

Agenda

Dorset County Council



Meeting: Economic Growth Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Time: 10.00 am
Date: Wednesday, 25 January 2017
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	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 20 January 2017, and statements by midday the day before the meeting.

Debbie Ward

Chief Executive

Date of Publication:
17 January 2017

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1. Apologies

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 r

3. Minutes

7 - 16

To confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 12 October 2016 (attached).

4. Public Participation

Public Speaking

To receive any public questions and/or public statements in accordance with Standing Order 21 (2).

5. Scrutiny of delivery of Digital Infrastructure Strategy

17 - 26

The opportunity is being taken to scrutinise the progress being made in implementing the County Councils' Digital Infrastructure Strategy, what this entails, how it is applied and the progress being made in making connectivity improvements. A report by the Service Director – Economy (attached) sets out what successes there have been to date, how these have been achieved and by what means.

Of particular importance is to know how improvements might continue to be delivered, with a specific view to identifying solutions to meet the needs of those currently having limited, little or no reception and to understand what is being done to achieve this.

To provide some context of the Strategy and programme for delivery, the officer's accompanying presentation - to the Director's report - will be in dispersed with some short, case study videos of what has been achieved and how this has been done.

As part of this process, the opportunity is being provided for service providers and users to join the meeting to explain to the Committee:-

- the part being played in providing Superfast Broadband and connectivity to Dorset residents and **what is being done to reach those areas which have been identified as having limited, little or no reception** and
- what connectivity means to those receiving the service, how their needs are being met and what the Strategy might be able to do for them in improving that service.

So that the management of this item is structured, invitees have been allocated the following timings for the Committee to hear what they have to say about the Strategy and for members to ask questions of them:-

Services Users (up to 10 minutes each)

- Stephen Earwicker – Kimmeridge resident and recipient of VoIP connectivity option

- Carol Matthews – Charlton Down resident and recipient of Fibre-to-the-premises (FTTP)
 - Representatives of The Thomas Hardy School - on their connectivity experiences
 - Contribution from other rural recipients of broadband, if practicable
- Service Provider (up to 20 minutes)
- BT/Openreach – on the practicalities of the rollout, what this entails and how this is being done

So as to stimulate debate and optimise the session, the Chairman encourages members of the Committee to give some thought as to what they might be minded to ask those attending on the day - by way of a short Panel Question and Answer session - in order to have a better understanding of how superfast broadband is being delivered across the county and what part the Committee might play in enabling this.

To assist in a better understanding of what progress is being made and how this is being done, the attached hyperlinks might be of benefit:-

<https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/superfast>

<https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/broadband/about?formid=1474910>

<https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/broadband/case-studies>

<https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/broadband/better-broadband-scheme>

<https://news.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/2016/08/30/dozens-more-communities-to-benefit-from-superfast-dorset-fibre-broadband-roll-out/>

<https://news.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/2015/06/15/high-speed-fibre-broadband-available-to-3000-more-dorset-homes-and-businesses/>

6. Notice of Motion Clause 21 of the Bus Bill/ Bus Subsidies Working Group

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The County Council at its meeting on 10 November referred the motion by Councillor Ros Kayes (County Councillor for Bridport): Clause 21 of the Bus Bill - seconded by Janet Dover (County Councillor for Colehill and Stapehill) – to the Economic Growth Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration at its meeting on 25 January 2015; the Motion being:-

‘This Council notes:

1. That the Bus Services Bill currently passing through Parliament includes Clause 21 that will effectively “prohibit a local authority from forming a company for the purposes of providing a local bus service”.
2. That this might have profound implications both for the proposed Combined Authority in seeking Local Transport Authority powers and in DCC’s ability to support small community transport schemes with its own fleet as is currently happening in Southill and Portland.
3. That the Localism Act (2011) provides general powers of competence to local authorities.
4. That municipal bus companies like Reading and Nottingham provide some of the best bus services in the country and have a successful track record of increasing bus passenger numbers and providing high quality bus services.

5. That polling by We Own It found that a majority of the public (57%) oppose clause 21, whilst just 22% support it. The opposition to Clause 21 is consistent across voters from all political parties.

This council believes:

1. Clause 21 contradicts the general powers of competence and the spirit of the Localism Act 2011.
2. If there is a need and a demand from their public, then Councils should be able to provide their own bus services
3. Should they wish, Councils should be legally able to follow the model developed by Reading and Nottingham.
4. Consequently Clause 21 should be omitted from the Bus Services Bill.

This council resolves:

1. To write to Lord Ahmad and to call on the Department for Transport to omit Clause 21 from the final legislation
2. To write to local MPs to ask them to oppose clause 21 when the Bus Services Bill reaches the House of Commons and ask them to write to Lord Ahmad and the Department of Transport to raise concerns about Clause 21.'

Unless determined otherwise by the Chairman the maximum time to be allowed to present this motion shall be 10 minutes.

Associated with this, the Bus Subsidies Working Group met on 29 November 2016 to consider evidence of the reasoning for the decisions taken by Cabinet for how bus subsidies would be managed and applied in the future. In doing this, they also took the opportunity to give some initial thought to the motion and made recommendations on what progress might be made. The notes of the meeting are attached.

7. Corporate Plan: Outcomes Focused Monitoring Report

35 - 60

To consider a joint report by the Chief Executive and the Director for Environment and the Economy (attached).

8. Proposal for a Parking Management Policy Development Panel

To give consideration to authorising the establishment of a Parking Management Policy Development Panel and the reasoning for this proposal.

9. Work Programme

61 - 66

To consider the Committee's Work Programme (attached).

10. Questions from County Councillors

To answer any questions received in writing by the Chief Executive by not later than 10:00 am on Friday 20 January 2017.

