

Date of committee: 8 December 2020 (reconvened on 14 December 2020 for item 19)

Date published 10 December 2020

(item 19 published on 15 December 2020)

Date of implementation: 18 December 2020

(item 19 implementation date: 24 December 2020)

## DECISIONS OF THE DORSET COUNCIL - CABINET 8 DECEMBER 2020

The following decisions were made by the Cabinet on 8 December 2020 and will come into force and may be implemented on 18 December 2020 unless the decision is called in for scrutiny.

In accordance with the council's constitution, any six members of the same relevant 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 **17 December 2020**.

The deadline for this request for item 19 is 23 December 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 DORSET COUNCIL PLAN: QUARTER 2 PERFORMANCE UPDATE**

Decision

That the progress against the Council Plan priorities be received and noted.

### **Reason for Recommendation**

To ensure progress towards the Council Plan is measured and monitored.

## **7 TRANSFORMATION OF PLANNING SERVICES: PAS PEER REVIEW FINDINGS AND ACTIONS**

Decision

- (a) That the Planning Advisory Service Peer Review of Dorset Council's Planning Service be noted;
- (b) That the recommendations and action plan as set out in the report be agreed;
- (c) That Place and Resources Scrutiny Committee receive biannual (or more frequent as necessary) progress reports on the implementation of the action plan.

### **Reason for Recommendation:**

The visit of the PAS peer review team took place at a formative time in the unitary council's development and the work it carried out has informed the Local Planning Authority in shaping its transformation programme. The final report contains practical and constructive recommendations and an action plan which are intended to assist Dorset Council in progressing the work needed to deliver a high-quality and customer-focused planning service.

## **8 DORSET COUNCIL LOCAL PLAN: CONSULTATION**

Decision

- (a) That the Dorset Council Local Plan Options Consultation document, as set out in Appendix A to the report, be approved for the purpose of public consultation, to take place for eight weeks from mid-January 2021;
- (b) That authority be delegated to the Service Manager for Spatial Planning, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning, to make any minor changes necessary prior to publication;
- (c) That changes to the Statement of Community Involvement included as Appendix B to the report be agreed to reflect the practicalities of consulting during the Covid-19 pandemic.

### **Reason for Recommendation:**

Having an up to date local plan in place is critical in order to shape the future of the Dorset Council area, provide for development to meet the area's needs, and manage decisions on planning applications. Cabinet have previously agreed the programme for preparing a Dorset Council Local Plan that would on adoption replace the current district local plans. Public consultation is a vital part of the process, and this consultation will enable a wide range of views to be taken into account in moving the plan forwards.

## **9 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE ALLOCATION OF DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTIONS FOR ENHANCEMENT OF RECREATION AND COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE PROVISION IN DORCHESTER**

The Portfolio Holder presented a report on the Developer contributions that had been collected by Dorset Council and its predecessor councils for the area of Dorchester. A reformed officer/member panel recommended the Great Field project should continue to be funded and proposed that the council support the Arts in Dorchester/Thomas Hardy School joint venture receive the £1m funding previously committed to the Maltings Arts project.

Dorchester local members welcomed the recommendation

Decision

- (a) Great Field Poundbury – new recreation facilities, £455,786.00
- (b) Arts in Dorchester Project – improvements to Municipal Buildings and Thomas Hardy School Theatre to provide enhanced performance space and associated facilities, £1million. Payment subject to the submission of a comprehensive business case to be approved by the Executive Director for Place in consultation with the Portfolio holder for Planning.

### **Reason for Recommendation:**

To enable the award of developer contributions in Dorchester to local projects for the enhancement of community infrastructure.

## **10 PARKING SERVICES PHASE 1 PROJECT REPORT**

Decision

- (a) That as part of managing traffic effectively the Cabinet supported the following changes to parking charges/charging hours:
  - (i) increasing the all day charge from £2 to £8 in Lyme Regis and West Bay
  - (ii) extending morning charges in Purbeck to begin from 8:00am
  - (iii) implementation of Sunday charging except that at the request of the relevant Town or Parish Council, Dorset Council would consider the case for suspending car park charging on a Sunday to enable a local event to be held. In such cases agreement to suspend would be at the sole discretion of

Dorset Council and each individual case would be considered on its merits. These provisions would apply only in exceptional cases and on a limited number of occasions in a year.

- (b) That changes are introduced at the earliest opportunity and
- (c) That the Portfolio holder for Highways, Travel and Environment, after consultation with the Director of Place, be given delegated authority to decide on the further process to be followed and be given authority to take any and all further decisions and steps necessary to introduce the parking changes supported by the Cabinet.

**Reason for Recommendation:**

- A. The current charge has not been reviewed since 2014; hence the charge has not risen with inflation and does not meet the current costs. The areas are tourist destinations; therefore, the impact of the charge will primarily be on tourists and not on Dorset Council residents. There are car parks in the area that charge per hour, thus parking can be achieved locally at a lower cost for those not wanting to pay an all-day rate.
- B. Purbeck is the only part of Dorset Council that parking charges current start at 10am, this is inequitable and there is no indication of a need for charges to start later in this area. The 10am charging period appears to be the legacy of an assumption that locals in Purbeck shop early in the morning before tourists arrive, but this could be true of other popular tourist destination areas and therefore now needs to align with all car parking in Dorset area.
- C. Introducing Sunday charging across the Dorset Council area brings parity and consistency. Further research and impact analysis will be undertaken in phase 2 of the transformation project.

**11 PERMISSION TO PROCURE AND AWARD HEALTHY HOMES DORSET 2020 CONTRACT**

Decision

- (a) That the procurement of the Healthy Homes Dorset 2020 contract, value up to £1.5 million, be approved;
- (b) That authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Place min consultation with the Portfolio Holder, Economic Growth, Assets and Property to award the contract.

**Reason for Recommendation:**

The Council has recently been awarded £859,400 from round 1a of the Government Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery initiative and is planning further bids to the fund. Meeting the tight delivery deadlines attached to the grants will be challenging if procurement is not completed swiftly. Procuring a contract with a value of up to £1.5 million allows headroom for current and future grants in addition to the original Dorset Councils budget for this project.

## **12 ANNUAL SAFEGUARDING REPORT**

Decision

That the Annual Report of the Pan-Dorset Safeguarding Partnership be received and noted.

### **Reason for Recommendation:**

Safeguarding partnerships are required to publish and share Annual Reports widely. Dorset Council is a statutory safeguarding partner in the Pan-Dorset Safeguarding Partnership.

## **13 ANNUAL SELF EVALUATION OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

Decision

That the Annual Self-Evaluation of Children's Services be received and noted.

### **Reason for Recommendation**

The production of an Annual Self Evaluation as part of the Ofsted Inspection Framework of Children's Services. This report is intended to enable political leaders to understand areas of strength and areas for development.

## **14 CABINET MEMBER UPDATE ON POLICY DEVELOPMENT MATTERS REFERRED TO AN OVERVIEW COMMITTEE(S) FOR CONSIDERATION**

## **16 URGENT ITEMS**

There was one urgent item of business to consider because the matter could not be dealt with under delegate powers.

Purbeck Heath Grazing Unit

## **17 PURBECK HEATH LARGE GRAZING UNIT**

Decision

That authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Place to sign the grant declaration on behalf of Dorset Council.

## **18 EXEMPT BUSINESS**

It was proposed by Cllr Peter Wharf

Decision

That the press and the public be excluded for the following item(s) in view of the likely disclosure of exempt information within the meaning of paragraph 3 of schedule 12 A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

**19 PROVISION FOR DORSET CHILDREN (MEETING ADJOURNED AT 14.52PM ON 8 DECEMBER 2020)**

**Cabinet reconvened on 14 December 2020 at 14.00pm in exempt business to continue the consideration of the above item.**

**Provision for Dorset Children (SEND)**

Decision

That the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Capital Strategy for 2020 to 2025, be accepted.

**Reason for Recommendation:**

This strategy provides the council with a clear understanding of the current sufficiency of places for children and young people with SEND, that are supported by an Education, Health and Care Plan. Approval will allow for future operational and strategic planning to meet demand.

**Provision for Dorset Children (Business Case)**

Decision

- (a) That a final bid to acquire land property and assets as set out in the report be approved;
- (b) That authority be delegated to the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Commercial and Capital Strategy, in consultation with the Section 151 Officer to seek the appropriate funding required.
- (c) That authority be delegated to the Portfolio Holder for Children, Education, Skills and Early Help, in consultation with the Executive Director People – Children to prepare a detailed business case and consult on a range of options.
- (d) That a cross-party, politically balanced Steering Group be formed with a membership of 10 members, to be nominated by group leaders.

**Reason for recommendation:**

The council has a need to deliver service provision for children in a more economically efficient mechanism.