

Date of committee: 3 November 2020

Date published: 4 November 2020

Date of implementation: 12 November 2020

DECISIONS OF THE DORSET COUNCIL - CABINET 3 NOVEMBER 2020

The following decisions were made by the Cabinet on 3 November 2020 and will come into force and may be implemented on unless the decision is called in for scrutiny.

In accordance with the council's constitution, any six members of the same relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee may request the Monitoring Officer to 'call-in' a decision for scrutiny. The Monitoring Officer will be provided with written notice that will identify the decision to be called-in and the ground for the call-in when the request is made. If satisfied that there are reasonable grounds for the proposed call-in, the Monitoring Officer will notify the decision-maker of the call-in within 5 clear working days. The deadline for this request is **11 November 2020**.

The full call-in procedure is set out in the Constitution or for further information and advice please telephone Kate Critchel on 01305 252234

6 QUARTER 2 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT REPORT

Decision

- (a) That the Senior Leadership Team's forecast for Dorset Council's revenue budget position at the end of quarter 2 and the improvement since quarter 1 be noted;
- (b) That Cabinet note the continuing impact that these changes could mean for the development of the 2021/22 budget strategy;
- (c) That Cabinet note the proposals to improve the position during the year and consider further action to address the budget gap;
- (d) That the latest position on the capital programme and the impact that this was having on capital financing in the revenue budget set out in appendix 1, be noted;
- (e) That the current positions on collection funds and collection rates and the impact that the council tax position in particular might have on local preceptors be noted;
- (f)
 - (i) That the grant allocation of £2.3m from the Department for Education (DfE) for the Priority Schools Building Programme 2 (PSPB2) project at The Woodroffe School, Lyme Regis be accepted and the Executive Director for People – Children with the Executive Director for Corporate Development be authorised to sign the grant agreement form;
 - (ii) That subject to signature of the grant agreement, for Dorset Council to Commit to Construct, authority be delegated to the Executive Director People - Children's in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Peoples Children Education Skills and Early Help and the Executive Director for Corporate Development to enter into contract(s) on best terms achievable, provided the project was within budget.

Reason for the Decision

The Council has responsibilities to deliver against its 2020/21 revenue budget and capital programme whilst maintaining adequate reserves. Cabinet wishes to understand clearly the financial impact and consequences of the Council's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Understanding the current year's position and performance is also key to developing the medium-term financial plan (MTFP) and budget strategy.

7 PROPERTY STRATEGY & ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN

Decision

- (a) That the Property Strategy & Asset Management Plan, as set out in appendix 3 to the report, be agreed;
- (b) That the Action Plan, as set out in appendix 4 to the report, be agreed;
- (c) That a budget of £250k be allocated and funded from Capital Receipts for feasibility studies and other exploratory works; the cost of which would be apportioned to individual schemes and recovered should the project be developed out or asset sold with planning permission.

Reason for the Decision

The Property Strategy & Asset Management Plan is a key component of the Council's transformation strategy in order to help services meet their changing service needs and assisting the council in meeting its statutory obligations, its social and economic aspirations whilst at the same making a significant contribution to overcoming the financial challenges that it faces.

8 TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME ANNUAL REPORT

Decision

- (a) That the draft revised Transformation plan, as set out in appendix A to the report, be approved;
- (b) That the progress and allocations from the £5 million transformation fund made in the last year, be noted;
- (c) That authority be delegated to the Performance Leadership group (comprising Cabinet and the Senior Leadership Team) with responsibility for:-
 - a. Oversight of the amended transformation plan
 - b. Allocation of the transformation fund according to the criteria and gateway process
- (d) That the amended governance arrangements particularly for the transformation fund and its accountability to Cabinet, be approved;
- (f) That the importance of Digital and technology to underpin all our transformational activity be recognised and that Place and Resources Overview Committee add a review of the output from the EAP for ICT and Digital and the draft digital vision to their forward plan.

Reason for the Decision

In order to achieve further savings due to the ongoing financial challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic, the council needs to change how it prioritises and delivers transformation. An agile, theme-based approach will enable projects to focus on designing solutions at pace and with a relentless customer focus and ensure appropriate oversight and management of the amended transformation plan and allocation and tracking of the transformation fund.

10 HOUSING STANDARDS ENFORCEMENT POLICY AND STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES FOR DETERMINING FINANCIAL PENALTIES 2020-2025

Decision

That the adoption of the Housing Standards Enforcement Policy and Statement of Principles for determining Financial Penalties 2020-2025, be approved.

Reason for the Decision

In April 2019 all existing Housing Enforcement Policies novated to the new Dorset Council. These policies remain in force until 31st March 2021 or until a new policy supersedes them. The formation of Dorset Council on the 1 April 2019 required that the Council adopt one new Enforcement Policy and Statement of Principles for determining Financial Penalties across the new council area. The new policy is not significantly different from those of the original sovereign councils. They have been amalgamated and updated to reflect changes in legislation and good practice.

11 PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING ASSISTANCE POLICY

Decision

- (a) That the Private Sector Housing Assistance Policy be adopted;
- (b) That authority be delegated to the Corporate Director for Housing and in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Community Safety to:
 - (i) Make minor amendments to the policy to comply with legislation and guidance.
 - (ii) Suspend the approval of any discretionary housing assistance offered in this policy.
 - (iii) Introduce new assistance to help private residential property should funding become available.

Reason for the Decision

The Council is required by law to adopt and publish a policy detailing any assistance it wishes to offer to improve private residential property.

The formation of Dorset Council requires that a new Private Sector Housing Assistance Policy is adopted. On the 1 April 2019 policies from the original sovereign councils novated to Dorset Council. Generally these policies are similar but not identical and therefore there are inconsistencies in some areas of assistance offered.

12 A NEW WAY OF SECURING DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTIONS FOR NHS INFRASTRUCTURE

Decision

- (a) That the document titled 'Exploring Developer Contributions for NHS Infrastructure', as set out in appendix A, be approved;
- (b) That authority be delegated to the Head of Planning, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning to make any consequential changes to the approved document and finalise its implementation.

Reason for the Decision

To provide a framework for securing developer contributions for dealing with the impact of new housing development on NHS healthcare across Dorset.

13 ASPIRE ANNUAL ADOPTION REPORT FOR THE PERIOD FROM 1 APRIL 2019 TO 31 MARCH 2020

Decision

- (a) That the activity undertaken by Aspire Adoption to secure adoption and special guardianship families for children, be noted;
- (b) That Cabinet notes that the Interagency Agreement (appendix 2 of the report) was under review to reflect that there were two Councils involved rather than three.

Reason for the Decision

In accordance with the provisions of the Adoption and Children Act 2002, all local authorities have a duty to establish and maintain an adoption service in their area, to meet the needs in relation to adoption, of children who have or may be adopted, of adults who have been adopted, parents and guardians of such children and persons who have or may adopt a child.