dorset Children’s Safeguarding Board, Domestic Abuse Forum, Police & Crime Commissioner etc. <p><u>Supporting Key Lines of Enquiry (KLOE)</u></p> <p>Turning the Curve – the 7 Killer Questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If we do nothing where is the trend heading, is this OK? 2. What’s helping and hindering the trend (‘causes and forces’)? 3. Are local services and partnerships making a difference and providing value for money? 4. What additional information / research do we need to properly understand the ‘causes and forces’? 5. Who are the key partners we need to be working with (including local residents)? 6. What could work to turn the trend in the right direction including ‘low cost and no cost solutions’? Additional information/research around ‘what works’? 7. What is the Council’s and Members role and specific contribution?



<p>What specific resources & budget requirements are there? <i>What support is required for the review exercise?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>specialist staff</i> • <i>any external support</i> • <i>site visits</i> • <i>consultation</i> • <i>research</i> 	<p>In anticipation of voluntary support and assistance from external agencies, we do not anticipate any significant additional costs being incurred by the council in conducting this review.</p> <p>At this stage we do not envisage a need for any specific external support costs, or extensive research of consultation exercises.</p> <p>A summary of the main costs associated with the review will therefore be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prioritising council officer support time - Minor expenses relating to elected member, external agencies and officer travel &/or subsistence
<p>Are any Corporate Risks associated with this Review? <i>Identify any weaknesses and barriers to success</i></p>	<p>The Corporate Risk Register currently identifies the following risks that are relevant to this review exercise:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Failure to protect vulnerable children and young adults from abuse or neglect in situations that could have been predicted and prevented - HIGH RISK 2. Failure to protect vulnerable adults from abuse or neglect in situations that could have been predicted and prevented – MEDIUM RISK
<p>Who will receive the review conclusions and any resultant recommendations?</p>	<p>The outcomes from this review exercise, which will be presented as clear and structured conclusions and recommendations, will be presented to the Cabinet for their consideration and action as appropriate.</p> <p>The final report will also be shared with those external agencies who have been actively engaged in and supported the review exercise.</p>
<p>What is the Review Timescale?</p> <p>➤ <i>Identify key meeting dates and any deadlines for reports or decisions.</i></p>	<p>Review Start Date: OCTOBER 2016</p> <p>Target End Date: DECEMBER 2016</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Final report agreed by Committee - January 2017 - Final report to Cabinet - February 2017 <p>Follow-up Review: JANUARY 2018</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To review the impact of agree changes and assess the degree of improvement achieved on resultant outcomes. <p><i>(A detailed plan for the review will also be developed to clearly set out the various stages, necessary actions and timescales)</i></p>



<p>Who will lead the Review Exercise?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Identify a nominated:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Elected Member - Lead Officer 	<p>Lead Elected Member: <i>(To be agreed)</i></p> <p>Lead Officer: <i>(To be agreed)</i></p>
<p>Media Interest / Publicity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Communications Plan</i> ➤ <i>Do we need to publicise the review to encourage community involvement?</i> ➤ <i>What sort of media coverage do we want? (E.g. Fliers, leaflets, radio broadcast, press release, etc.)</i> 	<p>There is a clear desire to raise the profile of this proactive scrutiny work with the public and, hopefully, achieve their direct engagement and representations.</p> <p>Internal communications will also ensure a council wide knowledge of the review and its purpose, which will help to ensure any relevant contributions can be captured.</p> <p>Communications Lead - Elected Member:: <i>(To be agreed)</i></p> <p>Communications Lead – Officer: <i>(To be agreed)</i></p> <p>Communications Officer: <i>(To be agreed)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Will this review be subject to a press embargo? NO</i>
<p>Completed by:</p> <p>Date:</p>	<p>Mark Taylor Group Manager – Governance & Assurance June 2016</p>
<p>Approved by Scrutiny Committee:</p> <p>Date:</p>	

Safeguarding Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Scrutiny Review

*Seeking to improve the lives of people, communities
and businesses in Dorset*

Domestic Abuse

***'Rate of children subject to Child Protection where
domestic abuse is a feature'***

Working Together for a Strong and Successful Dorset



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Council is committed to a process of regular and objective assessment of its services and the contribution that it makes to improving outcomes for the residents and communities we serve.
- 1.2 This is achieved through a focused and structured assessment of those areas which have been identified as priorities in our Corporate Plan.
- 1.3 This ensures that the Executive (Cabinet) is held to account for the delivery of positive outcomes through an appropriate and proportionate process of independent scrutiny.
- 1.4 The scrutiny process is therefore welcomed as constructive mechanism through which the Council can seek to provide assurance, or identify areas where it is felt that improvements can be made.
- 1.5 Any identified areas for improvement will be captured and recommended to the Executive (Cabinet) for consideration and, where agreed, implemented.

2. SCRUTINY REVIEW- THE APPROACH

- 2.1 To support the Committee in a structured approach to scrutiny, a small number of 'Key Lines of Enquiry (KLOE)' have been developed to provide a framework to the assessment process.
- 2.2 These KLOE's are based on the Outcomes Based Accountability (OBA) principles and methodology. They are purposefully focused to ensure a clear rationale and scope is in place to support the review process.
- 2.3 These are not intended to restrict the Committee in its collection of evidence, nor to limit representations or attendance that members feel are necessary to give due consideration to a topic. They simply look to ensure that a consistent and constructive approach is taken to the scrutiny of topics.
- 2.4 The framework of KLOE's set out below are to help the Committee in their identification of those areas where it is considered that improvements could be achieved for the benefit of residents, communities and businesses in Dorset.

3. TOPIC SELECTED FOR SCRUTINY – Domestic Abuse

Corporate Plan Outcome Priority: - SAFE

- *Crime, antisocial behaviour and domestic abuse across Dorset is minimised*

Outcome Indicator

- Rate of children subject to a Child Protection where domestic abuse is a feature

(A simple trend line would be inserted here – if not available then Data Development Plan would be agreed. Alternatively a proxy indicator could be used in the interim e.g. rate of

children subject to a Child Protection Plan, crime rate and domestic abuse. As it will take some time to “Turn the Curve” it is helpful to have some proxy measures to indicate progress in the right direction or not).

4. KEY LINES OF ENQUIRY – A Structured Approach to Scrutiny

We need to actively look to ‘Turn the Curve’ – Using 7 “Killer” Questions

1. If we do nothing where is the trend heading, is this OK?

- From a recent audit completed by Children’s Services, 97% of children subject to a Child Protection Plan showed that domestic abuse was a concern.
- The evidence suggests locally and nationally that incidents of domestic abuse is rising and is impacting significantly on outcomes for children, young people and carers. If we do nothing then the trend is likely to continue locally and hence this situation is not OK.
- A study into Domestic Abuse (undertaken in 2009 by Professor Sylvia Walby) estimated that nationally the total cost to services in dealing with the impacts of domestic abuse were £4.57 Billion. In Dorset alone this was estimated as an overall cost to agencies involved as being in the region of £35 Million.

2. What’s helping and hindering the trend (“causes and forces”)?

- Domestic abuse is clearly associated with parental substance misuse and mental health problems (known collectively as the “toxic trio”)
- Hostility, intimidation and violence within families are significantly associated with poor attachments and poor outcomes resulting in children not reaching their potential. We know from Serious Case Reviews that domestic abuse is linked to serious harm and death of children and female carers.
- Evidence has also confirmed that perpetrators of domestic abuse are predominantly male.
- Victims of domestic abuse can be children and also both female and male carers (around 20%). It affects whole families and communities.
- Early Help and prevention work can reduce the risk of domestic abuse e.g. Dorset Families Matter.
- There is a lack of local provision for both victims and perpetrators.

3. Are local services and partnership working making a difference and providing value for money?

- Data suggests we have a significant journey to travel to make more of a difference in providing effective and efficient services.



- Evidence on specific services is patchy and requires further interrogation re. provision for victims and perpetrators, specialist programmes and impact of early help and prevention.
- There is a need for more of a whole family and community approach with partners (cross council, multi-disciplinary and closer working/integration of services). No one service can solve the problem alone!
- Local people need to be better communicated with on the scale of the problem, impact on lives and how they could be part of the solution.

4. What additional information / research do we need to properly understand the “causes and forces”?

- *See above*
- Need to task relevant officers and partnerships to complete an analysis to ensure we are able to properly understand the ‘causes and forces’ at work around domestic abuse.
- Need to learn from existing national research and other Councils e.g. Hertfordshire who have done a significant amount of work in this area
- There is a need to better understand the costs of late intervention and domestic abuse.

5. Who are the key partners we need to be working with (including local residents)?

- Dorset Safeguarding Children’s Board.
 - *One of the key priorities or “obsessions” for the Board is to significantly reduce rising numbers of children subject to a Child Protection Plan*
- Adult Safeguarding Board
- Health and Wellbeing Board
- Community Safety Partnership
- Dorset Families Matters
- Dorset CC Research and Information
- Women’s Refuge
- Domestic Abuse Forum
- Police and Crime Commissioner / Dorset Police

6. What could work to turn the trend in the right direction including “low cost and no cost solutions”? Additional information/research around “what works”?

- Multi-disciplinary and co-location of services / teams.
- Strengthening families and communities around domestic abuse prevention.



- Frontline services better understanding risks and impact of domestic abuse (joint training).
- Learn from examples of best practice e.g. Family Assessment Support Service (FASS) programme in Newport, South Wales and Department for Education Innovation Programme evaluation, adult perpetrator programmes etc.

7. What is the Council's and Members role and specific contribution?

- Up to 4 key (SMART) actions that could be worked on from tomorrow:

1. Commission further work on properly understanding the local 'causes and forces' at work around domestic abuse, costs and its impact on people lives.
(Lead person to be identified)
2. Identify local opportunities to build on encouraging practice - linked to "what works" and learning from other places.
(Lead person to be identified)
3. Start discussion with Dorset Safeguarding Children's Board on joint working opportunities around domestic abuse.
(Lead person to be identified)
4. Start a Dorset wide public education campaign on the extent of Domestic Abuse, its impact and encouraging a call to action to 'turn the curve'.
(Lead person to be identified)

OTHER SUPPORTING INFORMATION

In supporting the scrutiny review the Committee could also be provided with some specific data to provide some additional background and context as follows;

- i) Financial information**
(3-year budget & expenditure profile etc.)
- ii) Performance information**
(Related outcome statement(s); Population Indicators and Performance Measures)
- iii) Risk information**
(Relevant risks and their respective rankings on the Corporate Risk Register)

Dorset County Council
June 2016

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Economic Growth Overview & Scrutiny Committee Work Programme

Chairman: Cllr Daryl Turner
Vice Chairman: Cllr Hilary Cox

Agreed Items (yet to be scoped and/or scheduled)

All items that have been agreed for coverage by the Committee have been scheduled in the Forward Plan accordingly.

Date of Meeting		Item/Purpose	Key Lines of Enquiry (KLOE)	Lead Member/Officer	Reference to Corporate Plan	Target End Date
12 October 2016						
12 October 2016						
12 October 2016						
12 October 2016						
12 October 2016						
Other draft items / issues identified for potential review;						

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Debbie Ward
 Chief Executive
 Date: 7 June 2016

Agenda Item:

Economic Growth Overview and Scrutiny Committee/ Cabinet

Insert
Item
No.

Dorset County Council



Date of Meeting	15 June 2016 and Cabinet 29 June 2016
<u>Cabinet Member(s)</u> Peter Finney – Cabinet Member for Environment	
<u>Local Member(s)</u> All	
<u>Lead Director(s)</u> Mike Harries – Director for Environment	
Subject of Report	Dorset County Council Action Plan for Pollinators
Executive Summary	<p>Insect pollinators play an essential role in providing pollination services for many commercial crops and wild plant species, services which represent significant value to the UK economy, estimated at over £400 million annually. With a significant agricultural sector, and extensive natural and semi-natural habitats within which pollinators are important, it is likely that Dorset receives a disproportionately high share of this economic value. However, pollinators such as bees, hoverflies, butterflies and moths are in decline. Pressures such as habitat loss and degradation, pests and diseases, pesticide use and climate change individually and in combination are having negative impacts on populations and, as a result, reducing their ability to provide valuable services to human populations.</p> <p>It is proposed that Dorset County Council should help to reduce this decline and where possible enhance populations by adopting an Action Plan for Pollinators, in line with similar plans adopted by other public bodies. This will specify the principles by which Dorset County Council will seek to deliver services and projects at an operational level in a way that maximises positive impacts and minimises negative impacts on pollinator species. The Action Plan proposes a range of positive principles which can be applied to the management of County Council assets, projects and decision-making processes, as well as a prohibition on the use of neonicotinoid pesticides, which have been linked to the decline in pollinators, on County Council land where the power to enforce this exists.</p>

Impact Assessment:	<p>Equalities Impact Assessment: With reference to DCC equality impacts guidance, there are no equalities impacts issues identified for individuals with protected characteristics relating to the subject of this report.</p>
	<p>Use of Evidence: A variety of Government and scientific papers have informed development of the proposed Action Plan, as well as the views of both the Country Parks Liaison Panel and the County Farms Liaison Panel (see background papers listed below).</p>
	<p>Budget: there are no budget implications associated with adoption of the proposed action plan for pollinators. No increases in existing budgets are envisaged in delivering actions from the Plan, indeed, there is potential for some savings to be made.</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: LOW Residual Risk: LOW</p>
	<p>Other Implications: There is wide public support for the protection of pollinators and agreement by Dorset County Council to do what it can to protect and enhance these insect populations would be viewed positively by many.</p>
Recommendation	<p>That the Cabinet be asked to adopt the proposed Action Plan for Pollinators, as set out in section 2 of this report having taken into account the views of the Committee.</p>
Reason for Recommendation	<p>The adoption of the proposed Action Plan for Pollinators will help Dorset County Council meet its aim of a 'healthy environment' as set out in the Corporate Plan 2016 outcome framework.</p>
Appendices	<p>None</p>
Background Papers	<p>What is causing the decline in pollinating insects? Living with Environmental Change (2014) The National Pollinators Strategy: for bees and other pollinators in England DEFRA (2014) Status and Value of Pollinators and Pollination Services, Report to the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (2014) Goulson, D. (2013) An overview of the environmental risks posed by neonicotinoid insecticides State of Nature (2013)</p>
Officer Contact	<p>Name: Dr Phil Sterling Tel: 01305 224290 Email: p.sterling@dorsetcc.gov.uk</p>

1. Background

- 1.1 Insect pollinators, which include species of bee, moth, fly, hoverfly, butterfly and beetle, are critical to Dorset's rich biodiversity and natural beauty, but they also play an essential role in providing pollination services for many commercial crops and wild plant species.
- 1.2 Insect pollination is extremely important to the UK economy, with estimated values ranging from £430 million to £690 million annually. As well as being important species in their own right, UK bees, both domesticated (honeybees) and the other 250+ species of wild bees and other insect pollinators are very important commercially, and are essential for the pollination of crops, such as oilseed rape, tomatoes, strawberries and apples.
- 1.3 However, pollinators are in decline, and the UK State of Nature Report 2013 showed that more than half of the bee, butterfly and moth species studied had declined in the last 50 years. Furthermore, in England the number of managed honeybee hives fell by about 50% between 1985 and 2005, and although there has been an increase in the popularity of beekeeping since 2007, many honeybee colonies are lost each year.
- 1.4 The decline in pollinator numbers can be attributed to individual and combined effects of a variety of pressures, these include:- habitat loss and degradation, pests and diseases, use of pesticides and climate change.
- 1.5 **Habitat loss** - A major driver of wild pollinator losses is thought to be the degradation, destruction and fragmentation of the many habitats in the landscape on which pollinators rely for food sources and breeding sites. The main causes of this change are more intensive agricultural practices and urban and sub-urban development of natural and semi-natural habitats.
- 1.6 **Pests and diseases** – bacterial infections and parasitic mites can result in the death of any bees, but especially colonial species including honey bee.
- 1.7 **Pesticides** – The increased use of pesticides in agriculture has raised concerns about the direct effects on pollinators, in particular the use of neonicotinoids. Neonicotinoids (neonics) are now the most widely used insecticides in the world. They are systemic pesticides which can be applied as a seed dressing (the preferred delivery mechanism in England) or spray. As they have high toxicity to insects they are considered by some to provide effective pest control.
- 1.8 The use of neonics as a preventative measure against insect infestation is, however, contrary to the long-established principles of integrated pest management where a variety of non-chemical controls may be utilised to reduce the potential for infestation such as biological control, habitat manipulation, modification of agricultural practices and the use of resistant plant varieties along with minimal use of pesticides.
- 1.9 Neonics are generally toxic to insects even in minute quantities, and recent scientific studies have demonstrated that they can persist and accumulate in soil, and can be found to be present in wildflowers and field margins as well as the crops for which they are intended. As they are water soluble they are also prone to leaching into surface waters such as streams and rivers, and into our groundwater. Most organisms inhabiting arable environments will therefore be exposed to them.

- 1.10 Much of the controversy over the use of neonics has focussed on their effects on bees. Neonics are routinely used on oilseed rape, maize and winter wheat, and these crops are major forage sources for both managed honeybees and wild pollinators in arable landscapes. Although there is little evidence for direct mortality in bees there is strong evidence for sub-lethal effects which reduce the ability to forage and navigate properly, impacting the viability of colonies. Research has also linked the decline of some aquatic insects, insectivorous birds and butterflies to neonics.
- 1.11 In December 2013 the European Commission therefore introduced a precautionary ban on the three most common neonicotinoid pesticides. The ban relates to use on crops such as oilseed rape and the sowing of dressed (treated) seed during spring and summer when bees are foraging. It allows continued use on crops less likely to be attractive to bees but does not take into account the impacts on other insects, aquatic invertebrates or birds. It is possible also for areas within Member States to seek temporary exemptions from this ban. The UK Government did not support the restrictions citing a lack of scientific evidence supporting a ban, but has implemented restrictions as required. The Government gave time limited permission to use neonics in July 2015 in four English counties, all in the east/south-east of England. However, they have recently, for the first time, ruled against the use of neonicotinoid pesticides in rejecting an emergency application from the National Farmers Union to treat a third of all Oilseed Rape Crops.
- 1.12 **Climate Change** - Insect and plant distributions have already been altered by recent climate change and the different rates of migration of plants and pollinators may lead to disruption of pollination. In addition, minor increases in temperature have interfered with the life cycles of some plants and pollinators making it less likely that plants will be pollinated.
- 1.13 It is possible for Dorset County Council to address pressures such as habitat loss and the use of pesticides. This could be done by changing and developing some of the ways we work. In particular, in our grounds services, Country Park management, landscaping, County Farms and Planning services.

2. Proposed Dorset County Council Action Plan for Pollinators

- 2.1 All local authorities and other public bodies have a legal duty, under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC) 2006, to have regard to the conservation of biodiversity in exercising their functions. Dorset County Council's Corporate Plan reinforces this duty by committing the authority to delivering a 'healthy environment' within its outcomes framework.
- 2.2 In managing Dorset's green spaces and providing ecological advice to a range of internal and external customers, Dorset County Council's Coast and Countryside Service already actively contributes to the protection and enhancement of pollinating insects. This has been done through the seeding of wild flowers along road verges, appropriate landscaping of highway developments and other land holdings, cutting and collecting verge arisings, protecting or creating new habitats linked to development planning conditions, and maintaining our Country Parks and Rights of Way in ways which are sympathetic to pollinators.
- 2.4 Given the pressures being experienced by pollinators throughout the UK and in Dorset, however, and the growing evidence that they, and the benefits they bring, (economic and environment) are at risk, it is recommended that we strengthen our commitment to a healthy environment through the adoption of an Action Plan for Pollinators.

- 2.5 The proposed Plan outlines how Dorset County Council will deliver services and projects at an operational level in a way that maximises positive impacts and minimises negative impacts on pollinator species.
- 2.5 The Action Plan consists of the following principles to be adopted with immediate effect, or to be applied to future projects, asset management plans and decision-making processes as and when they are developed and/or reviewed.
- Highway verges: in implementing the strategy agreed by Cabinet in 2014, the County Council will seek to extend the successful verge trials to become the operational norm. Under this model, cuttings are collected where practicable following mowing to reduce fertility and grass growth with the effect of allowing wildflowers to compete with grass for space to grow. Lower fertility verges will, over time, require less cutting, saving money and delivering a higher quality roadside environment. This will be coupled with the sowing of spring and late summer flowering wildflower seed where possible to benefit pollinators.
 - Green assets: Dorset County Council Country Parks, green spaces and other land holdings, will encourage the planting where appropriate of flower species and management of habitats that are beneficial to pollinators. Management Plans for such sites will make specific provision for pollinators and include measures to maximise pollinator populations.
 - Neonicotinoid pesticides: the County Council will prohibit use of neonicotinoid pesticides on County Council land where the power exists to enforce this. The only exception would be for County Farms where the terms of existing tenancies may prevent such a prohibition being applied. However, current tenants will be encouraged to comply on a voluntary basis, and to implement other actions which might benefit pollinators. The County Council's Environment Service, with input from the County Farms Liaison Panel, will also examine whether such a prohibition could be included in future tenancy agreements.
 - Planning and development: in discharging its functions as a planning authority, and in giving planning advice via its environmental advice services, the County Council will seek to ensure that pollinator habitats are protected and enhanced, and will require, where possible, that new development results in a net gain for pollinators in line with national and locally adopted planning policies.
 - Tree and shrub planting: where the opportunity arises, Dorset County Council will, through its arboriculture and Ranger services, endeavour to plant spring flowering trees such as cherry, apple, hawthorn, blackthorn and willow which will benefit pollinators.
 - Hedgerows: where consistent with the maintenance of good health and safety policy and in line with existing environmental land management agreements, the cutting of hedgerows will be carried out less often to allow longer flowering periods for nectar rich species.
 - Project development and delivery: the County Council will endeavour to ensure that planning for pollinators is considered at an early stage in any infrastructure projects (e.g. highway schemes) it develops, delivers or influences, applying lessons from the successful Weymouth Relief Road project as a model for how delivery of major infrastructure projects can enhance wildlife habitats.

- Research and evidence: the County Council will have regard to the latest scientific evidence on pollinator health and consider how respond to emerging research (e.g. on the impacts of light pollution on nocturnal pollinators) in its future decision-making, asset management and operational service planning.

2.6 It is proposed that the County Council's Coast & Countryside Service take the lead in ensuring that other County Council services are informed of the implications of this Action Plan, providing training and support where required to help services mainstream action for pollinators within their operational service delivery. It is further proposed that the Action Plan for Pollinators be kept under review, via periodic reporting to the appropriate Committee, to ensure that further opportunities to benefit pollinators are identified and pursued.

3. Conclusion

3.1 Dorset County Council's 2016 Corporate Plan recognises that Dorset's unique environmental assets underpin our economy and well-being and includes 'healthy environment' as an important element of our new Outcomes Framework. Key to a healthy natural environment are well-functioning ecosystems in which pollinators play a fundamental role. There is an opportunity for the Council to take a lead and do its part to protect and enhance pollinator populations in Dorset, and encourage partner organisations to do the same. Adoption of the proposed Action Plan for Pollinators will therefore reinforce Dorset's reputation for environmental leadership, delivering improved prospects for pollinators, whilst maintaining and increasing the many benefits which they provide.

Peter Moore
Head of Environment
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