



Council

Date: Tuesday, 14 December 2021
Time: 6.30 pm
Venue: A link to the meeting can be found on the front page of the agenda.

Membership: (Quorum 21)

The Council membership is listed on the following page.

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 Democratic Services Susan Dallison susan.dallison@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk



For easy access to the Council agendas and minutes download the free public app Mod.gov for use on your iPad, Android and Windows tablet. Once downloaded select Dorset Council.

Due to the current coronavirus pandemic the Council has reviewed its approach to holding council meetings. Members of the public are welcome to view the meeting on line by using the link to access the Dorset Council meeting.

Members of the public wishing to view the meeting from an i phone, i pad, or android phone will need to down the free Microsoft Team App to sign in as a guest. It is advised to do this at least 30 minutes prior to the start of the meeting. Please note that public speaking has been suspended however public participation will continue by written submission only. Please see detail set out below.

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.

A recording of the meeting will be available on the council's website after the event.

Membership of Dorset Council

Anthony Alford	Stella Jones
Jon Andrews	Andrew Kerby
Rod Adkins	Paul Kimber
Michael Barron	Rebecca Knox
Peter Barrow	Noc Lacey-Clarke
Shane Bartlett	Howard Legg
Pauline Batstone	Robin Legg
Derek Beer	Cathy Lugg
Richard Biggs	Laura Miller
David Bolwell	David Morgan
Alexandra Brenton	Louie O'Leary
Cherry Brooks	Jon Orrell
Piers Brown	Emma Parker
Ray Bryan	Mike Parkes
Andrew Canning	Andrew Parry
Graham Carr-Jones	Mary Penfold
Simon Christopher	Bill Pipe
Kelvin Clayton	Valerie Potheary
Susan Cocking	Byron Quayle
Robin Cook	Molly Rennie
Tim Cook	Belinda Ridout
Toni Coombs	Mark Roberts
Janet Dover	Julie Robinson
Jean Dunseith	Maria Roe
Mike Dyer	David Shortell
Beryl Ezzard	Jane Somper
Tony Ferrari	Andrew Starr
Spencer Flower	Gary Suttle
Les Fry	Clare Sutton
Simon Gibson	Roland Tarr
Barry Goringe	David Taylor
David Gray	Gill Taylor
Matthew Hall	David Tooke
Paul Harrison	William Trite
Jill Haynes	Daryl Turner
Brian Heatley	David Walsh
Ryan Holloway	Peter Wharf
Ryan Hope	Kate Wheller
Robert Hughes	Sarah Williams
Nick Ireland	John Worth
Sherry Jespersen	
Carole Jones	

A G E N D A

Page No.

8 QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

5 - 6

To receive questions submitted by councillors. The deadline for receipt of questions is 8.30am on Thursday 9 December 2021.

This page is intentionally left blank

**Full Council
14 December 2021
Questions from Councillors**

Question 1 submitted by Cllr Louie O'Leary

Her Majesty the Queen ascended to the throne in Nineteen Hundred and Fifty-Two. She is this country's longest serving head of state in history, she is Defender of the Faith and head of the Commonwealth of Nations. She is a symbol of public service and we all should be very proud of her and all her years of service to this nation.

Question:

In the year of Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee we, as the principal elected authority of Her people in Dorset and as a council, should reaffirm our support and admiration of her.

Could I request that the first verse of the National Anthem be sung by all councillors at the beginning of each full council and at the annual council meeting?

Question 2 submitted by Cllr Nick Ireland

Back in the early noughties, Dorset County Council entered into block contracts with Care South which include care homes such as Buxton House, Maiden Castle and Fairlawn. The contract wasn't tendered, ends in 2040 with no review until 2039, and we pay for beds regardless of whether they are occupied or not.

Neither the contracts nor the costs are confidential - the information on them is easily found in the public domain such as NHS Digital, EU Contracts and the provider's own website. One such example can be found at <https://procontract.due-north.com/ContractsRegister/ViewContractDetails?contractId=6599c380-1a95-e511-8105-000c29c9ba21>

A recent incident where a resident at one of the care homes moved (due to a change in personal circumstances) from being paid for by Dorset Council to a self-funder highlighted that the weekly cost was considerably higher than at other comparable care homes not under this block contract. The outcome was that the resident relocated and DC eventually refunded the difference. DC also agreed to notify anyone else whose circumstances changed in a similar manner that they were paying over the odds but have refused to do this retrospectively i.e. anyone similarly overcharged in the past will be none the wiser. It seems grossly unfair that those who have potentially lost thousands of pounds through no fault of their own but as a result of this council's inflexible contracts will neither be notified nor compensated.

In addition, the continuing use of these contracts exacerbates the cost pressures on our Adult Services; one estimate is that the ongoing excessive cost is approximately £42k per week (£2.2m/year!). It is interesting to note that these contracts aren't highlighted in our budget papers nor mentioned as a potential area where we can make savings (yet we quote possible savings of £350k in the Dorset Care Framework). For example a recent care sufficiency report to People & Health Scrutiny gave an example of a service user moved into residential care at a cost of £850/week; If the service user had been placed in one of the block contract care homes, that cost would have been over £1200/week.

Given that the contracts still have nearly 20 years to run, what is Dorset Council intending to do to regarding the continued waste of our council tax payers money on them?

Question 3 submitted by Cllr J Orrell

We face a new wave of COVID. I am keen to know the situation for adult social care. We hear of care homes losing workers who are unimmunised, gone due to Brexit or attracted to better pay in other sectors. The NHS has been closing hospital beds on the mantra of care closer to home over the last decade. The recent new settlement for lifetime costs seems to have been consumed largely to backfill NHS under investment leaving a smaller share for social care. Does Dorset adult social care have capacity in people and money to pick up the strain of the coming Omicron wave?