



Cabinet

Date: Tuesday, 9 September 2025
Time: 6.30 pm
Venue: Council Chamber, County Hall, Dorchester, DT1 1XJ

Chief Executive, Catherine Howe, Dorset Council County Hall, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1XJ

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A G E N D A

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4 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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Representatives of town or parish councils and members of the public who live, work, or represent an organisation within the Dorset Council area are welcome to submit either 1 question or 1 statement for each meeting. You are welcome to attend the meeting in person or via MS Teams to read out your question and to receive the response. If you submit a statement for the committee this will be circulated to all members of the committee in advance of the meeting as a supplement to the agenda and appended to the minutes for the formal record but will not be read out at the meeting. The first 8 questions and the first 8 statements received from members of the public or organisations for each meeting will be accepted on a first come first served basis in accordance with the deadline set out below. Further information read [Public Participation - Dorset Council](#)

All submissions must be emailed in full to Kate.Critchel@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk by 8.30am on Thursday 4 September 2025.

When submitting your question or statement please note that:

- You can submit 1 question or 1 statement.
 - a question may include a short pre-amble to set the context.
 - It must be a single question and any sub-divided questions will not be permitted.
 - Each question will consist of no more than 450 words, and you will be given up to 3 minutes to present your question.
 - when submitting a question please indicate who the question is for (e.g., the name of the committee or Portfolio Holder)
 - Include your name, address, and contact details. Only your name will be published but we may need your other details to contact you about your question or statement in advance of the meeting.
 - questions and statements received in line with the council's rules for public participation will be published as a supplement to the agenda.
 - all questions, statements and responses will be published in full within the minutes of the meeting.
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Cabinet - 9 September 2025

Public Questions

1. Question from Geoffrey Chopping - Loal Plan Consultation

I am Geoffrey Chopping and although I am a Holt Parish Councillor, I am not asking this question on behalf of Holt Parish Council.

In the current Dorset Council Local Plan Consultation, some settlements are listed for Tiers 1 and Tiers 2 within the text, whilst Tier 3 Settlements are listed in Figure 3.2.

However, within the main document, there is no precise written definition of the extent of the current, or the extent of the enlarged settlements, in Tier 1, Tier 2 or Tier 3. Consequently, sufficient information is not easily available to all residents to know if the areas, in which they are interested, are affected.

The only available precise definition of areas are Civil Parish Boundaries; and 3.2.8 states:

All other areas are either rural in character or comprise small villages/hamlets that do not have a sufficient services or facilities for everyday needs to be met locally. These areas are unlikely to be suitable for growth in line with National Policy⁵.

Without definitions of any precise areas to the contrary, the only practical textual definition that can be used for areas are Civil Parish Boundaries; and certainly not the vague whims of the strategic planning department.

QUESTION

Can Dorset Council confirm that as changes to the Green Belt can only be made during the Local Plan Consultation Process and as Holt Parish is not directly mentioned within Tiers 1, 2 or 3 as being suitable for development within this Local Plan Consultation, that there will be no changes to the Green Belt for any part of the Holt Parish area as a result of this Local Plan Consultation?

2. Question from Robert Horne

Good practice in the multidisciplinary assessment of needs for NHS Continuing Healthcare

My question to the cabinet meeting held on 25th February this year was:-

Has Dorset Council considered agreeing with NHS Dorset a joint model of assessment?

I posed the question because I knew that NHS Dorset had, in the case of one care home resident, interfered in the work of multidisciplinary team (MDT) to reverse its recommendation on eligibility for NHS Continuing Healthcare (CHC).

In response to my question Councillor Steve Robinson wrote:-

The National Framework states that only in exceptional circumstances, and for clearly articulated reasons, should the multidisciplinary team's recommendation not be followed.

That is correct, but in the case of interest to me I now know that NHS Dorset holds no records of exceptional circumstances. Nevertheless NHS Dorset tells me its CHC decision making procedure complies with the National Framework. That can't be right, so I investigated further.

I discovered that NHS Dorset has an internal procedure under which it requires MDTs to submit each completed and signed Decision Support Tool (DST) to its Decision Making Team (DMT) before issue to the subject person. Without citing or explaining exceptional circumstances or involving the subject person, the DMT can require an MDT to reconvene to take into account the DMT's assessments of the subject person's health care needs and the DMT's opinion on the eligibility recommendation, all before issuing the DST to the subject person. That certainly isn't right.

I sent to Councillor Robinson on 1st June my information document entitled *Good practice in the multidisciplinary assessment of needs for NHS Continuing Healthcare* which explains where NHS Dorset's reconvene procedure is non-compliant with the National Framework and how it disadvantages both Dorset Council and care home residents.

NHS Dorset should not require Dorset Council to provide additional CHC Social Worker input to an MDT without having good reasons (capable of being clearly articulated) for believing that there are exceptional circumstances which entitle the return by the DMT of a completed DST to the MDT for reconsideration. I suggest that, as a standard procedure, NHS Dorset is required to produce that information before Dorset Council agrees to commit additional staff time to an MDT reconvene.

My question to the Cabinet is:-

Will Dorset Council require NHS Dorset to produce the evidence of exceptional circumstances with clearly articulated reasons whenever NHS Dorset makes a request of additional Social Services staff time for the reconvene of an MDT?

Cabinet – 9 September Statements

Statement from Dr G Rider

Response to the briefing document on the review of Dorset's Street Lighting Policy

The briefing document for the review of the street lighting policy contains several errors and illogical statements that I have outlined in detail to Jan Britton and Jack Wiltshire. This is a summary of the issues I have highlighted and which I wish to be revised.

1) 7.1 is incorrect. The classification of Environmental Zones using SQM values, as defined in ILP

Guidance Document GN01, is a **requirement** for compliance with BS5489 when lighting residential roads. It states this in table A5. It is not optional, if the lighting policy is to be compliant with the British Standard.

2) 7.3 is entirely incorrect. Setting the lighting brightness in compliance with the specifications in

BS5489, table A5, will not be unsafe and will not lead to the negative outcomes stated.

3) 5.8 confuses Environmental Zones and areas where different levels of lighting are required

because of different traffic speed and similar considerations, which are specified in BS5489,

Annexe A. The two issues must not be conflated. The Environmental Zone classification modifies

the lighting standard to be used in inherently darker residential areas. The proposed "D" zoning

system is not compatible with BS5489.

4) 5.9 The new lighting policy needs to correctly classify Environmental Zones, as defined in GN01,

because this also sets the maximum spill light that should be produced. In all residential areas of

Dorset the maximum spill light level should be 1 lux, according to current standards, national

guidance and Dorset's lighting policy. Curtains should not be a requirement to block stray light.

5) 5.9 proposes dimming the lights by 50% after 10pm, so presumably this is considered to be safe.

Adopting the P5 lighting standard in residential areas, as rejected in 7.1 and 7.3, would involve

reducing the light intensity at all times by only 40%, which logically cannot be considered unsafe
(and it would not be specified in the British Standard if it were unsafe).

6) The proposal to pay the PFI contractor an additional sum based on a calculation of the anticipated energy saving, in return for replacement of 18500 obsolete lamps at no cost to the Council, is unsound. I have given my reason for this comment to Councillor Suttle.

7) The choice of 2700K for all future LED lighting is arbitrary and does not necessarily deliver the optimum energy saving. The recognised optimum lighting for environmental protection is amber, with a CCT value around 1800K. The 1850K lights currently being evaluated in Swanage meet the requirement for low blue emission and are more energy efficient than the 2700K LEDs detailed in the APSE report submitted as part of the policy review.