



People and Health Overview Committee

Date: Monday, 15 September 2025
Time: 6.30 pm
Venue: Council Chamber, County Hall, Dorchester, DT1 1XJ

Members (Quorum: 3)

Beryl Ezzard (Chair), Louise Bown (Vice-Chair), Jindy Atwal, Alex Fuhrmann, Ryan Holloway, Stella Jones, Steve Murcer, Jon Orrell, Mike Parkes and Byron Quayle

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

For more information about this agenda please contact Democratic Services Meeting Contact 01305 224185 - george.dare@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Members of the public are welcome to attend this meeting, apart from any items listed in the exempt part of this agenda. If you would like to attend this meeting and have any specific requirements please contact the Democratic Services Officer named above.

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Agenda

Item	Pages
5. COUNCILLOR QUESTIONS	3 - 4

To receive questions submitted by councillors.

Councillors can submit up to two valid questions at each meeting and sub divided questions count towards this total. Questions and statements received will be published as a supplement to the agenda and all questions, statements and responses will be published in full within the minutes of the meeting.

The submissions must be emailed in full to george.dare@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk by 8.30am on Wednesday, 10 September 2025.

[Dorset Council Constitution](#) – Procedure Rule 13

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**People and Health Overview Committee
15 September 2025
Questions from Councillors**

Question 1 - Submitted by Cllr Robin Legg

Newell House, Sherborne has been unoccupied for more than two decades. It is becoming increasingly derelict and a location for antisocial behaviour. Only last week the police wrote to Dorset of their concerns and warned that the Fire and Rescue Service regard the listed building as at high risk of arson attack. How will the proposed empty homes strategy be used to bring Newell House into residential occupation?

Question 2 - Submitted by Cllr Robin Legg

Recently the BBC conducted a survey of local authorities to establish the number of long term empty homes in each and whether the problem was getting worse. The article inferred that many authorities were more interested in the increased council tax revenue generated by empty properties than solving the empty homes crisis. Dorset's response to the BBC's Freedom of Information enquiry showed a significant deterioration between 2019 and 2025. The number of homes empty for at least twelve months rose from 6,404 to 7,716 in that five year period. An increase of 20.5%. Long term empty commercial properties saw an even steeper increase of 55.0% How can members be confident therefore that the empty homes strategy proposed by officers will bring improvement?

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