



# Cabinet

**Date:** Tuesday, 1 October 2019  
**Time:** 10.00 am  
**Venue:** Committee Rooms A&B, South Walks House,  
Dorchester, DT1 1EE

**Membership: (Quorum 3)**

Spencer Flower (Chairman), Peter Wharf (Vice-Chairman), Tony Alford, Ray Bryan, Graham Carr-Jones, Tony Ferrari, Laura Miller, Andrew Parry, Gary Suttle and David Walsh

**Chief Executive:** Matt Prosser, South Walks House, South Walks Road,  
Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1UZ (Sat Nav DT1 1EE)

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To receive any questions from members in accordance with procedure rule 13.

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## Cabinet – 1 October 2019

### Questions from Members

#### Question 1

##### Question from Cllr Nick Ireland

From May 2017 until April 2019, I was honoured to represent the Linden Lea Division of Dorset County Council. This represented a population of circa 9000.

Since May 2019 I have represented the new Crossways Ward of Dorset Council which has approximately 3800 residents, and in this short time I have received more complaints regarding the service provided by Dorset Waste Partnership than during the entire two preceding years.

The feedback I have received from my fellow LibDem councillors has reinforced the fact that there has been a dramatic reduction in service quality in recent months.

Having communicated with officers regarding the situation at the depot serving my community (Wareham), the problems there stem from a shortage of serviceable vehicles combined with a chronic lack of qualified drivers.

DWP recently advertised for three permanent driver positions. At the closing date (15th September), the only applications received were from two existing people who were already covering for vacancies, one of whom can't cover all the necessary shifts. There were NO new applicants.

It appears that the major reason for this situation is that DWP don't pay enough. They have lost permanent employees to other, more lucrative roles and the agencies who supply DWP have stated that they can't source drivers at the rates payable. In a detailed document to Dorset Council from an agency supplier back in May, no other local employer of the many quoted paid less than DWP, the average starting hourly rate for them was £10.67/hour and DWP currently pay £9.03/hour. In addition, DWP's overtime and Bank Holiday rates are significantly inferior.

Can the Cabinet member responsible please explain what urgent action is being taken to address this issue affecting our residents and provide a committed timescale for resolution?

## Question 2

### Question from Cllr N Ireland

On the 11th September I was asked to raise with the relevant officers that an obviously abandoned vehicle was on Dorset Council land partially blocking the cycle path between Weymouth and Dorchester; neither Dorset Council and Dorset Police had deigned to get involved when approached by the public.

I highlighted the fact that the last vehicle left near there was torched and sent a photograph of the current situation to aid resolution.

Despite this, the responses I received from several officers indicated that no immediate action would be taken and there was no risk.

To no-one's surprise other than apparently Dorset Council, by the end of the weekend a burnt hulk was completely blocking the cycle path, the fire had damaged the path surface and oil and glass abounded.

The wreckage was finally removed, after numerous interventions to get someone to take ownership of the problem, at 4pm Friday 20th September with surface repair to follow at a later date.

I'm sure if the vehicle had been abandoned on the Weymouth relief road, it would have been removed with haste yet it seems cyclists are once again treated as a lower class of citizen, whilst the arson and subsequent cost to the taxpayer could have been completely avoided.

Can the Cabinet member for Highways, Travel & Environment please detail what measures are being implemented to prevent this fiasco happening again?

## Question 3

### Question from Cllr Jon Andrews

Please can you advise me why we are considering adopting the MSANP when at the Northern area planning committee it was quite clearly ignored, even though the referendum result of the people who took part was 90% in favour and maximum weighting should be given to the Neighbourhood plan. This decision was quite Cleary based on the advice of both the legal and planning officers and ignored the voice of the local people.

The value of the local neighbourhood plan in my opinion has just been extinguished and I would advise any parish that is considering embarking on one to not waste two or three years constructing a plan as the authority will take no notice or be frightened of the legal cost of an appeal.