



Place and Resources Overview Committee

Date: Tuesday, 18 April 2023
Time: 10.00 am
Venue: Council Chamber, County Hall, Dorchester, DT1 1XJ

Members (Quorum: 3)

Carole Jones (Chairman), Les Fry (Vice-Chairman), Tony Alford, Toni Coombs, Ryan Hope, Sherry Jespersen, Val Potheary, Maria Roe, Andrew Starr and Roland Tarr

Chief Executive: Matt Prosser, County Hall, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1XJ

For more information about this agenda please contact Democratic Services Meeting Contact 01305 252209 / 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.

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Agenda

Item		Pages
1.	APOLOGIES	
	To receive any apologies for absence.	
2.	MINUTES	5 - 12
	To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 9 February 2023.	
3.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
	To disclose any pecuniary, other registrable or non-registrable interests as set out in the adopted Code of Conduct. In making their disclosure councillors are asked to state the agenda item, the nature of the interest and any action they propose to take as part of their declaration.	

If required, further advice should be sought from the Monitoring Officer in advance of the meeting.

4. CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

To receive any updates from the Chairman of the Place and Resources Overview Committee.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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 up to two questions or two statements for each meeting. Alternatively, you could submit one question and one statement for each meeting.

All submissions must be emailed in full to lindsey.watson@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk by 8.30am on 13 April 2023.

When submitting your question(s) and/or statement(s) please note that:

- no more than three minutes will be allowed for any one question or statement to be asked/read
- a question may include a short pre-amble to set the context and this will be included within the three minute period
- please note that sub divided questions count towards your total of two
- 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.

[Dorset Council Constitution](#) Procedure Rule 9

6. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

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 lindsey.watson@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk by 8.30am on 13 April 2023.

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

7. DORSET COUNCIL'S ROLES IN ENSURING BETTER BROADBAND AND MOBILE COVERAGE ACROSS DORSET - DEVELOPING A DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY 13 - 22

To consider a report of the Service Manager Digital Place.

8. PLACE AND RESOURCES OVERVIEW COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 23 - 34

To review the Place and Resources Overview Committee Work Programme.

To review the Cabinet Forward Plan.

9. URGENT ITEMS

To consider any items of business which the Chairman has had prior notification and considers to be urgent pursuant to section 100B (4) b) of the Local Government Act 1972. The reason for the urgency shall be recorded in the minutes.

10. EXEMPT BUSINESS

To move the exclusion of the press and the public for the following item in view of the likely disclosure of exempt information within the meaning of paragraph x of schedule 12 A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

The public and the press will be asked to leave the meeting whilst the item of business is considered.

There is no exempt business.

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PLACE AND RESOURCES OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 9 FEBRUARY 2023

Present: Cllrs Carole Jones (Chairman), Tony Alford, Toni Coombs, Sherry Jespersen, Val Potheary, Maria Roe, Andrew Starr and Roland Tarr

Present remotely:

Apologies: Cllrs Les Fry and Ryan Hope

Also present: Cllr Jon Andrews, Cllr Belinda Bawden, Cllr Alex Brenton, Cllr Ray Bryan, Cllr Simon Gibson, Cllr Jill Haynes, Cllr Brian Heatley, Cllr Nocturin Lacey-Clarke, Cllr Jane Somper, Cllr David Walsh and Cllr Peter Wharf

Also present remotely: Cllr Laura Beddow and Cllr Cherry Brooks

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

Aidan Dunn (Executive Director - Corporate Development S151), Jonathan Mair (Director of Legal and Democratic and Monitoring Officer), Steven Ford (Corporate Director for Climate and Ecological Sustainability), Katie Hale (Head of Revenues and Benefits), Laura Cornette (Business Partner - Communities and Partnerships), Antony Littlechild (Sustainability Team Manager), Carl Warom (Climate and Ecological Policy and Project Manager), Sara Hardy (Senior Planning Officer (M&W)), Christopher Lee (Planning Policy Officer), Alison Turnock (Service Manager for Conservation), Hilary Jordan (Service Manager for Spatial Planning), Steven March (Team Leader Standards East) and Lindsey Watson (Senior Democratic Services Officer)

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

APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR THE MEETING

The Chairman noted that the Vice-chairman had sent his apologies for the meeting and therefore the committee would need to elect a Vice-chairman for the meeting.

It was proposed by S Jespersen seconded by T Coombs

Decision

That V Potheary be elected Vice-chairman for the meeting.

STATEMENT FROM THE MONITORING OFFICER

In respect of the agenda item 'Council tax premiums on second homes and empty properties', the Monitoring Officer advised that any councillor who owned property in Dorset in addition to their main/home address should withdraw from the meeting

and not take part in the item of business.

41. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 November 2022 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

42. **Declarations of interest**

T Coombs declared an interest in agenda item 7 'Council tax premiums on second homes and empty properties' and indicated that she would leave the room during discussion and voting on the item.

43. **Chairman's Update**

There were no updates from the Chairman for the meeting.

44. **Public Participation**

A statement had been submitted from a member of the public. A copy of the statement received is set out at Appendix 1.

45. **Questions from Councillors**

There were no questions from councillors.

T Coombs and D Walsh left the meeting for the following item of business.

46. **Council tax premiums on second homes and empty properties**

The committee received and considered a joint report of the Corporate Director – Climate and Ecological Sustainability and the Head of Revenues and Benefits regarding proposed changes to allow councils to place a council tax premium on second homes and permit a 100% premium on empty properties at an earlier one-year commencement point. The proposals were part of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill which was currently at the report stage of Parliament and the report included recommendations on next steps for the Council.

Councillors considered the key issues arising from the report and discussion included the following areas:

- Recognition of how the matter linked to housing issues in the Dorset Council area, including the number of people on the housing register, people living in temporary accommodation and bed and breakfast accommodation and the need for additional housing, including affordable rent
- The impact that second homes could have on communities and services provided within communities
- This was national legislation and therefore the rules would be the same across the country

- If the recommendations were agreed by Full Council, the premiums would be enacted with effect from 1 April 2024 or as soon as possible thereafter, subject to the required legislation being in place
- Issues raised regarding the position for chalet and caravan owners in Lyme Regis and Charmouth
- Suggestion that Cabinet review the council tax premiums for second homes and empty properties after two years of implementation
- Suggestion that a proportion of additional income raised through the premiums could be used to support affordable housing projects, if the Council had a balanced budget
- Recognition of the wider impact on communities of the issues.

It was proposed by C Jones seconded by S Jespersen

Recommendation to Cabinet (28 February 2023)

1. That Full Council approve the following additional council tax premiums to be applied from 1 April 2024, or as soon as possible thereafter, subject to the required legislation being in place. That approval is given to:
 - a) 100% premium for dwellings occupied periodically;
 - b) 100% premium for properties which have been empty and unfurnished for a period of between 1 (previously 2) and 5 years
2. That Cabinet review the council tax premiums for second homes and empty properties after two years of implementation
3. That consideration is given to using a percentage of the additional income received through the premiums to support affordable housing projects, if the Council has a balanced budget.

T Coombs and D Walsh returned to the meeting.

47. Consultation and Engagement Policy and Protocol

The committee considered a report of the Business Partner – Communities and Partnerships, which presented a new Consultation and Engagement Policy and Protocol for Dorset Council, to outline and embed consistent standards across the organisation. The committee had the opportunity to provide comments and recommend the adoption of the policy to Cabinet.

The committee considered the issues covered by the report and the new policy and protocol and points were noted in the following areas:

- A request was made for the wording around the collection of evidence and data to be firmed up within the draft documents
- Resources available within the council to ensure that the policy and protocol would be kept at the heart of the organisation and be consistently applied throughout the council
- Links to the new Data and Business Intelligence Strategy and work being undertaken with the Data and Business Intelligence Team to create a

- central depository of corporate documents to improve access across the council and promote the ability for self-service across all council areas
- Encouraging engagement with under-represented groups and how this could be measured, and work being undertaken in the equality and inclusion part of the team
 - Consideration should be given to the potential creation of a database of community groups and individuals that were frequently in contact with hard-to-reach groups, in order to promote consultation and engagement
 - The Equality Impact Assessment would be appended to the report to Cabinet
 - The policy and protocol aimed to ensure that all consultation across the council were conducted to a baseline standard, but provided for options for response by residents
 - It was suggested that the policy and protocol should be reviewed by the Place and Resources Scrutiny Committee, 18 months after implementation.

It was proposed by S Jespersen seconded by V Potheary

Recommendation to Cabinet (28 February 2023)

1. That the Consultation and Engagement Policy be approved
2. That the Consultation and Engagement Protocol be adopted as a baseline standard for all consultations and engagement activity delivered to Dorset Council residents, with any minor adjustments to be authorised by the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Development and Transformation
3. That consideration be given to the potential creation of a database of community groups and individuals that are frequently in contact with hard-to-reach groups, in order to promote consultation and engagement
4. That the Place and Resources Scrutiny Committee be asked to undertake a review of the effectiveness of the Consultation and Engagement Policy and Protocol, after 18 months of implementation.

48. Natural Environment, Climate and Ecology Strategy, 2023 - 25 Refresh

The committee received a joint report of the Climate and Ecology Policy Officer and Sustainability Team Manager, which presented the draft Climate and Ecology Strategy 2023 and provided the opportunity for the committee to forward comments to Cabinet.

The committee considered the issues arising from the report and during discussion the following general points were raised:

- Discussion on the level of information provided within the strategy and particular reference to the information in the 'Next Steps: Priority delivery for 2023-25' and a proposal to develop a Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Dorset
- The strategy was a living document and the wording could be reviewed as required moving forward

- Encouraging the involvement of town and parish councils, community groups and networks.

The committee considered the missions set out on the strategy and comments were made as follows:

Mission 1 – Renewable Generation

- Investigation of the use of rivers for renewable energy generation

Mission 2 – Heat Decarbonisation

- The role of the council's Housing Team working to support housing providers, including accessing available funding

Mission 4 – Road Transport Decarbonisation & Modal Shift

- Need to establish a Dorset-wide policy on charging points to assist planning committees
- Work being undertaken and funding secured to investigate opportunities for charging points across Dorset

Mission 5 – Sustainable Development & Construction

- Issues around the placement of affordable housing and links to accessibility of public transport, and support for lobbying being undertaken in this area

Mission 6 – Sustainable Consumption, Waste & Circularity

- Need to encourage greater sorting at source for bins dealt with by town and parish councils
- Clarification of the area covered by the phrase 'wider Dorset'
- Further information provided on the objective to become a low waste Council by 2040

Mission 7 – Sustainable Food Production & Consumption

- Request to review elements of the wording included in this part of the strategy
- Noted council support to local organisations such as pantry models

Mission 8 – Natural Assets & Nature Based Solutions

- Encouragement for town and parish councils to have a greenspace champion

Mission 9 – Resilience & Adaptation

- Information provided on how flooding issues were being dealt with
- Regular updates were provided to both Cabinet and the Place and Resources Scrutiny Committee
- Encouraging town and parish councils to work with Dorset Council in this area and the role for ward members and the Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils.

Recommendation to Cabinet (on 28 March 2023)

That the Dorset Council Natural Environment, Climate and Ecology Strategy be approved.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

At this point in the meeting, the committee adjourned and returned at 12.19pm.

49. Planning for Climate Change: Interim Guidance and Position Statement, Sustainability Checklist and Listed Buildings Guidance

The committee received and considered a report of the Senior Planning Officer, which set out an Interim Guidance and Position Statement that had been prepared to assist in decision making for planning applications. The position statement provided commentary on the weight that could be given to climate change in decision making. In addition, a sustainability checklist had been prepared for completion by applicants to ensure that all relevant matters were considered. The report also presented a document, 'Listed Buildings – what you can do for climate change'.

The committee considered the issues arising from the reports and comments were made in the following areas:

Interim Guidance and Position Statement and Sustainability Checklist

- Councillors welcomed the guidance and checklist which would assist both applicants and planning committee members
- Training requirements were discussed, and it was noted that training would be provided for councillors and officers. Briefings would also be provided for town and parish councils and agents and there would be a public consultation
- Viability issues were considered
- The documents provided guidance ahead of the Council adopting a new Local Plan
- Links to neighbourhood plans were discussed
- Issues around sustainable travel were raised.

At this point in the meeting, it was proposed by S Jespersen seconded by A Alford and agreed by the committee, that the meeting continue beyond the 3-hour limit as set out in the Constitution.

Listed Buildings Guidance

- The checklist and guidance were welcomed, and it was felt that the information was presented in a positive way
- It was suggested that a welcome document could be produced for people buying or considering the purchase of a listed building
- Reference was made to the use of thatch, and it was noted that further consideration was required.

Recommendation to Cabinet (28 March 2023)

1. That the Interim Guidance and Position Statement, Sustainability Checklist and Listed Buildings – what you can do for climate change documents be agreed for the purpose of a six-week consultation
2. That the Portfolio Holder for Planning be given delegated authority, after considering the results of this consultation, to approve use of the documents (Appendix 1, Appendix 2 and Appendix 3 to the report) to aid decision making on planning applications.

50. Place and Resources Overview Committee Forward Plan

Councillors noted the committee's forward plan and items scheduled for the next meeting. In addition, councillors noted the Cabinet Forward Plan.

51. Urgent items

There were no urgent items.

52. Exempt Business

There was no exempt business.

APPENDIX 1 - PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Agenda item 5 - Public Participation

Statement relating to agenda item 7 – Council tax premiums on second homes and empty properties

Statement from Tony Tuck – Secretary of the Lyme Regis Beach Hut, Caravan and Chalet Owners' Association

As the Secretary of the Association for chalet owners in Lyme Regis I write in response to this Dorset Cabinet Paper asking you to ensure that you exclude from your consideration of the 200% surcharge on 'second homes' the wooden chalets around the Cobb and Monmouth Beach in Lyme Regis.

In particular, I suggest that you must find a definition of "second home" better than that contained in your Paper, which defines a "home" in terms of being "home" i.e.

*“a second **home** is defined as a privately-owned habitable accommodation that is not occupied by anyone as their main residence. It may be occupied occasionally, for example as a holiday **home**.....”* (My **bold** highlight)

The wooden chalets on Monmouth Beach can never be used as a home for they all have **an obligatory period of non-occupation**, as recognised by your council

tax department. Most chalets can only be occupied between the 1st of March and the 7th of November in any one year, though a few do have extended leases enabling occupation until the 7th of January following.

Moreover, any concept of 'home' has to include an element of permanence. The chalet site is subject to a rolling 5 year temporary planning permission – which could be rescinded at any time.

By definition a 'home' must be a residence in which occupation can be experienced continuously without any obligatory and legal period of non-occupation.

I ask you to ensure that any decision that you take makes it crystal clear that these wooden chalets are excluded from the coverage of any proposed surcharge on genuine second homes.

By way of background information you should be aware that the Monmouth Beach chalets have traditionally been owned by local people. Many are in third or fourth generation ownership and a genuine community has prevailed over the years. They are traditionally heavily occupied during summer months and, because they are mainly akin to wooden sheds and rarely, save only when rebuilt, conform to any semblance of building regulation, are not habitable during the winter months, even were it to be permitted.

Also, these chalets do not in any way detract from the local housing stock, because of the obligatory period of non-occupation, they do not take homes away from local people, they do not impact on the external pressure to increase the price of genuine homes in the area, and they cannot be used as a short term solution for homeless families.

The recent tendency following a sale of a chalet has increased the number of chalets that may become 'buy to let'. This not only degrades any sense of community, but would be counterproductive for Dorset Council in that owners would cease to be council tax payers and instead be business rate payers, a lesser or zero amount of income.

I do hope that you agree that any definition of "second home" must exclude any dwelling where there is an obligatory period of non-occupation, such as the wooden chalets at Monmouth Beach.

Duration of meeting: 10.00 am - 1.11 pm

Chairman

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Place and Resources Overview Committee 18 April 2023

Dorset Council's roles in ensuring better broadband and mobile coverage across Dorset - Developing a Digital Infrastructure Strategy

For Review and Consultation

Portfolio Holder: Cllr J Haynes, Corporate Development and Transformation

Local Councillor(s): All. Digital infrastructure benefits all wards

Executive Director: A Dunn, Executive Director, Corporate Development

Report Author: Tim Robertson

Title: Project Manager

Tel: 01305 224210

Email: timothy.robertson@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Report Status: Public

Brief Summary:

- Dorset Council agreed its vision for **Dorset as a Digital Place** in 2021.
- Cabinet 28 Feb 2023 endorsed the **Dorset Digital Vision** update and agreed to the development of a Digital Infrastructure Strategy to supplement the digital vision.
- Dorset has a mostly **rural and highly protected** landscape.
- Digital Connectivity in Dorset (fixed and mobile) is markedly below national comparators.
- Dorset needs to be **easier to deal with** for network providers to improve Digital Infrastructure across the county to achieve its Digital Place vision.
- More radical solutions may be needed to achieve our ambition.
- More innovative solutions will be required in hard to reach areas.

Recommendation:

The Place and Resources Overview Committee is asked to consider the content of this report and accompanying presentation, and:

1. Comment on the proposals for a Digital Infrastructure Strategy contained in the report;
2. Agree the timescale for development and adoption of the Digital Infrastructure Strategy and the Committee's role;
3. Note the roles that several Dorset Council services need to play in supporting improved digital infrastructure.

Reason for Recommendation:

Digital infrastructure and the ability to exploit its potential are essential to enable inclusive growth and prosperity. A clear and unambiguous strategy and action plan will further this aim.

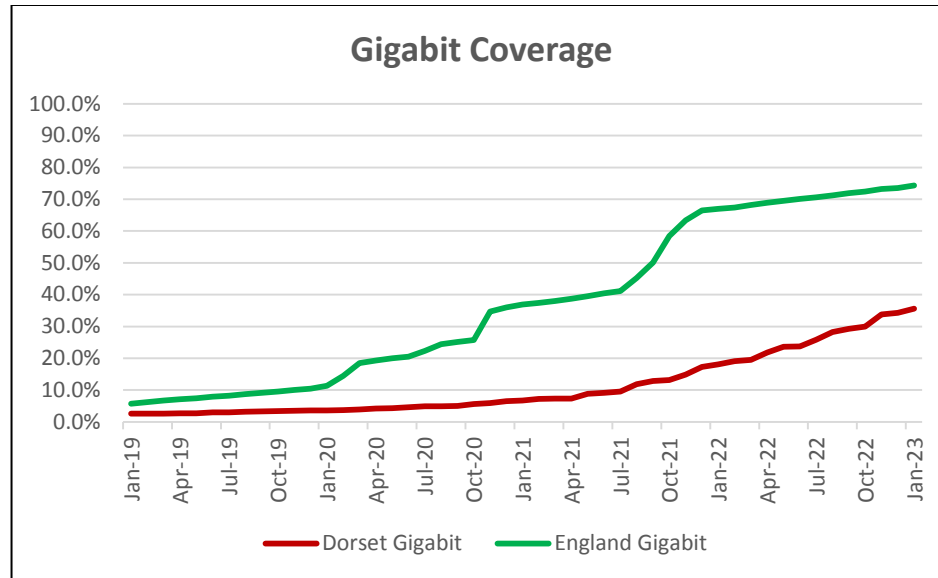
1. Background

- 1.1 Dorset Council's Economic Growth Strategy is very clear about the role of digital infrastructure:

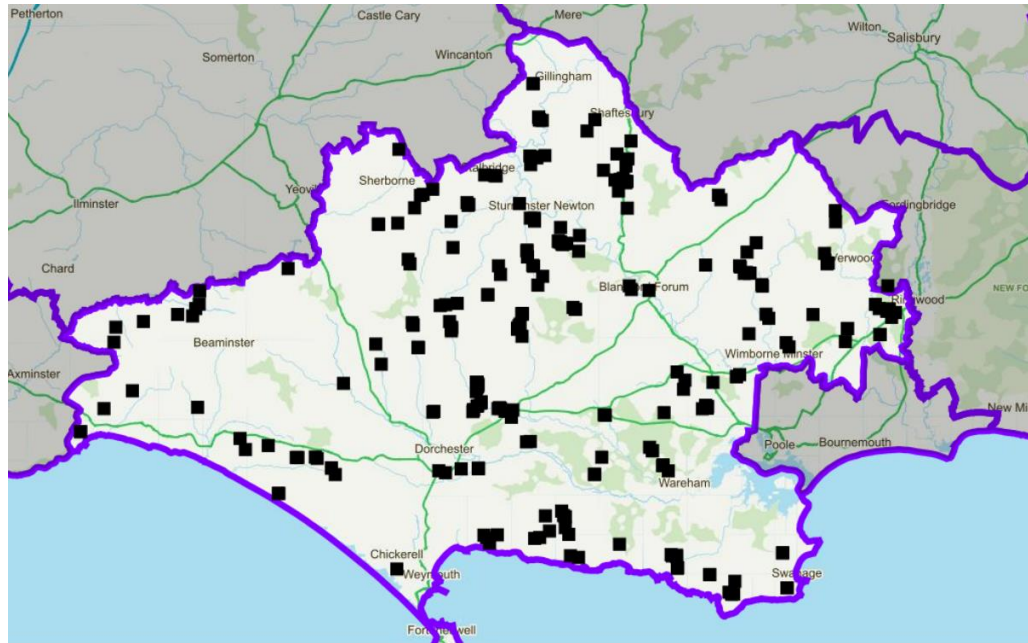
Digital connectivity plays a key role in both improving productivity and addressing environmental challenges. The roll out and utilisation of full fibre technology and 5G will enable people to travel less and access opportunities. The impact of COVID-19 has demonstrated the absolute necessity to have reliable, resilient and up-to-date digital infrastructure. This will support economic activity and provide community services. The infrastructure and ability to exploit its potential are essential to enable inclusive growth and prosperity. This will help realise the vision for clean economic growth.

[Dorset's Economic Growth Strategy - Digital infrastructure - Dorset Council](#)

- 1.2 The context is of an increasingly digital society, with rising demand:
- Increasing socioeconomic activity online: in health and social care, education, business, retail and elsewhere
 - Data requirements and use continue to rise very quickly.
 - Lack of connectivity in rural areas an impediment to economic growth and social mobility.
- 1.3 The reality is that the economics of telecoms infrastructure deployment are challenging.
- #### **2. What has been done already**



- 2.1 Dorset is well behind England as a whole for gigabit coverage and the contrast is even more stark with our urban neighbours in BCP Council where they have 83% coverage, compared with Dorset's 37%.
- 2.2 There is currently significant commercial activity building gigabit networks in Dorset; with a market which is much more diverse than has previously been the case. This is welcomed and to be encouraged, although we are seeing suppliers over-building in urban and market town areas increasing the risk to disruption on the highway.
- 2.3 Central and local government intervention continues to address some areas where commercial provision is not viable.
 - The Superfast Dorset programme has completed deployment
 - Two hubs contracts connecting schools, libraries and public buildings are complete and a third is in deployment
 - There is one [Project Gigabit](#) contract let in Dorset and a second procurement being prepared.
 - Subsidy schemes using vouchers continue, but at a slower pace due to Project gigabit procurements.



Dorset Mobile Not Spots – no service from all four mobile network operators – Dorset Council’s mobile drive test data

- 2.4 Mobile connectivity across Dorset is patchy for all four Mobile Network Operators, due to **rurality, low population densities** (making Dorset commercially unattractive) **and challenging geography**.
- 2.5 The Digital Connectivity Infrastructure Accelerator (**DCIA**) programme has sought to improve access for network operators to Dorset Council assets for siting network infrastructure through a digital asset mapping platform during 2022/23.
- 2.6 Shared Rural Network (**SRN**) locations in the Dorset Council area have been identified and steps taken to support network operators in achieving the necessary permissions for these valuable shared mast sites.
- 2.7 There is a significant risk that coverage will degrade rather than improve in the medium term as **2G and 3G switch off** reduces the effective coverage from existing infrastructure.
- 2.8 Dorset is a **highly protected and designated landscape** which makes the deployment of fixed and mobile connectivity complex, time consuming and expensive. How can we strike the right balance between protecting Dorset’s unique environment while at the same time ensuring that we facilitate the improvements to digital infrastructure that modern communities and economies require?
- 2.9 National providers of fixed and mobile networks, working to national targets, will **prioritise locations that are easier, quicker and less**

costly. Dorset Council is not an attractive or easy partner for network providers to work with.

3. A Digital Infrastructure Strategy for Dorset

3.1 Digital transformation and digital infrastructure are well-referenced in Dorset Council's strategy and plans including the Council Plan, Digital Vision and Economic Growth Strategy. We have made good progress in relation to the actions that flow from those strategies. However, we recognise that there is much more to do:

- We need to demonstrate greater leadership in our relationship with the market. There are subtleties and complexities caused by our reliance on commercial provision; we need to influence the market.
- We need to maximise the benefit from interventions available to us (such as Project Gigabit) and maximise government grant, where available.
- We need to explore more radical solutions if we are to meet our ambitions

3.2 DSIT Strategy and Leadership Guidance for Local Authorities suggests as a minimum local authorities should:

3.2.1 **Champion** and advocate for connectivity within the council.

3.2.2 Bringing together **local teams** to focus on improving digital connectivity.

3.2.3 Translating ambition into **strategy**, stating both what we want and how we aim to deliver it.

3.2.4 Identifying both the **skills and resources** required within the Local Authority to deliver improved connectivity.

3.2.5 Pursuing **collaboration** with network providers to make Dorset easy to work with.

3.3 Our approach will be to:

3.3.1 **Facilitate roll out** of Digital Infrastructure, recognising Dorset is competing with other areas for network operator spend.

3.3.2 **Increase cooperation** with infrastructure providers and network operators, to enable network build at reduced time / cost for operators.

- 3.3.3 Encourage **planning for the future**, including driving a focus within the council on National Planning Policy Framework guidance and local plans, highlighting how they should both support the expansion of networks, creating incentives for future investment.
- 3.3.4 Promotion of **long-term investment** in Dorset by making ourselves easy to deal with and having clear and stable priorities understood by network providers.
- 3.3.5 **Identification and aggregation of public sector demand** for connectivity to potentially provide an anchor tenant for networks that are otherwise commercially unattractive.
- 3.3.6 **Investigate strategic partnerships** including potential for commercial return from investment.
- 3.3.7 **Transparent contact information** of key digital infrastructure stakeholders at Dorset Council.
- 3.3.8 **Access to Public Sector Assets** – providing a digital asset platform and encouraging network operators to make use of council assets.

4. **Timetable** for Digital Infrastructure Strategy consultation and engagement:

- Early May tbc - Officer workshop
- Early May tbc - Industry and key stakeholder workshop
- 06 June Place and Resources Overview committee - workshop style - Draft strategy
- xx July tbc - Show and Share
- 25 July Final strategy to Cabinet for approval

5. **Financial Implications**

- 5.1 None additional in the short term.
- 5.2 The delivery plan that will accompany the Digital Infrastructure Strategy will contain a costed programme.

6. **Environmental Implications**

- 6.1 The Natural Environment, Climate and Ecological priority for Dorset Council outlines that key focus areas for reducing Dorset's emissions includes better high-speed digital infrastructure and promoting digital

- options. This will have the benefit of cutting the need for travel for personal, commuting, business and logistical reasons.
- 6.2 Specific areas for reduced travel include telemedicine, home working, online banking and online shopping which all depend heavily on digital connectivity. This will have the potential to **cut CO2 emissions, improve air quality in urban areas and tackle congestion** on Dorset's busy road network.
- 6.3 **Connected Places** – Internet of Things devices that monitor and report environmental data require connectivity. Smart Places can contribute to Net Zero ambitions through reductions in emissions from transport, agriculture and buildings, but only if the digital infrastructure is in place to support their use.
7. **Well-being and Health Implications**
- 7.1 **Social Isolation** – improving digital connectivity to communities reduces social isolation by connecting people to their families and friends, supporting reliable and effective online video calling, messaging and chat facilities that contribute to individual well-being.
- 7.2 **Tech Enabled Care** is a central element of the Adult Services transformation programme.
- 7.3 UK Government and OfCOM provide [advice and support](#) regarding 5G health effects. The council's infrastructure strategy should openly and confidently back improved fixed and wireless connectivity for Dorset communities and **counter misinformation**.
- 7.4 **PSTN (Public Switched Telephone Service) and Copper Switch off** – threatens to sunset a large number of legacy monitoring and alarm systems for vulnerable residents which depend upon a copper phone line for their connectivity in the medium term. Fibre and wireless alternatives will be part of the solution to support vulnerable people in their own homes in the future.
8. **Other Implications**
- 8.1 **Digital inclusion and innovation** - Digital infrastructure is the foundation for digitally transforming communities and economies. However, particularly for the vulnerable, access also means addressing skills needs, data poverty and access to devices. For the economy a focus on innovation and higher-level digital skills is needed. These are all part of

the Digital Place programme and an integral part of Dorset Council's Digital Vision.

8.2 **Property and Assets** - The Digital Infrastructure Strategy will **promote and encourage the use of council assets** for digital deployment.

8.3 **Planning**

8.3.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) states planning authorities should **support the expansion of electronic communication networks**.

8.3.2 Local Plans should help create incentives for future investment for digital infrastructure by outlining how they **support the roll out of fixed and mobile infrastructure**.

8.3.3 More than 50% of Dorset Council area is designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty with many other **designations and protections** in place to protect the landscape.

9. **Risk Assessment**

9.1 **HAVING CONSIDERED:** the risks associated with this decision; the level of risk has been identified as:

Current Risk: High/Medium

Residual Risk: Medium/Low

9.2 Fixed and mobile connectivity in Dorset may continue to lag behind national comparators.

9.3 The commercial roll-out of gigabit capable fibre may not continue as forecast.

9.4 The most hard to reach areas and premises may not be commercially viable, even with subsidy.

9.5 The benefits of digital connectivity to communities may not be given appropriate weight (As outlined in National Planning Policy Framework) compared to common designations and protections of our highly protected landscapes, meaning communities risk being disadvantaged digitally due to the protected landscape in which they live.

10. **Equalities Impact Assessment**

10.1 A comprehensive over-arching Equalities Impact Assessment has been carried out to support the Digital Vision. This considers the impact of Digital Infrastructure: [Dorset Digital Vision EqIA - Dorset Council](#)

11. **Appendices**

None

12. **Background Papers**

[Dorset Council Cabinet, Dorset's Digital Vision Update, 28 February 2023](#)

[Dorset's Economic Growth Strategy - Digital infrastructure - Dorset Council](#)

[FarrPoint Digital Connectivity Survey 2023](#)

[Gov.uk Digital Strategy and Leadership Guidance](#) from DCMS

[National Planning Policy Framework 2021](#) Section 10. Supporting High Quality Communications

[advice and support – 5G Mobile Technology, a guide](#)

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Place and Resources Overview Committee – DRAFT Work Programme

Title	Description	Date of meeting	Report author	Portfolio Holder	Other meetings
Dorset Council's roles in ensuring better broadband and mobile coverage across Dorset – Developing a Digital Infrastructure Strategy	High quality fixed and mobile digital infrastructure is essential to the economy and communities in all parts of Dorset . Dorset Council plays a number of key roles in leading, facilitating and monitoring improvements to coverage. This item will enable councillors to take stock and make any necessary recommendations in relation to policy or provision.	18 April 2023	Dugald Lockhart – Service Manager Digital Place	Cllr Jill Haynes – Portfolio Holder for Corporate Development & Transformation	

Title	Description	Date of meeting	Report author	Portfolio Holder	Other meetings
Dog Related Public Spaces Protection Order – draft public consultation proposal	The current Dog Related Public Spaces Protection Order will expire on 31 December 2023. In renewing the Order, there is a statutory requirement to undertake a public consultation. The committee is asked to comment on the report & proposed consultation and make recommendations for any changes to be made.	6 June 2023	Janet Moore – Service Manager Environmental Protection	Cllr Laura Beddow – Culture, Communities & Customer Services	
New approach to engaging our contingency workforce Fully exempt	To present our preferred option for engaging agency workers and consultants in the future and seek agreement to enter into a Joint Venture with a partner organisation to create our own agency/broker.	6 June 2023	Chris Matthews – Interim Head of Human Resources	Cllr Jill Haynes – Portfolio Holder for Corporate Development & Transformation	Cabinet – 20 June 2023
		27 July 2023			

Title	Description	Date of meeting	Report author	Portfolio Holder	Other meetings
Dog Related Public Spaces Protection Order – report on the findings of the public consultation	To discuss the findings of the public consultation and recommend the agreement of the draft order by Cabinet.	5 October 2023	Janet Moore – Service Manager Environmental Protection	Cllr Laura Beddow – Culture, Communities & Customer Services	Cabinet – 7 November 2023
		23 November 2023			
		23 January 2024			
		21 March 2024			

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**The Cabinet Forward Plan - April to July 2023
For the period 1 APRIL 2023 to 31 JULY 2023
(Publication date – 27 MARCH 2023)**

Explanatory Note:

This Forward Plan contains future items to be considered by the Cabinet and Council. It is published 28 days before the next meeting of the Committee. The plan includes items for the meeting including key decisions. Each item shows if it is 'open' to the public or to be considered in a private part of the meeting.

Definition of Key Decisions

Key decisions are defined in Dorset Council's Constitution as decisions of the Cabinet which are likely to -

- (a) to result in the relevant local authority incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the relevant local authority's budget for the service or function to which the decision relates (**Thresholds - £500k**); or
- (b) to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards or electoral divisions in the area of the relevant local authority."

In determining the meaning of "*significant*" for these purposes the Council will have regard to any guidance issued by the Secretary of State in accordance with section 9Q of the Local Government Act 2000 Act. Officers will consult with lead members to determine significance and sensitivity.

Cabinet Portfolio Holders 2021/22

Spencer Flower	Leader / Governance, Performance and Communications
Peter Wharf	Deputy Leader / Adult Social Care and Health
Gary Suttle	Finance, Commercial and Capital Strategy
Ray Bryan	Highways, Travel and Environment
Graham Carr-Jones	Housing and Community Safety
Jill Haynes	Corporate Development and Transformation
Laura Beddow	Culture, Communities and Customer Services
Andrew Parry	Children, Education, Skills and Early Help
Tony Ferrari	Economic Growth, Assets & Property
David Walsh	Planning

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
April					
<p>Dorset Council Plan Priorities Update: Housing for Local People</p> <p>Key Decision - No Public Access - Open</p> <p>To receive a report of the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Community Safety.</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 25 Apr 2023</p>		<p>Portfolio Holder for Housing and Community Safety</p>	<p><i>Andrew Billany, Corporate Director for Housing andrew.billany@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, Place (John Sellgren)</i></p>
<p>Dorset Council Plan Priorities Update: Working with the Integrated Care System</p> <p>Key Decision - No Public Access - Open</p> <p>To receive a report of the Portfolio Holder for Social Care and Health.</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 25 Apr 2023</p>		<p>Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Health</p>	<p><i>Executive Director, People - Adults</i></p>
<p>Youth Justice Service Inspection</p> <p>Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open</p> <p>To have oversight of the inspection report and of the action plan to address the report's recommendation.</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 25 Apr 2023</p>		<p>Portfolio Holder for Children, Education, Skills and Early Help</p>	<p><i>David Webb, Manager - Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service david.webb@bcpcouncil.gov.uk, Paul Dempsey, Corporate Director - Care & Protection Tel: 01305 224513 paul.dempsey@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, People - Children (Theresa Leavy)</i></p>

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
<p>Use of Compulsory Purchase Powers for land adjacent to Sunrise Business Park, Blandford</p> <p>Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Fully exempt</p> <p>To secure a key site in Blandford for the development of a strategic waste transfer facility in central Dorset which will provide the capacity to maximise the benefits of operational efficiency and resilience to provide business continuity now and in future years.</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 25 Apr 2023</p>		<p>Portfolio Holder for Culture, Communities and Customer Services</p>	<p><i>Gemma Clinton, Head of Commercial Waste and Strategy</i> <i>gemma.clinton@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, David Diaz, Property Commissioning Manager</i> <i>david.diaz@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Jason Jones, Group Manager (Commissioning)</i> <i>jason.jones@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, Place (John Sellgren)</i></p>
<p>May</p>					
<p>Community Safety Plan 2023-26 and Pan-Dorset Reducing Reoffending Strategy 2023-26</p> <p>Key Decision - No Public Access - Open</p> <p>It's a legal requirement for Dorset Council to adopt the Dorset Community Safety Partnership's three-year Community Safety Plan and Reducing Reoffending Strategy. Legally adoption must be by Full Council.</p>	<p>Decision Maker Dorset Council</p>	<p>Decision Date 13 Jul 2023</p>	<p>Cabinet People and Health Overview Committee 16 May 2023 27 Apr 2023</p>	<p>Portfolio Holder for Housing and Community Safety</p>	<p><i>Andy Frost, Service Manager for Community Safety</i> <i>andy.frost@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Corporate Director of Commissioning, People - Adults</i></p>

May

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Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
<p>Dorset Council Plan Priorities Update: Value for Money (Unitary Council Benefits)</p> <p>Key Decision - No Public Access - Open</p> <p>To receive a report of the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Commercial and Capital Strategy.</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 16 May 2023</p>		<p>Portfolio Holder for Finance, Commercial and Capital Strategy</p>	<p><i>Executive Director, Corporate Development - Section 151 Officer (Aidan Dunn)</i></p>
<p>June</p>					
<p>Finance Report - Outturn 2022/2023</p> <p>Key Decision - No Public Access - Open</p> <p>To consider the Council's performance against its revenue budget in 2021/22 and the impact this has upon reserves, including the general fund.</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 20 Jun 2023</p>		<p>Portfolio Holder for Finance, Commercial and Capital Strategy</p>	<p><i>Heather Lappin, Head of Strategic Finance heather.lappin@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, Corporate Development - Section 151 Officer (Aidan Dunn)</i></p>
<p>Aspire Annual Adoption Report</p> <p>Key Decision - No Public Access - Open</p> <p>To ensure that Cabinet is sighted on the Aspire Annual Adoption Report.</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 20 Jun 2023</p>		<p>Portfolio Holder for Children, Education, Skills and Early Help</p>	<p><i>Louise Drury, Head of Service Children in Care and Care Leavers louise.drury@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, People - Children (Theresa Leavy)</i></p>

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
<p>New Approach to Engaging our Contingency Workforce</p> <p>Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Fully exempt</p> <p>To present out preferred option for engaging agency workers and consultants in the future and seek agreement to enter into a Joint Venture with a partner organisation to create our own agency/broker.</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 20 Jun 2023</p>	<p>Place and Resources Overview Committee 6 Jun 2023</p>	<p>Portfolio Holder for Corporate Development and Transformation</p>	<p><i>Chris Matthews, Interim Head of HR christopher.matthews@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, Corporate Development - Section 151 Officer (Aidan Dunn)</i></p>
<p>July</p>					
<p>Youth Justice Plan 2023/224</p> <p>Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open</p> <p>To review and receive the annual Youth Justice Plan.</p>	<p>Decision Maker Dorset Council</p>	<p>Decision Date 13 Jul 2023</p>	<p>People and Health Overview Committee 27 Jun 2023</p>	<p>Portfolio Holder for Housing and Community Safety</p>	<p><i>David Webb, Manager - Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service david.webb@bcpcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, People - Adults</i></p>
<p>Library Strategy</p> <p>Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open</p> <p>The proposed library strategy is in the process of going through the second phase of consultation.</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 25 Jul 2023</p>	<p>Joint Overview Committee 7 Jun 2023</p>	<p>Portfolio Holder for Culture, Communities and Customer Services</p>	<p><i>Kate Turner, Service Manager for Libraries kate.turner@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, Place (John Sellgren)</i></p>

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
<p>Adult Social Care - Reablement Hubs</p> <p>Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open</p> <p>To provide an update on the reablement hubs and seek assurance on future plans.</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 25 Jul 2023</p>		<p>Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Health</p>	<p><i>Jonathan Price, Interim Corporate Director for Commissioning</i> <i>jonathan.price@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, People - Adults</i></p>
<p>September</p>					

<p>Additional Procurement Forward Plan 2023-24 and incorporating the refresh of the annual Modern Slavery Transparency Statement</p> <p>Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open</p> <p>Additional Procurement Forward Plan: Cabinet is required to approve all key decisions with financial consequences of £500k or more. This report will also incorporate the annual refresh of the Modern Slavery Transparency Statement for Cabinet's agreements.</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 5 Sep 2023</p>		<p>Portfolio Holder for Finance, Commercial and Capital Strategy, Portfolio Holder for Corporate Development and Transformation</p>	<p><i>Dawn Adams, Service Manager for Commercial and Procurement</i> <i>dawn.adams@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, Corporate Development - Section 151 Officer (Aidan Dunn)</i></p>
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Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
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November

<p>Dog Related Public Spaces Protection Order- Renewal</p> <p>Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open</p> <p>To agree and adopt the draft order.</p>	<p>Decision Maker Cabinet</p>	<p>Decision Date 7 Nov 2023</p>	<p>Place and Resources Overview Committee 5 Oct 2023</p>	<p>Portfolio Holder for Culture, Communities and Customer Services</p>	<p><i>Janet Moore, Service Manager Environmental Protection</i> <i>Janet.Moore@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, Place (John Sellgren)</i></p>
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Private/Exempt Items for Decision

Each item in the plan above marked as 'private' will refer to one of the following paragraphs.

1. Information relating to any individual.
2. Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual.
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).
4. Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under, the authority.
5. Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.
6. Information which reveals that the shadow council proposes:-
 - (a) to give under any enactment a notice under or by virtue of which requirements are imposed on a person; or
 - (b) to make an order or direction under any enactment.
7. Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime.