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CABINET

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 18 MAY 2021

Present: Cllrs Spencer Flower (Chairman), Peter Wharf (Vice-Chairman), Graham Carr-Jones, Ray Bryan, Tony Ferrari, Laura Miller, Andrew Parry, Jill Haynes and David Walsh

Apologies: Cllrs G Suttle

Also present: Cllr Cherry Brooks, Cllr Simon Gibson, Cllr Nocturin Lacey-Clarke, Cllr Jane Somper, Cllr Kate Wheller, Cllr Tony Alford, Cllr Jon Andrews, Cllr Shane Bartlett, Cllr Susan Cocking, Cllr Robin Cook, Cllr Les Fry, Cllr Molly Rennie, Cllr Andrew Starr, Cllr Roland Tarr, Cllr David Tooke and Cllr Daryl Turner

Officers present (for all or part of the meeting):

Matt Prosser (Chief Executive), Aidan Dunn (Executive Director - Corporate Development S151), John Sellgren (Executive Director, Place), Kate Critchel (Senior Democratic Services Officer), Theresa Leavy (Executive Director of People - Children), Mike Garrity (Head of Planning), Antony Littlechild (Sustainability Team Manager), Matthew Piles (Corporate Director - Economic Growth and Infrastructure), Karyn Punchard (Corporate Director for Place Services), Matt Reeks (Service Manager for Coast and Greenspace), Paul Rutter (Service Manager for Leisure Services), Claire Shiels (Corporate Director - Commissioning, Quality & Partnerships) and Grace Evans (Head of Legal Services and Deputy Monitoring Officer)

1. **Welcome and Statement from the Leader of the Council**

The Leader of the Council welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised that at the Annual Meeting of Council on 4 May 2021 it was agreed that all council meetings, that were not of an executive nature, would continue to be held virtually from 7 May 2021.

The Leader of the Council confirmed that he had also agreed that Cabinet would continue to meet virtually, until such time as social distancing requirements were removed. This was currently scheduled to be lifted on 21 June 2021.

Members were advised that where a Cabinet decision was required, the appropriate Portfolio Holder would be the responsible individual to make the decision, whilst considering the views expressed by the wider Cabinet membership.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest to report.

3. **Public Participation**

There were seven questions/statements from the public. These were read out by Matt Prosser, Chief Executive and Grace Evans, Deputy Monitoring Officer (Legal and Democratic Services) and responded to by the appropriate Portfolio Holder.

A copy of the full questions and the detailed responses are set out in Appendix 1 these minutes.

4. **Questions from Members**

There was one question from Councillor Mike Parkes on behalf of the Ferndown and West Parley councillors. The question alongside the response is set out in Appendix 2 to these minutes.

5. **Forward Plan**

The draft Cabinet Forward Plan for June 2021 was received and noted.

6. **Annual Children's Services Self-Evaluation Framework**

The Portfolio Holder for Children, Education, Skills and Early Help presented the report stating that the requirement to produce a comprehensive annual self-evaluation framework was part the Ofsted inspection of children services. The report intended to enable Cabinet to understand areas of strength and areas for development.

The Chairman invited non-executive members to ask questions and discussion was held in the following areas: -

- The Chairman of People and Health Scrutiny Committee referred to the committee's debate at its meeting on 20 April 2021; expressing concern regarding short term funding and its impact on some of the services' provision. In response the Executive Director for People (Children) welcomed the scrutiny debate, acknowledging that there was some short-term funding. However, she confirmed that there was also significant permanent investment in early help.
- Overall, the People and Health Scrutiny Committee supported the report and would continue to monitor performance.
- In response to a question regarding domestic abuse, advice was given that there had been a change in provision with the numbers requesting accommodation throughout the pandemic being reduced, however there was an increase in outreach support which reflected the regional and national picture.

Cabinet welcomed the report, noting that the scrutiny committee would continue to review the framework through the performance leadership matrix.

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

7. **Youth Justice Plan**

The Portfolio Holder for Children, Education, Skills and Early Help presented the Youth Justice Plan for Cabinet's consideration. The Youth Justice Service was a PAN-Dorset function that combined engagement with several partners including local authorities.

In presenting the report the Portfolio Holder advised that he intended to recommend to Full Council that the Youth Justice Plan be adopted.

The Chairman invited questions from non-executive members of the council: -

- Concern was expressed regarding the lack of that interaction with Youth Centre's and this was missing from the report.
- The Chairman of the People and Health Scrutiny committee confirmed that the committee endorsed the report the recommendation.

Cabinet confirmed that they supported the Portfolio Holder's recommendation.

Recommendation to Full Council from the Portfolio Holder for Children, Education, Skills, and Early Help

That the Youth Justice Plan be adopted.

Reason for the recommendation

Local authorities are required to publish an annual Youth Justice Plan, setting out how the statutory requirements for a multi-agency youth offending team are fulfilled locally. Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service is a partnership between Dorset Council and Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council, along with Dorset Police, NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group and the National Probation Service Dorset. Approval for the Youth Justice Plan is also being sought from Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council. The Youth Justice Plan needs to be approved by the full Council.

8. Protocol for Planning Obligations Funding Allocation Community Schemes

The Portfolio Holder for Planning presented a report setting out a framework for managing the allocation of section 106 developer contributions to appropriate bodies which was clear, consistently applied, and secured appropriate levels of accountability.

The Chairman invited non-executive members to ask questions of the Portfolio Holder: -

In response to a question for clarification, the Portfolio Holder confirmed that eligible parish councils could take on the responsibility of managing developer contributions which had been collected for local community infrastructure. However, they may elect not to so, for example if they didn't have the resources necessary to administer the process.

The Portfolio Holder for Planning presented his Executive Decision based on the reports recommendations. Cabinet confirmed that they supported his decision.

Decision of the Portfolio Holder for Planning

- (a) Agree the protocol for the award of planning obligations funding allocations to appropriate bodies, as set out in appendix A of the report to Cabinet 18 May 2021.
- (b) Confirm that the protocol would be used to consider eligibility of those bodies seeking to spend s106 planning obligations in accordance with the purposes for which the obligations were collected; and
- (c) That the protocol would come into effect on 19 May 2021.

Reason for decision

1. At its Annual Meeting, Council decided to continue to meet virtually for all non-executive committees. The Leader of the Council also decided that Cabinet should continue to meet virtually until social distancing requirements had been removed. Therefore, the Portfolio Holder for Planning has made this decision taking into account the views expressed by the wider cabinet membership.
2. To provide a framework for managing the allocation of s106 developer contributions to appropriate bodies which is clear, consistently applied, and which secures appropriate levels of accountability.

[Executive Decision - Protocol for Planning Obligations Funding Allocation Community Schemes - Dorset Council](#)

9. **Recommendations from Committees**

Cabinet considered the following recommendations: -

The Executive Director of Place – on behalf Place and Resources Scrutiny Committee on 12 May 2021 (Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy)

People and Health Overview Committee on 4 May (Dorset Cultural Strategy)

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES

Cabinet considered the following recommendations set out in min no's 10 & 11.

10. **Dorset Council Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy**

The Portfolio Holder for Highways, Travel and Environment set out the recommendation to Full Council in respect of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy Consultation Results. In presenting the strategy he referred to the following: -

- The main area of concern remained around the target for the Council to achieve a Carbon neutral position.

- This was set at an achievable and realistic date of 2040.
- Where appropriate and in response to public consultation, discussions with Place and Resources Scrutiny Committee and individual members, the strategy and action plan documents had been amended.
- Highlighted that the strategy was a living document and a short survey remained open for the public to continue to make comments.
- Further investigations and developments would continue as technologies developed.
- There was a growth in the detail in respect of Hydrogen energy
- If adopted and as set out in the Council Plan, the Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy document would impact on what and how the council provided its services in the future.
- The Council was awarded £19 million by Government to spend on properties within the Dorset Council area to reduce carbon emissions and running costs.
- He thanked officers for their work on the document and consultation process.

Following discussion at Place and Resources Scrutiny Committee on 12 May 2021 and having heard the committee debate, the Executive Director for Place confirmed that he was making the following recommendation:

“That Cabinet consider the outcomes of the consultation and amendments to the Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy and Action Plan and recommended its final approval to Full Council”.

In making this recommendation, the Executive Director confirmed that the recommendation sheet and the extract notes of the informal meeting of Place and Resources Scrutiny Committee were circulated to Cabinet as a supplement to this meeting.

The Chairman invited the Chairman of the Place and Resources Scrutiny Committee to address the meeting:

- He confirmed that the scrutiny committee discussed the report, acknowledging the budget implications and potential impact on the council tax for the residents of Dorset.
- If the targets of the strategy were brought forward on a quicker timeframe, that cost burden on the taxpayer could be quite significant.
- Overall, the scrutiny committee was satisfied the target dates were achievable.
- Funding needed to be timetabled with performance deadlines and strategic project dates for officers to be able to deliver the strategy.
- He suggested that the scrutiny committee carry out quarterly performance reviews.

The Chairman invited non-executive members to ask questions of the Portfolio Holder: -

- Misgivings were expressed that further work was required on adaptations, other greenhouse gases and ecology. But minor changes had been welcomed.
- Most consultees were content with the overall targets.

Following debate and the opportunity to ask questions, the Portfolio Holder advised that he intended to recommend that the Dorset Council Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy be considered by Full Council for adoption.

Cabinet confirmed that they supported this recommendation.

Recommendation to Full Council from the Portfolio Holder for Highways, Travel and Environment

That the Dorset Council Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy and Action Plan be considered by Full Council for adoption.

11. Dorset Cultural Strategy 2021 - 2026

The Portfolio Holder for Customer and Community Services presented a recommendation from People and Health Overview Committee of 4 May 2021, to adopt the Dorset Cultural Strategy. She advised members that the strategy was the start of the work to develop cultural activity in the Dorset Council area.

The Chairman invited non-executive members to ask questions of the Portfolio Holder: -

In response to a request to add specific events, sites and festivals, the Portfolio Holder advised that this was a high-level strategy to set the strategic direction for the council. However, she would discuss the request further with officers.

The Portfolio Holder confirmed that her Executive Decision was to adopt the Cultural Strategy as set out in the recommendation.

Cabinet welcomed the report and supported the decision.

Decision of the Portfolio Holder for Customer and Community Services

- (a) That the Dorset's Cultural Strategy 2021-2026 be adopted.
- (b) Approve that officer's work with Arts Council England, the Arts Development Company, and key stakeholders to develop a Cultural Compact type framework that will enable the work of the strategy to be fulfilled and effectively managed.

Reasons for the decision

1. At its Annual Meeting, Council decided to continue to meet virtually for all non-executive committees. The Leader of the Council also decided that Cabinet should continue to meet virtually until social distancing requirements had been removed. Therefore, the Portfolio Holder for Customer and Community

Services has made this decision taking into account the views expressed by the wider cabinet membership.

2. A cultural strategy helps to increase the opportunities of securing new investment into Dorset and maximise the leverage value of the council's own investment in arts, heritage and culture. This cultural strategy will be the foundation on which Dorset Council will set its own funding criteria, ensuring that all grant recipients are contributing to the priorities and ambitions of the plan.

[Executive Decision - Portfolio Holder for Customer and Community Services](#)

12. **Update(s) on Policy Development Matters referred to an Overview Committee for Consideration**

There were no referrals to report. However, the Portfolio Holder for Planning reported that a number of Neighbourhood Plans would be considered at the next meeting of Cabinet.

13. **Portfolio Holder - Lead Member(s) Update Summary**

The Portfolio Holder update summaries would be circulated to all members after the meeting and attached these minutes as Appendix 3.

14. **Climate & Ecological Emergency Executive Advisory Panel Update**

The Portfolio Holder for Highways, Travel and Environment updated members on what Dorset Council had achieved to date to tackle climate change:

- Reported on the Salix funded project of £19 million by Government to spend on properties within the Dorset Council area to reduce our carbon emissions and running costs. Work was underway for 35 sites across the Council's portfolio.
- Since the Council declared a Climate and Ecological Emergency, the council had provided local businesses with financial support via the Low Carbon Dorset team which, by the end of the programme in December 2022, would total £16.5 million.
- Changed to 100% green energy which includes both gas and electricity supply for Dorset Council owned properties, including schools, libraries and leisure centres
- Installed new electric vehicle ChargePoint's in Dorset Council car parks across the county.
- Replacing tools, vehicles, and plant where possible with battery-powered options.
- Through our fleet replacement programme, the council was analysing the best vehicles in terms of energy efficiency and carbon emissions for future purchasing.
- Hansons, the Council's main contractor for Highways, had invested money in producing a low carbon method for road repairs
- Savings made on carbon emissions of working from home during the pandemic, and this is informing our work on the new ways of working.

15. **Urgent items**

There were no urgent items considered at the meeting.

16. **Exempt Business**

There were two exempt items of business to be considered by the committee under paragraph 3 of schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)

It was proposed by Cllr P Wharf and seconded by Cllr L Miller

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).

The Chairman closed the public element of the meeting and the MS Team Live Event ended.

17. **Forward Funding of the Eastern Link Road, West Parley**

In presenting the report, the Portfolio Holder for Highways, Travel and Environment advised that his executive Decision was to approve the recommendations as set out in the exempt report of 18 May 2021.

Cabinet confirmed that they support that decision.

Decision

That authority be delegated to the Development Team Leader in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Highways, Travel and Environment to implement either of the proposed delivery options, set out in the report to Cabinet of 18 May 2021.

Reason for the decision

1. At its Annual Meeting, Council decided to continue to meet virtually for all non-executive committees. The Leader of the Council also decided that Cabinet should continue to meet virtually until social distancing requirements had been removed. Therefore, the Portfolio Holder for Highways, Travel and Environment has made this decision taking into account the views expressed by the wider cabinet membership.
2. The delivery of the West Parley Eastern Link Road is a planning condition associated with a residential / commercial development of allocated land located to the west of the existing Parley Cross junction. The delivery of this link road is an essential component of the Council's long-term plan to reduce congestion at the nearby Parley Cross Junction.

[Executive Decision - Portfolio Holder for Highways, Travel and Environment](#)

18. Leisure Services Review

The Portfolio Holder for Customer and Community Services set out the exempt report and her Executive Decision to agree its recommendations.

Cabinet confirmed that they supported that decision.

Decision

- (a) That officers be instructed to negotiate with existing leisure contractors as set out in the recommendations of the report of Cabinet 18 May 2021.
- (b) That leisure services and ongoing performance continue to be monitored and evaluated to fully consider the implications of the Covid-19 pandemic in any future decision making.

Reason for the decision

1. At its Annual Meeting, Council decided to continue to meet virtually for all non-executive committees. The Leader of the Council also decided that Cabinet should continue to meet virtually until social distancing requirements had been removed. Therefore, the Portfolio Holder for Customer and Community Services has made this decision taking into account the views expressed by the wider cabinet membership.
2. To review the Leisure Services Market and the implications of the Covid-19 pandemic.

[Executive Decision - Portfolio Holder for Customer and Community Services](#)

Duration of meeting: 10.00 - 11.47 am

Chairman

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Cabinet of 18 May 2021

Public Questions and Statements

1. Questions from Giles Watts on behalf of Dorset Climate Action Network (DCAN)

Question 1. The council has not yet published any of the submissions or feedback from the consultation exercise on the draft Local Plan. When will this data be released?

Response from the Portfolio Holder for Planning

The council will be publishing all the consultation responses but before we do, we need to read them all, remove personal details, and make sure that there is no offensive material in them which would prevent them being publishable. It is likely that they will all be published in July.

Question 2. There appear to be significant differences of professional opinion as regards the basis for the housing numbers in the draft Local Plan. This is especially true with regards to the application of “exceptional circumstances” and the fact that national housing needs have changed dramatically post Brexit and post pandemic. Dorset Climate Action Group which represents over 20 concerned organisations in Dorset would like to engage in a professional and cooperative discussion with Dorset Council about these differences before any amendments are made to the draft Local Plan. We recognise that, up to now this has been difficult during the lockdown but, now this is easing, would the Dorset Council Planning Department be prepared to host such a meeting?

Response from the Portfolio Holder for Planning

We welcome professional and cooperative discussions of the type described by Mr Watts. Although we are not currently holding face to face meetings, I am happy to ask officers to meet Dorset Climate Action Group online and to hear what you have to say.

2. Question from Sheila Bourton

With regard to WMC8, Land north of Wimborne Road, Wimborne, East Dorset

How can the Council even consider new housing development in this area when it is part of the Strategic Greenbelt Gap between Wimborne and Colehill ?

One of the purposes of Greenbelt is to prevent neighbouring towns from merging into one another and any further erosion of this important Greenbelt Gap would be catastrophic.

Parts of WMC8 has a very high water table and water drains regularly southwards and eastwards to a drainage channel . This channel NEVER dries up and in periods of heavy rain the southern part of the site floods as do the neighbouring gardens.

How can the Council even consider allowing development on any part of WMC8 which would result in flooding of existing houses from any new development and infrastructure such as roads?

The Government Inspector in her report on the Local Plan 2014, commented on “the congested network and poor road and rail links out of the region “(page 6 Item 24).

Wimborne Traffic Model Testing Report May 2012 predicted traffic increase and congestion and (I quote) “ there is little capacity available on main routes during peak periods and significant increases in capacity are not feasible”

Nothing has changed in the meantime and even more traffic will be generated from developments still in progress even before any new housing developments take place.

The hamburger Junction at Canford Bottom has not benefitted local traffic and long queues of traffic builds up at peak times. This can only get worse once the current housing developments are completed and if any new housing developments should take place particularly off Leigh Road/ Wimborne Road

In my opinion, WMC8 should not be considered for housing development and I ask that this site be eliminated from Dorset Local Plan.

I would also like to state my dismay at the Council’s plan to offer housing sites for other council areas i.e. Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole and possibly the New Forest.

This has a further strain on maintaining and safeguarding our irreplaceable Greenbelt areas.

Response from the Portfolio Holder for Planning

We have had a large number of responses to the local plan consultation and will be considering them all carefully before making any decisions about the sites and policies to be included in the next stage of plan preparation.

There is a Duty to Cooperate in national planning legislation, which means, amongst other things, that we must consider meeting any unmet housing need from neighbouring council areas. But we will continue to work with neighbouring councils to understand the extent of any unmet need, and to assess whether we have the capacity to take all or some of it.

3. Question from Mike Allen

In the context of the draft Local Plan, Cllr Walsh has said Dorset not only needs to meet its own Government housing target of over 30,000 homes, but intends to help BCP meet their target too by planning another 9,000 homes. As a consequence, hundreds of hectares of Dorset’s Greenbelt land may need to be released to developers.

Taking a very different approach the newly re-elected West Midlands Mayor has pledged to preserve his local Greenbelt and challenged the 2014 Standard Method. In response, the Office for Statistics Regulation said this month:

*“The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) made a policy decision to specify that Local Authorities use 2014 household projections as part of the standard method for calculating housing need, rather than the more recent 2018 household projections produced by ONS. This means any methodological changes made by ONS to improve the population estimates since 2014 are not reflected in the statistics which inform housing need. **For some Local Authorities, this means the over-estimation of population in certain age groups is driving policy targets in a different direction to local priorities.**”*

One notes that BCP’s 2018 household projection has fallen from the 2014 version by over 60% (using 2021 to 2031), suggesting that the 2014 Standard Method gives a target for BCP which is far too high. Using 2018 figures in the Standard Method would remove the need for those 9,000 BCP homes altogether and open the way for BCP to help Dorset instead.

Amidst another Standard Method controversy around the Knepp Estate aired in the Times recently, a MHCLG spokesperson said:

*“We’re overhauling the country’s outdated planning system to deliver the high-quality, sustainable homes communities need – our reforms will also protect our cherished countryside and green spaces. **The government doesn’t set housing targets.** The standard method for determining housing need is only the starting point in the process of planning for new homes.”*

So my careful question of the Cabinet is this:

In view of these controversies, how confident is the Council that adopting the 2014 Standard Method in the Local Plan, without question or modification, will lead to a sound plan that balances properly the local need for houses in the next decades against protection of Dorset’s “cherished countryside and green spaces”?

Response from the Portfolio Holder for Planning

Linking from the previous question, the council has consulted on a draft plan to help us understand everyone’s views, and we are very grateful for the large number of responses that we have received. We have not yet made any decisions about the approach that will be taken in the final plan, and will take all the comments into account, alongside the requirements set out in national policy, to ensure a sound plan.

4. Questions from Cllr Karen Tippins (East Ward, Shaftesbury Town Council)

Question 1

Why has Dorset Council released s106 funding to Shaftesbury Town Council for a 3G football pitch project without proof of a Council resolution and without proof that this s106 money was not needed to be spent on what was originally stated in the s106 agreement?

Response of the Portfolio Holder for Planning

Shaftesbury Town Council supported this project at the Full Council meeting held on 8 December 2020, and this was referred to in the Section 106 application submitted to Dorset Council by Shaftesbury Town Council.

There was flexibility built into a number of the Shaftesbury Section 106 agreements around 2010 & 2011, allowing the original purpose to be widened to enable funding to support projects which served the town. A paper went to Shaftesbury Town Council's Full Council meeting on 8 December setting this out. Notwithstanding this, the control and use of Section 106 is considered against a series of government regulations on a case by case basis. These considerations form part of a comprehensive appraisal process by Dorset Council.

Question 2

Most of the s106 money contributions for Shaftesbury relate to providing infrastructure and facility provisions for the new residents of East of Shaftesbury, based on the Town Council's current track record of being exclusive and neglecting the East of Shaftesbury, what measures is Dorset Council going to take to ensure that s106 money is spent accordingly and that the people of East of Shaftesbury receive the facilities that they were promised when they moved into this town?

Response of the Portfolio Holder for Planning

The report being considered by Cabinet sets out a protocol for planning obligation funding allocations for community schemes.

This becomes particularly important when there is more than one interested party involved in bidding for funds.

The protocol, if approved, will allow us to ensure awards are made in an objective and fair way following due diligence. Such an approach will provide Dorset Council and local communities with the necessary assurances that funds will be spent in accordance with the purposes for which they were collected. The proposed approach will apply to all future bids for Section 106 community funding allocations across the Dorset Council area and, as currently, it does not limit bids to town and parish councils.

This will ensure a consistent and robust approach that is fair to all parties and ensures that the most appropriate body delivers and maintains the infrastructure going forward.

5. Question from Geoffrey Chopping

The Boundary Commission for England are starting a review of the Parliamentary Constituencies. The first 8 week consultation should start on 8 June 2021.

Dorset Council is starting a Community Governance Review. In 2017, I presented a Community Governance Review Petition to East Dorset District Council for a Parish of Furzehill, which was to be Grouped with the Parish of Holt, having obtained a considerable majority in favour from the electorate. Unfortunately the proposed Parish was in two different Parliamentary Constituencies.

Neither this, nor the alternative proposal for enlarging the Parish of Holt by just adjusting the Parish boundaries, between the Parish of Holt and the Colehill West Ward of the Parish of Colehill, was accepted.

A significant issue was the fact that: *the Parish of Holt and the Colehill West Ward of the Parish of Colehill are in **different Parliamentary Constituencies***. Consequently Holt Parish Council would have required to have wards.

It is possible that the first draft of the Boundary Commission's consultation will have: *the Parish of Holt and the Colehill West Ward of the Parish of Colehill in the **same Parliamentary Constituency***. In which case I hope that Dorset Council will support that arrangement.

QUESTION

If however in the first draft the *the Parish of Holt and the Colehill West Ward of the Parish of Colehill are in **different Parliamentary Constituencies*** will Dorset Council be able to request, in the coming consultation, that the Boundary Commission for England consider placing: *the Parish of Holt and the Colehill West Ward of the Parish of Colehill in the **same Parliamentary Constituency?***

In either case I hope Dorset Council will permit this matter to be revisited during the Community Governance Review in parallel with the Boundary Commission for England Review.

Response from the Leader of the Council

It would be wrong of me to speculate about and pre-empt the outcome of either the Parliamentary Boundary Review or a local Community Governance Review.

6. Question from Trevor Clements

The Department of Transport Road Investment Strategy 2 2020-2025 (RIS2) states that local authorities including Dorset have suggested that there is a strategic case for adopting an alternative corridor – the A350 - as the main strategic route for linking the M4 with the Dorset Coast. The consequence of such a study, if adopted, would require

the trunking of the A350 along with associated dualling as is the case with the A350 in Wiltshire. Such a suggestion by Dorset Council would appear to contravene the findings and strategies contained in the:

- Western Gateway Strategic Transport Plan 2020-2025
- Bournemouth, Poole and Dorset Local Transport Plan 3 2011-2026
- Local Enterprise Partnership Strategic Economic Plan

Each of the above documents recognise the environmental sensitivity of the area surrounding the entire A350 in Dorset and the Cranborne Chase AONB. Dorset Council are members of each of the organisations who have produced the above documents. The Local Enterprise Partnership Strategic Economic Plan was signed off by three Dorset MPs. Could the councillor provide an explanation as to

1. How such an instruction was given to Highways England in contravention of the written strategies
2. What measures are now planned to consult the residents of the towns and villages along the A350 and all other interest groups including the National Trust and CPRE on the Dorset Council plans.

Response from the Portfolio Holder for Highways, Travel and Environment

Dorset Council, along with our partners, asked government to undertake a strategic study in the RIS2 period (2020-2025) to investigate the improvement of strategic road routes north/south through Dorset to help inform plans for RIS3. We are keeping an open mind and we're now working with The Department for Transport (DfT), Highways England, other authorities and stakeholders on the study to look into all options. These include A37, A350, A338 and A34 improvements, as well as potential new routes. The environmental issues across Dorset are well known by the council, DfT and Highways England. The value for money and ability to deliver improvements will be an important consideration in the development of any strategy.

Dorset Council is also working with Western Gateway Sub-national Transport Body (STB) partners on road and rail corridor improvement studies across the region – east to west and north to south to identify improvements that the STB can bid to government to for funding.

Consultation timetables for each study will be set by Highways England and the Western Gateway STB accordingly.

7. Question from directors of 'The Mampitts Lane Community Land Trust CIC' in Shaftesbury. (Cllr P Yeo, Mr T Reeve, Mr J Butcher, Mr J Hart, Mr J Catling, Mr J Simpson)

We are a Community Land Trust and a Community Interest Company that formed in July 2020 so that we can take control of some undeveloped Persimmon Homes owned s106 community land and its associated s106 funds.

We did this to guarantee to deliver the long overdue planning obligations of a Community Hall and a play park at Mampitts Lane in the centre of the large Persimmon Homes estate in East Shaftesbury, as per the estate master plan and the

2007 s106 agreement. Some residents have been waiting over ten years for these much-needed Community facilities. We six Trust Directors are all estate residents too.

In July 2020 we proposed to Dorset Council that we become the nominated s106 'third party body' and in November 2020 we submitted two s106 funding bids with our bid proposal brochure. We just need to be nominated by Dorset Council so that we can take ownership of this land from Persimmon Homes and make these planning obligations a reality.

In October 2020 we also submitted the verified signatures of nearly 600 estate and local residents who support our Trust's bid and for us to be the nominated 'third party body' to take ownership of this Community land and its funding to deliver and manage these facilities in perpetuity. Persimmon Homes also support our bid.

Our Community Interest Company is totally 'not for profit' and has six permanently unpaid Director trustees with excellent project management and general business management ability, who all live within 150 metres of this site. The Trust also has other suitably qualified professionals to assist in ensuring the guaranteed delivery of the obligations.

We trustees hereby petition The Cabinet to vote to ensure that community land trusts and community interest companies are given equal consideration and equal rights to Town and Parish Councils, when Dorset Council's policy for allocating s106 land and s106 funds is resolved, thereby enabling the planning obligations on the East Shaftesbury Estate to be fulfilled.

This equal inclusion of Community Organisations is particularly vital in Shaftesbury as our Community Land Trust is the only 'third party body' who are guaranteeing to deliver these much-needed planning obligation Community facilities on this site, thereby ensuring s106 funds are spent on their intended locations and purposes. We are very content to enter into an agreement with Dorset Council that will hold us accountable and to fulfil these s106 obligations.

As you know, Dorset council has a responsibility to ensure that S106 Planning Obligations are fulfilled, so please ensure a policy is created to enable the transfer of s106 land as well as s106 funds.

Having read the current proposed policy, it does not seem to mention the ability of s106 land to be transferred to Community Land Trusts, it only mentions s106 funding. Can you please clarify this point and also include s106 land transfers?

Response from the Portfolio Holder for Planning

Yes – the protocol applies to any obligation within a Section 106 agreement as appropriate, so it would apply to the transfer of land or other assets as well as funds.

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Councillor Questions for Cabinet 18 May 2021

Question from the Ferndown and West Parley councillors

Cllr Mike Parkes – Ferndown North, Cllr Cathy Lugg – Ferndown North
Cllr Rod Adkins – Ferndown South, Cllr Julie Robinson – Ferndown South
Cllr Andrew Parry – West Parley

Like many other towns in Dorset and further afield, the town centre in Ferndown has seen significant decline in recent years resulting in multiple empty units and a further influx of charity shops and other businesses that bring little benefit to the local economy. This has been compounded by a further blow, with the recent announcement by one of the remaining banks that they will close at the end of July. A town centre regeneration study was undertaken by the former district council which would revitalise the economy with a modern vibrant town centre shifting from the traditional 'high street' to a mixture of hospitality industries (restaurants, bars, cafes) offering a daytime and evening culture, complimented by small boutique shops and service businesses.

Much of the regeneration plan can be implemented within the gift of Dorset Council, particularly with the ongoing assets review which could free up the day centre and office space within the town centre.

Both ends of Victoria Road will be see changes made as part of the Transforming Cities Fund cycle routes and it would make sense that alterations to the traffic flow and parking take pace at the same time particularly as Victoria Road has seen several serious and one fatal road traffic collisions in the past year.

Can we have an assurance from the Cabinet that they will review and implement the Town Centre Regeneration Plan so that Ferndown can become a trail blazing modern 21st century town centre that can in turn be modelled elsewhere in the Dorset area.

Response from the Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth, Assets & Property

Many town centres across Dorset have been impacted by a combination of changing retail trends and the lockdown restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic. A great deal of effort is initially being devoted to welcoming people back to town centres and supporting businesses to reopen and stay open. A review of all town centres is likely to be needed, to understand the impact of the factors mentioned and assess the changing policy and funding landscape to secure further appropriate investment to improve and sustain our town centres to be vibrant and viable places that residents and visitors will want to use.

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PORTFOLIO HOLDER/LEAD MEMBER UPDATE SUMMARY

PORTFOLIO: ¹	Adult Social Care & Health
CABINET DATE: ²	18 th May 2021
KEY ACTIVITIES SINCE THE LAST REPORT: ³	<p>Assessing the impact of Covid and building our Home First Model</p> <p>Assessing and mitigating the impact of Covid on the cost of care</p> <p>We are seeing increased demand on our safeguarding teams as lockdown is lifted</p> <p>Work progresses in partnership with colleagues in the charity and community sector to co-produce our transformation programme</p>
DELEGATED DECISIONS MADE: ⁴	none
ANTICIPATED ACTIVITIES/MILESTONES FOR NEXT PERIOD: ⁵	Dorset Care Framework to finalise and come to Cabinet

PORTFOLIO HOLDER/LEAD MEMBER UPDATE SUMMARY

PORTFOLIO: ¹	Children, Education, Skills & Early Help
CABINET DATE: ²	18.5.2021
KEY ACTIVITIES SINCE THE LAST REPORT: ³	<p>We have continued our “cluster” meetings with Cllrs with an informal discussion, with Cllrs from the Sherborne area. our grateful thanks for the really high level of engagement from them on a number of local matters.</p> <p>Cllr Quayle, has met with representatives from Ferndown Upper School & King George V Trust, regarding the current arrangements for the use of the playing fields.</p> <p>Lead members met with Cllr Parry at St Mary’s, this coincided with a visit by senior officials from Ofsted and local media and was a good opportunity to familiarise themselves with the site and see the progress being made towards opening our new SEND Centre of Excellence.</p> <p>Lead Members, continue to work with Officers, on identified issues which have been reported to us by residents and fellow Councillors.</p>
DELEGATED DECISIONS MADE: ⁴	2 previous matters regarding Youth provision funding have been approved, with a grant of £5,182 to HIPPI!Bones in Gillingham & £6,100 to Sturminster Newton Youth Club.
ANTICIPATED ACTIVITIES/MILESTONES FOR NEXT PERIOD: ⁵	<p>We will be holding an informal cluster meeting with colleagues in the Gillingham & Shaftesbury Area.</p> <p>With Lockdown restrictions being eased, our programme of visits to schools, educational settings and youth provision, will recommence.</p>

[Text Wrapping Break]

PORTFOLIO HOLDER/LEAD MEMBER UPDATE SUMMARY

PORTFOLIO: ¹	Customer and Community Services
CABINET DATE: ²	14 th May 2021
KEY ACTIVITIES SINCE THE LAST REPORT: ³	<p>Briefing for N Dorset councillors on new waste rounds</p> <p>DAPTC survey of towns and parishes</p> <p>Work on grants protocol across the council</p> <p>Site visits and a series of meetings on leisure facilities</p> <p>Review on air quality monitoring for Chideock</p> <p>Licensing and PSPO matters in weymouth</p> <p>Ongoing discussions on Customer service strategy, libraries strategy, transfer of small areas of land/property to town and parishes, and enabling communities strategy.</p> <p>Visit to Blandford library and Norden Lodge</p> <p>Joint archives service</p>
DELEGATED DECISIONS MADE: ⁴	<p>Grants coming from crematorium recycling of metals scheme Weymouth crematorium. (This year to Julia's House and the bereavement suit at DCH)</p> <p>£20k each to Sherborne & Dorchester town councils as transitional funding for TIC's</p>
ANTICIPATED ACTIVITIES/MILESTONES FOR NEXT PERIOD: ⁵	<p>Continue to visit sites including St Mary's</p> <p>Protocol for Towns and Parishes including a help line for Clerks</p> <p>First meeting of the steering group for Libraries strategy</p> <p>Continued work on various strategy's above</p> <p>Dorchester markets</p> <p>VCS grants panel</p> <p>Further work on new HRC depot for E Dorset</p>

PORTFOLIO HOLDER/LEAD MEMBER UPDATE SUMMARY

PORTFOLIO: ¹	Economic Growth Assets and Property
CABINET DATE: ²	18 May 2021
KEY ACTIVITIES SINCE THE LAST REPORT: ³	<p>Dorset Innovation Park – The Army Battlelab was handed over to the Army ahead of schedule despite the complexities of building in a Covid environment.</p> <p>The car parks at North Quay in Weymouth were investigated by archaeologists who were investigating historical use of the site. The found evidence of buildings dating back to medieval times.</p> <p>Public engagement has been carried out to identify potential projects for our Levelling Up bid to Government, accompanied by extensive political lobbying at Westminster to support the bid. This includes consideration how to regenerate Brewers Quay in Weymouth.</p>
DELEGATED DECISIONS MADE: ⁴	
ANTICIPATED ACTIVITIES/MILESTONES FOR NEXT PERIOD: ⁵	Submission of the Levelling Up bid.

PORTFOLIO HOLDER/LEAD MEMBER UPDATE SUMMARY

PORTFOLIO: ¹	HIGHWAYS, TRAVEL, ENVIRONMENT.
CABINET DATE: ²	May 18 th 2021
KEY ACTIVITIES SINCE THE LAST REPORT: ³	<p>Meeting with Harbour team to discuss safe opening of harbour based activities including recommendations from HSE and in house team.</p> <p>Attended Dorset strategic Road Safety Partnership meeting to discuss options for road safety improvements.</p> <p>Fortnightly meetings re Decarbonisation Scheme Oversight Board to discuss how to achieve decarbonisation on DC owned buildings.</p> <p>Meeting with Portland Marina to discuss future opportunities.</p> <p>Site visit to Shaftsbury to see and hear about the success of pedestrianisation of the high street and discuss future ways of working together.</p> <p>Discussing with officers opportunities for Avon Heath Country Park.</p> <p>Numerous meetings to discuss and listen to suggestions on Phase 2 of the car park review and to hear stakeholder comments.</p> <p>Local Nature Partnership discussions on Low carbon Dorset plans.</p> <p>Gave presentation on Harbours Health and Safety.</p> <p>Attended review of damage to Wareham Forest after serious fire potentially caused by Disposable Barbeque. Met with stakeholders to discuss ways of getting the message out about the dangers of Disposable Barbeques.</p> <p>Dorset Travel Transformation Group to discuss how we achieve better public transport. This will involve other members when the initial work is complete.</p> <p>Discussion with Chris Loder MP regarding beach works at Lyme Regis.</p> <p>First Steering Group meeting for National Bus Strategy, appoint WSP to carry out work to complete on a very tight timetable.</p> <p>Discussions on Harbour Strategy for the future.</p> <p>Various meetings re Transforming Cities with opportunities for increased cycle network.</p> <p>Attended Place Scrutiny meeting to discuss Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan.</p> <p>Low Carbon Dorset board meeting to discuss proposals.</p> <p>Attended Conference on Energy and Sustainability in the Public Sector.</p> <p>Discussions on Local Rail Services.</p> <p>Meeting with Portland Port to discuss opportunities for the future.</p> <p>Sign off on Buildings affected by the Decarbonisation Scheme.</p>

DELEGATED DECISIONS
MADE:⁴

A number of Traffic Regulation Orders.

ANTICIPATED
ACTIVITIES/MILESTONES
FOR NEXT PERIOD:⁵

Further work on Climate change and update to action plan subject to cabinet decision.

Public transport for the future.

Working on plans to create Verge to Verge process

Further work on SEN transport.

PORTFOLIO HOLDER/LEAD MEMBER UPDATE SUMMARY

PORTFOLIO:¹

Planning

CABINET DATE:²

18th May 2021

KEY ACTIVITIES SINCE THE
LAST REPORT:³

7 Neighbourhood Plans went to referendum on the 6th May

We have had a large number of responses to the local plan consultation and will be considering them all carefully before making any decisions about the sites and policies to be included in the next stage of plan preparation.

The council will be publishing all the consultation responses, but we firstly need to read them all, redact personal details, and ensure that there is no offensive material in them which would prevent them being publishable. It is likely that they will all be published in July.

Planning Applications – The most recent complete month (March 2021 stood at 697 applications (321 per month higher than the average monthly rate for 2019-20).

In March we issued 482 decisions – higher than any month in the past 2 years. In either of the past years, this would be well in excess of the applications being received, and reflects well on the

transformation work and the dedication of officers in the face of substantial pressure.

DELEGATED DECISIONS MADE:⁴

ANTICIPATED ACTIVITIES/MILESTONES FOR NEXT PERIOD:⁵

The Neighbourhood Plans for:
Arne,
Blandford+,
Chickerell,
Milton Abbas,
Portland,
Puddletown
Shaftesbury

are due to be formally made (adopted) by Dorset Council at the Cabinet meeting on the 22June 2021

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