



Cabinet

Date: Tuesday, 19 January 2021

Time: 10.00 am

Venue: MS Teams Live Event

Membership: (Quorum 3)

Spencer Flower (Chairman), Peter Wharf (Vice-Chairman), Ray Bryan, Graham Carr-Jones, Tony Ferrari, Laura Miller, Andrew Parry, Gary Suttle, Jill Haynes, David Walsh, Cherry Brooks, Piers Brown, Simon Gibson, Nocturin Lacey-Clarke, Byron Quayle and Jane Somper

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

For more information about this agenda please contact Kate Critchel 01305 252234 - kate.critchel@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk



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Members of the public are welcome to attend this meeting with the exception of any items listed in the exempt part of this agenda. **Please note** that if you attend a committee meeting and are invited to make oral representations your name, together with a summary of your comments will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting. Please refer to the guide to public participation at committee meetings for more information about speaking at meetings.

There is a Hearing Loop Induction System available for public use on request. Please speak to a Democratic Services Officer for assistance in using this facility.

Recording, photographing and using social media at meetings

Dorset Council is committed to being open and transparent in the way it carries out its business whenever possible. Anyone can film, audio-record, take photographs, and use social media such as tweeting and blogging to report the meeting when it is open to the public, so long as they conform to the Protocol for filming and audio recording of public council meetings.

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4 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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To receive questions or statements on the business of the committee from town and parish councils and members of the public. Public speaking has been suspended for virtual committee meetings during the Covid-19 crisis and public participation will be dealt with through written submissions only.

Members of the public who live, work or represent an organisation within the Dorset Council area, may submit up to two questions or a statement of up to a maximum of 450 words. All submissions must be sent electronically to kate.critchell@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk by the deadline set out below. When submitting a question please indicate who the question is for and include your name, address and contact details. Questions and statements received in line with the council's rules for public participation will be published as a supplement to the agenda.

Questions will be read out by an officer of the council and a response given by the appropriate Portfolio Holder or officer at the meeting. All questions, statements and responses will be published in full within the minutes of the meeting.

The deadline for submission of the full text of a question or statement is 8.30am on 14 January 2021

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Public Questions

1. Question from Cllr Lucy Hamilton (Weymouth Town Council)

Local Government Finance Reform

Can Cabinet confirm that Dorset Council is pushing for reform of local government funding?

The Local Government Association is calling for a multi-year core local government funding settlement. The LGA calls for reform and review of local taxation, which is currently based on 1991 property prices. The LGA calls for a complete review of business rates, where currently multipliers are controlled by central government. To improve the build-out rates of homes with planning permission, the LGA proposes that **councils should be able to charge developers full council tax for every unbuilt development from the point that the original planning permission expires.**

Central government funding for local services is at an historic low. Government funding to councils has fallen by 60% since 2010. As a result, funding for essential services in Dorset falls on the shoulders of council tax payers more so than in many other counties.

Residents and businesses need Dorset Council to speak up for fair funding for local services. The burden shouldn't fall on the shoulders of those who can least afford to pay it.

2. Question from Cllr Lucy Hamilton (Weymouth Town Council)

St Mary's School Shaftesbury

My question relates to Agenda items 7 Budget Strategy Report and 9 Children's Provision.

On 7 January, Dorset Council confirmed that it aims to buy St Mary's School near Shaftesbury. This is to improve services for children and adults. How will this purchase be financed?

St Mary's School near Shaftesbury is an enormous rambling Victorian building set in 55 acres of grounds. The school lies just over the border, in Wiltshire. I assume Dorset council tax payers will contribute to its purchase, maintenance and running costs.

I welcome investment in the future of our children and vulnerable adults. I would rather this investment stayed within Dorset. At sustainable locations, close to our big towns. Close to our families.

As part of local government reorganisation, there was a fire sale of Dorset County Council properties across the county. Well-used local centres, in our communities and on a human scale, were put up for grabs. Last year, Dorset Council pledged to divest itself of properties.

Government rightly requires local authorities to care for children and vulnerable adults. Government should pay for these essential services.

3. Question from John Calvert

As someone who lives off Weymouth Avenue in Dorchester, I support the proposal to spend some of the Community Infrastructure Levy Funding on the stretch of pavement outside the market on Weymouth Avenue. I myself in recent years have tripped over and gone headlong due to uneven paving and I have known a neighbour who sustained facial injuries due to a similar fall. This is also where the coaches drop off visitors and where people walk down to town from Fairfield carpark so it is well overdue for both residents and visitors.

My question is this. Do we have to wait for similar funding before other places where visitors arrive in Dorchester are improved or moved?

For example, there is the cramped space where buses drop people off in Trinity Street and there is the continual problems of access to both the railway stations.