

Agenda

Dorset County Council



Meeting: Economic Growth Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Time: 10.00 am

Date: Wednesday, 12 October 2016

Venue: Committee Room 1, County Hall, Colliton Park, Dorchester, Dorset, DT1 1XJ

Daryl Turner (Chairman)

Richard Biggs

Andy Canning

Mervyn Jeffery

Margaret Phipps

Hilary Cox (Vice-Chairman)

Mike Byatt

Ronald Coatsworth

Mike Lovell

William Trite

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>.

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 7 October 2016, and statements by midday the day before the meeting.

Debbie Ward
Chief Executive

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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**

7 - 14

To confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 15 June 2016.

4. **Public Participation**

(a) Public Participation

(b) Petitions

5. **Local Enterprise Partnership and Growth Board**

To provide the opportunity for representatives of the Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), Lorna Carver and James Weld, to address the Committee on what the work of the LEP entails, how the Partnership operates and its relevance to the work of the Committee. A presentation will be made by the Service Director – Economy to complement this.

So as to stimulate debate, the Chairman encourages members of the Committee to give some thought as to what they might be minded to ask the LEP representatives on the day, in order to have a better understanding of the relationship between the Committee and the LEP and how what it does might could play a part in benefitting how the Committee operates.

6. **Motions referred from County Council**

The following motions were considered by the County Council in accordance with Standing Order 17. Both were referred by the Council automatically to the Committee without debate. The Committee is asked to consider each motion.

- a) **Councillor Paul Kimber (County Councillor for Portland Tophill):
Economic Opportunities for Devon and East Dorset**

15 - 20

“This Dorset County Council ensures that the proposed National Park is seriously considered as part of discussions on local government re-organisation.”

Context Statement from Cllr Kimber:

Economic Opportunities for Dorset and East Devon

For the past couple of years, in response to an initiative from Natural England, a

team from Dorset and East Devon has been developing proposals for the designation of a National Park, first put forward in a Government report of 1945. Natural England has given the proposal a positive first assessment.

Britain's National Parks are world-famous for their outstanding scenery and environments. Much less well-known is their success in promoting thriving and resilient rural economies and communities.

An independent report on the "*Economic Opportunities, Benefits and Wider Impacts of a Dorset and East Devon National Park*" is now available: www.dorsetandedevonnp.co.uk/news

The key messages we take from the report are as follows. A Dorset & East Devon National Park would:

- Offer opportunities, benefits and advantages to the economy and businesses in the National Park and throughout Dorset and East Devon.
- Promote thriving local communities, including affordable housing, key services, employment and skills.
- Bring additional and more certain resources to the area, including central government funding which might amount to £10m annually, plus other sources of income. The Government has assured National Parks of future funding and support.
- Conserve and enhance the area's environment, which is our greatest economic asset.

Local government re-organisation provides an opportunity for Dorset councils to include a National Park as part of a Devolution proposal to government in 2017. A companion study examines how the National Park Authority would work efficiently with a Unitary Authority on service delivery and financial outcomes. We see these studies as significant contributions to Dorset councils' and others' consideration of this question.

We look forward to discussing with all interested partners the significant opportunities which a National Park would offer.

Dorset & East Devon National Park Team

[A National Park Delivers Greater Influence for Rural Communities](http://www.dorsetandedevonnp.co.uk/news)

A new discussion paper www.dorsetandedevonnp.co.uk/news examines how the Dorset & E Devon National Park Authority (NPA) would deliver greater influence for rural communities, as well as working efficiently with partner Local Authorities to improve services and financial outcomes. Benefitting all communities, a National Park would bring:

- Additional and more certain funding benefitting all councils, communities and the economy. In addition to an assured central government grant of maybe £10 million per year, NPAs secure further funding and help others eg farmers to do so.
- A stronger partnership way of working. A NPA is a partnership and operates through partnerships. A small % of NPA funding goes on running costs. The vast majority is spent through partnerships with communities, farmers, landowners, businesses, the not-for-profit sector.
- Enhanced local representation, influence and voice for rural communities. Elected council representatives make up three quarters of the NPA, and Parish and Town Councils are a third of these. A NPA would strengthen grass roots democratic influence and representation.
- Enhanced Planning influence and capability. A NPA would ensure local control of Planning, with no Government-imposed housing targets. It makes the Local and Management Plan for the NP in consultation with communities and others. NPAs approve a higher % of planning applications than other Local Authorities because they work hard for good, sustainable development in the right places, to support communities, local affordable housing, employment, and services.
- Increased coherence and expertise. A NPA would bring joined up thinking,

policy and delivery across the environment and economy, and expertise eg in land management, conservation, heritage, recreation, community liaison, and Planning.

Our National Parks not only conserve and enhance our environment and heritage, they also promote thriving and resilient rural economies and communities.

This important aspect is covered in an independent study: “*Economic Opportunities, Benefits and Wider Impacts of a Dorset and East Devon National Park*”: www.dorsetandedevonnp.co.uk/news

Local government re-organisation provides an opportunity for Dorset councils to include a National Park as part of a Devolution proposal to government in 2017.

These studies are significant contributions to this debate on our future.

Dorset & East Devon National Park Team - www.dorsetandedevonnp.co.uk

A briefing paper on this item is provided by the Director for Environment and the Economy.

b) **Councillor Paul Kimber (County Councillor for Tophill):**
Independent Co-operative Businesses

21 - 26

“The Council notes:

- That there are nearly 7,000 independent co-operative businesses across the UK, each owned and democratically run by their customers, employees, suppliers or members of their local community.
- Today, the co-operative movement is a significant part of the UK’s economy, growing by 21% to £33billion, and outperforming the economy as a whole during the recent recession.
- The number of people who own and control the UK’s co-operatives has grown by to 17.5m - nearly a quarter of the UK’s population. From credit unions to community farms – the rise in co-operative ownership is a significant development for the UK’s business sector, meaning that the number of co-op members continues to outstrip the number of shareholders in the UK.

This Council believes:

- That the co-operative model provides a sustainable way of providing local government services that empower residents, service users and employees, giving them a fair share and an equal say.
- Local Councils up and down the country have already put these values into practice in a number of ways, for example developing the co-operative sector, resident and employee owned companies and co-operative schools.
- That the Council has the opportunity to “chose co-operative” when considering the future of local services, giving residents and communities more of a say in their area.

Therefore, we call on the Council to:

- Work to incorporate co-operative values and principles when planning services and in its engagement with local residents.
- Publicise existing co-operative good practice within the council
- Hold and meet event for local co-operatives to engage with the Council.”

A briefing paper on this item is provided by the Director for Environment and the Economy.

7. Progress on Scrutiny Items

To receive updates from lead members in relation to current scrutiny activities:

- a) **Residents Parking Strategy** 27 - 28
To consider a summary of the meeting of the Working Group held on 23 August 2016 to review the Resident's Parking Strategy and new proposals for Dorchester, as promoted by Councillors Canning and Biggs (attached).
- b) **Commercial Investment Aspirations / Opportunities incl. Investment Working Group**
To receive an oral update from the Chairman on a meeting by the Commercial Investment Aspirations / Opportunities incl. Investment Working Group held on 14 September 2016.
- c) **Policy Development Panel on HGV Management** 29 - 34
To consider a summary of considerations at meetings of the Policy Development Panel on HGV Management held on 30 June and 27 September 2016 (attached).
- d) **Task and Finish Group on Bus Subsidies** 35 - 38
To consider the notes of a meeting of the Bus Subsidies Task and Finish Group held on 28 September 2016 (attached).

8. Work Programme 39 - 44

To provide the opportunity to develop the Committee's Work Programme.

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.

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/mgListPlans.aspx?RPId=137&RD=0>
- Cabinet decisions taken in previous 12 months - <http://dorset.moderngov.co.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeed=137>

9. Questions from County Councillors

To answer any questions received in writing by the Chief Executive by not later than 10.00am on Friday 7 October 2016.