



Place and Resources Overview Committee

Date: Thursday, 1 October 2026
Time: 3.00 pm
Venue: Council Chamber, County Hall, Dorchester, DT1 1XJ

Members (Quorum: 3)

Ryan Hope (Chair), Andrew Starr (Vice-Chair), Piers Brown, Richard Crabb, Simon Gibson, Sherry Jespersen, David Northam, Roland Tarr, David Taylor and Val Potheary

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

For more information about this agenda please contact Democratic & Governance Services Meeting Contact lindsey.watson@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
4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION	3 - 4
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 lindsey.watson@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk by 8.30am on 28 September 2026.

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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Public Participation

Question from Richard Daw

The Lyme Regis Dog Owners Group is asking Dorset Council to allow dogs off lead on Lyme Regis Town Sandy Beach before 10am and after 6pm from May to September, while retaining the current unrestricted access from October to April.

Dorset Council has acknowledged that the adjacent beaches are unsuitable for many people with mobility issues. Yet the current restrictions leave disabled and less able-bodied dog owners without a safe, accessible alternative for five months of the year.

The impact extends beyond disability. Local families and visitors who want to enjoy the beach with their dogs are also excluded during the summer months. Shift workers, whose working hours may not fit within the permitted times, can also be affected.

For some people, their dog is their only companion, their reason to leave the house and an opportunity to socialise. For families, being unable to bring their dog can mean missing out on a shared beach visit.

Our campaign has provided date-stamped photographs showing how frequently the beach is empty during the hours we are requesting. A Freedom of Information response also confirms that no fines for dog fouling have been issued on Lyme Regis Beach in the past three years.

We are not asking for unrestricted summer access. We are asking for a reasonable compromise that accommodates other beach users while allowing more people to enjoy the beach.

My question is:

How has Dorset Council assessed the impact of the proposed restrictions on disabled and less able-bodied people, local families, visitors and shift workers, and what evidence demonstrates that refusing a limited early morning and evening compromise is necessary and proportionate, particularly when the Town Sandy Beach is the only safe and accessible beach available to some people?

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