



## People and Health Scrutiny Committee

**Date:** Tuesday, 8 November 2022  
**Time:** 10.00 am  
**Venue:** Council Chamber, County Hall, Dorchester, DT1 1XJ

**Members (Quorum: 3)**

Gill Taylor (Chairman), Molly Rennie (Vice-Chairman), Piers Brown, Robin Cook, Nick Ireland, Louie O'Leary, Jon Orrell, Mary Penfold, Bill Pipe and Belinda Ridout

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

For more information about this agenda please contact Democratic Services  
Meeting Contact 01305 224185 - [george.dare@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:george.dare@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk)

Members of the public are welcome to attend this meeting, apart from any items listed in the exempt part of this agenda.

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### Agenda

Item	Pages
<b>1. APOLOGIES</b>	
To receive any apologies for absence.	
<b>2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b>	
To disclose any pecuniary, other registrable or non-registrable interest 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.	
<b>3. MINUTES</b>	5 - 8
To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 10 October 2022.	

#### **4. CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE**

To receive any updates from the Chair of the 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 [george.dare@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:george.dare@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk) by 8.30am on Thursday, 3 November 2022.

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. COUNCILLOR QUESTIONS**

To receive questions submitted by councillors.

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

The submissions must be emailed in full to [george.dare@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:george.dare@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk) by 8.30am on Thursday, 3 November 2022.

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

**7. 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.

**8. RESETTLEMENT AND THE HOMES FOR UKRAINE SCHEME 9 - 16**

To receive a report by the Corporate Director for Commissioning and Partnerships.

**9. SUFFICIENCY OF SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES (SEND) PROVISION 17 - 70**

To receive a report by the Corporate Director for Education and Learning.

**10. SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22**

To review the Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report (report to follow).

**11. FORWARD PLAN 71 - 84**

To consider the committee's forward plan and that of the Cabinet.

**12. EXEMPT BUSINESS**

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

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

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## PEOPLE AND HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

### MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 10 OCTOBER 2022

**Present:** Cllrs Gill Taylor (Chairman), Molly Rennie (Vice-Chairman), Robin Cook, Nick Ireland, Jon Orrell, Mary Penfold, Bill Pipe and Belinda Ridout

**Apologies:** Cllr Louie O'Leary

**Also present:** Cllr Jane Somper

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

Theresa Leavy (Executive Director of People - Children), Vivienne Broadhurst (Executive Director - People Adults), Jonathan Price (Interim Corporate Director for Commissioning), Claire Shiels (Corporate Director - Commissioning, Quality & Partnerships), David Bonner (Service Manager for Business Intelligence and Performance), Marc Eyre (Service Manager for Assurance), Sam Poole (Improvement Lead and Change Manager), David Trotter (Risk and Resilience Officer), Samantha Brand (Service Manager for Housing Advice and Homelessness), Lindsey Watson (Senior Democratic Services Officer) and George Dare (Senior Democratic Services Officer)

**24. Apologies**

An apology for absence was received from Cllr O'Leary.

**25. Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Ireland declared that he was a governor at Dorset HealthCare and his wife worked at Yeovil hospital.

**26. Minutes**

A member raised a grammatical error under the apologies.

Proposed by Cllr Taylor, seconded by Cllr Ridout.

**Decision: That the minutes of the meeting on 19 July 2022 be confirmed and signed.**

**27. Chairman's Updates**

The Chairman provided an update on the Dorset Centre of Excellence. The full update is attached to these minutes.

**28. Public Participation**

There was no public participation.

**29. Councillor Questions**

There were no questions from councillors.

**30. Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items.

**31. Dental Access for Adults and Children in Dorset**

The Chairman introduced the item and welcomed the representatives from NHS England, South-West.

The Head of Stakeholder Engagement and Programme Manager – Dental Services from Direct Commissioning, NHS England, South-West answered questions asked at the previous meeting following technical issues. The responses to the questions raised the following points:

- All qualified dental care professionals have to be registered with the general dental council. They were bound by a code of practice.
- Since July 2022 dental services have been a 100% capacity following the Covid pandemic.
- There is no physical waiting list for dentists in Dorset. There was a need to check dentist's websites to check if they were accepting places.
- Patients do not register with dentists like they would with a GP.
- There was clinical evidence that showed you did not need to have a check-up every 6 months. It was safe to have one every 24 months.
- There would be communications to address misconceptions and anxiety about dental appointments.
- Dentistry is only funded for 50% of the population. If there was 100% funding, then there wouldn't be enough appointments available because of the number of dentists.
- When an upcoming communication plan has been approved, a pack of information will be given to all places where people could ask about teeth, such as pharmacies, GP's, hospitals, and the local authority.
- There were contractual targets for units of dental activity.
- There was a patient charter which showed common myths and what you can expect of dentists.
- NHS England has responsibility for dental commissioning, but this will move to Dorset's Integrated Care Board in March 2023.
- The 111 service has a good dental helpline.
- Mixed contracts and mobile dentists could help vulnerable people and people in deprived areas access dental care.

During the discussion, the following points were raised by members of the committee:

- Communication with the public was key.
- There was a lack of information around dentistry.
- It was likely that there were people using NHS dental services who could afford private dental care.
- Dentistry was an example of a service that has been failing for 20 years.
- Some people were unable to travel to dental practices that they did not normally go to.
- A member was disappointed that there were not more gateways like the Purbeck or Bridport Gateway.
- Dentistry had some similar issues to other services in the NHS.

The committee would be invited to a webinar on dentistry, which would be open for all councillors across the South-West.

### 32. **Risk Management Update Report**

The Service Manager for Assurance introduced the risk register. Services reflected in the report regularly updated their risks, which could be viewed on a new dashboard with live information.

The committee asked questions and made comments related to:

- Apprenticeships in the care industry
- Short and long-term sickness
- Team building and improving wellbeing through meeting people
- Internal recruitment from within the same department
- How CareDorset would benefit Dorset
- Homelessness and working with neighbouring authorities

Officers responded to the committee's questions and comments. The following comments were made:

- There was a rise in the number of people coming into hospital as well as a rise in covid for staff.
- Working with the Integrated Care System to ensure that people are paid for the job they do, have an opportunity to develop a career, and allowing people to move between the health and care sectors.
- Exit interviews are done to see why people leave the council, but HR have also started interviews to see why people stay.
- The council has a good offer around mental health and wellbeing.
- The transition between Tricuro and CareDorset went very well. There has been additional recruitment. Over a longer term, there could be more services under the CareDorset umbrella.
- CareDorset would be managed in a different way to Tricuro and there would be different conditions.
- The council works with BCP council around homelessness.
- It was a significant challenge to keep young people out of custody.
- Toolkits are being developed around domestic abuse and harm.

The committee would receive written feedback, from the Executive Director of People – Adults, on homelessness and rough sleeping, then have an informal session to discuss the feedback.

Cllr Ireland left the meeting at 12.30pm.

### 33. **Performance Scrutiny**

The Service Manager for Business Intelligence and Performance raised several topics which were identified by the committee while reviewing the performance dashboards. The topics were:

- The percentage of children who have a child protection plan.
- The number of active foster carers.
- The percentage of looked after children placed outside the council area.
- The percentage of adults with a learning disability in paid employment.

In response to children being placed out of the council area, the Corporate Director for Commissioning and Partnerships said that a new children's home was being opened and unaccompanied asylum seeker children are more likely to be placed out of county because spaces were not available.

### 34. **Forward Plans**

The committee's and Cabinet's forward plans were noted.

### 35. **Exempt Business**

There was no exempt business.

**Duration of meeting:** 10.00 am - 12.55 pm

**Chairman**

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## People and Health Scrutiny Committee

8 November 2022

## Resettlement and the Homes for Ukraine Scheme

### For Review and Consultation

**Portfolio Holders:** Cllr Laura Beddow, Culture, Communities and Customer Services (Homes for Ukraine)  
Cllr Andrew Parry, Children, Education, Skills and Early Help (Resettlement and Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children)

**Local Councillor(s):** All

**Executive Director:** T Leavy, Executive Director of People - Children

**Report Author:** Claire Shiels  
**Title:** Corporate Director for Commissioning and Partnerships  
**Tel:** 01305 213714  
**Email:** [claire.shiels@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:claire.shiels@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk)

**Report Status:** Public

### Brief Summary:

This report provides an overview of the implementation of how Dorset Council and partners have responded to the needs of people escaping conflict in Ukraine and those hosting them through the 'Homes for Ukraine' scheme and other resettlement activity taking place across the county.

### Recommendation:

Members of the committee are invited to comment on progress made.

### Reason for Recommendation:

Dorset has a proud history of offering a warm welcome to those displaced by conflict, violence and persecution. Refugees resettlement plays a key role in supporting the global response to humanitarian crisis – saving lives and offering stability to those most in need of protection. Councils are required to deliver a 'Home for Ukraine' programme to respond to the conflict in Ukraine. This is being delivered alongside other resettlement programmes including participation in the mandatory national transfer scheme for unaccompanied children and voluntary participation in UK Resettlement, and Afghan Citizen's resettlement scheme.

## **1. Introduction and Background**

1.1 This report provides an overview of how Dorset Council and partners are responding to meeting the needs of people escaping the conflict in Ukraine and those that are hosting them through the 'Homes for Ukraine' scheme and how this fits with the other resettlement activity taking place within the county.

1.2 The report will focus on:

- (a) Homes for Ukraine Scheme
- (b) UK Resettlement Scheme
- (c) Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children

## **2. Homes for Ukraine**

2.1 In response to the conflict in Ukraine, the Home Office developed 2 routes for Ukrainian nationals to enter the UK. All refugees arriving through these schemes can live, work and study in the UK and have access to public funds. They are eligible for all local services, including help with accommodation. The Home Office undertakes basic police checks prior to the issue of visa. The first scheme is the UK Family Scheme, offered to immediate and extended family members of British nationals and the second is the Homes for Ukraine Scheme, enabling people living in the UK to sponsor a named refugee.

2.2 Local councils are required to undertake specific activities to facilitate the 'Homes for Ukraine' Scheme and receive funding based on a funding formula of £10,500 per guest. These activities include sponsor suitability checks and payment, guest welfare checks and interim payments, housing support and service referrals, support to access education and administration of payments to schools and early years settings.

- 2.3 Political leadership is provided by Cllr Laura Beddow, with Cllr Graham Carr-Jones taking the lead on housing and accommodation aspects. The response requires engagement of officers from across the council so strategic and operational leadership is provided by the Corporate Director for Commissioning and Partnerships, Corporate Director for Adult's and Housing and Head of Customer Service, Archives and Libraries. The Dorset Together network coordinates the partnership and community response.
- 2.4 The following section provides some key information about the scheme in Dorset as at 7/10/2022. There are:
- 287 host households
  - 739 Ukrainian refugees – 320 (43%) of whom are children
  - 62 guests that have been rematched with new hosts following a move from their original host and 32 guests moved to be hosted in Dorset following arrival from another area of the country
  - 46 hosts approved and waiting to welcome 91 guests
  - 134 potential hosts who have not yet been matched to guests
  - Fewer than 5 unaccompanied children
- 2.5 Early issues with the operation of the scheme have now largely been overcome and things are operating smoothly with good processes in place.
- Suitability checks are completed in a timely manner
  - Payment systems for £350 thank you payments to hosts is working well
  - There is an effective system now in place to ensure guests have access to funds when they arrive in a timely manner
  - Welcome packs are distributed to help support guests when they arrive
  - Welfare checks are well underway
  - 278 school applications have been received with 242 children on roll. Of these 23 have made other arrangements, left the area or gone back to Ukraine and 13 are to be confirmed. Schools have worked hard to make space for children (additional funding is made available to support schools).
  - Support for guests is being provided through a range of community and voluntary sector organisations including Citizen's Advice in Dorset, Help and Kindness, Dorset Mind, ICN and local community

refugees support groups are providing invaluable support and advice

- English lessons are being provided by Dorset Skills and Learning

2.6 A series of events and a survey has been completed, with the most pressing issue for hosts and guests being arrangements following the initial first 6 months stay. The survey has identified that around 70% of the hosts who responded would be happy to continue the hosting arrangements beyond 6 months. Arrangements are now being put in place to offer financial support to hosts and to support Ukrainian guests to find alternative accommodation either through rematching or with support to enter the private rented sector. This includes:

- Increased payments to hosts who are willing to extend their offer
- Help with rent in advance
- Help with deposit bonds
- Help with rent deposit
- Pet Bond
- Landlord welcome (payable after 12 months of tenancy)
- Support from the council's housing team

2.7 This support is funded through the Homes for Ukraine scheme and is in line with support offered to others at risk of or experiencing homelessness in the county.

### 3. **Resettlement Activity**

3.1 The Resettlement team continue to support the UK Resettlement Scheme and following the withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy and the Afghan Citizen Resettlement Team. These are voluntary schemes which the council has committed to participate in.

3.2 Councils receive a similar level of funding for these schemes as the Homes for Ukraine scheme, however it works differently. Individuals and families are housed in privately rented properties that the landlord has offered or agreed to rent to refugee families. The team also works with community groups and local charities who help families settle in Dorset or who sponsor people to arrive through a community sponsorship scheme.

3.3 The resettlement team has settled over 100 Syrian and Afghan refugees through these schemes and are currently directly supporting 15 families. Six Afghan families have arrived since July and we are likely to welcome a

further family in December. Availability of affordable housing remains the largest obstacle to this programme.

#### **4. Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children**

- 4.1 The council is required to provide care for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. While their claim is processed, they are cared for by a local authority and have children in care status. The local authority in which the child first arrives is normally responsible for their care. This has placed a disproportionate pressure on some local authorities who have significant ports of entry and in Croydon where the Asylum Entry Point is based. In response to these pressures the government introduced a National Transfer Scheme – originally voluntary it was made mandatory in 2021 and this year the scheme increased the expectations of local authorities to take more children from 0.07% of child population to 0.1%. Dorset, historically has had low numbers of unaccompanied minors and expectations increased to 47 in 2021 (0.07%) and are now at 67 (0.1%). At the time of writing there were 41 unaccompanied minors in our care: 9 are aged 15 and below, and 32 are aged 16 and 17 years
- 4.2 This has resulted in an overall increase in the number of children in care, which otherwise would have seen a reduction. It has also become increasingly difficult to secure local placements for these children, with the majority (83%) being placed out of county, resulting in additional travel for social workers and independent reviewing officers and an increased requirement for the virtual school to work with other local authority areas to secure school places, which can be challenging in many areas where school places are full.
- 4.3 There is currently a shortfall between the funding local government receives and the actual costs of caring for unaccompanied children.

#### **5. Financial Implications**

The Grant allocation for Homes for Ukraine is currently sufficient to support delivery of the programme, however there may be additional costs to all services, but in particular if housing assistance is required potentially placing a pressure on the Adults Social Care and Housing budgets. Arrangements for funding for year 2 of the programme are as yet unknown.

The UK Resettlement scheme and the Afghan resettlement programmes are grant funded and its spend is in line with the grant received.

There is a shortfall in the amount received for caring for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children and young people which may place a pressure on the Children's Services budget.

**6. Environmental Implications**

None identified.

**7. Well-being and Health Implications**

Refugees and people seeking asylum have been through great hardship and settling in a new country is a huge challenge. Many will have faced long and hard journeys and spent time in harsh and overcrowded conditions which may make them more susceptible to infections including Covid-19. Traumatic events and ongoing stressors mean that they are more likely to experience poor mental health. The council works with partners to ensure access to local health services.

**8. Other Implications**

None identified

**9. Risk Assessment**

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

Current Risk: Medium

Residual Risk: Low

**10. Equalities Impact Assessment**

None included

**11. Appendices**

None included in this report

**12. Background Papers**

**Resettlement and the Homes for Ukraine Scheme Report to People and Health Overview Committee (3 May 2022).** Available at:

<https://modern.gov.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/documents/s29355/Resettlement%20and%20the%20Homes%20for%20Ukraine%20Scheme.pdf>

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## People and Health Scrutiny Committee

8 November 2022

### Sufficiency of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) provision

#### For Review and Consultation

**Portfolio Holder:** Cllr A Parry, Children, Education, Skills and Early Help

**Local Councillor(s):** All

**Executive Director:** T Leavy, Executive Director of People - Children

**Report Author:** Vik Verma

**Title:** Corporate Director for Education and Learning

**Email:** vik.verma@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

**Report Status:** Part Exempt

#### Brief Summary:

This report is to update the Committee on the recent decision by Dorset Council Cabinet on 6 September to approve funding for the next phase of investment in specialist provision.

#### Recommendation:

That this Committee note the contents of this report.

#### Reason for Recommendation:

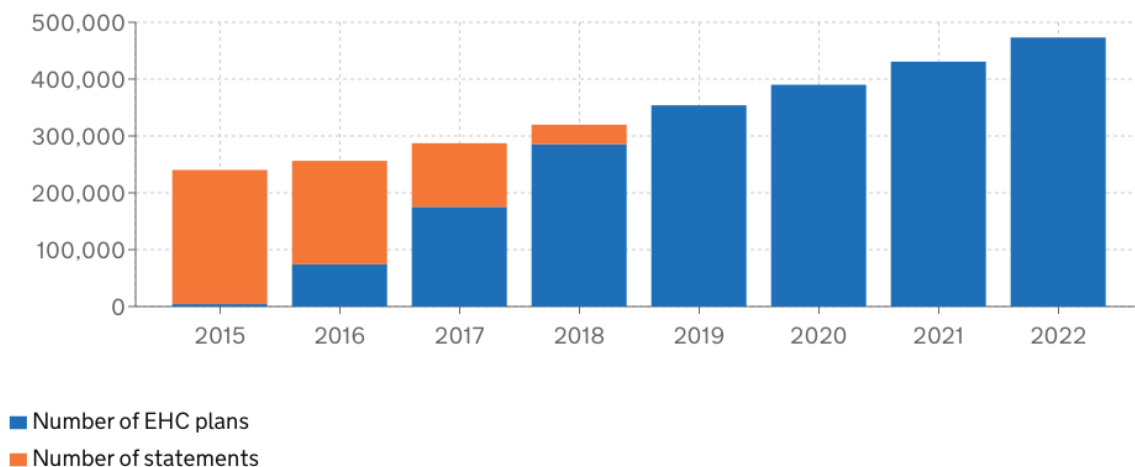
The Committee are being updated on the Council's programme to invest in increasing specialist provision in Dorset.

#### Sufficiency of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) provision

- 1.1 In the Dorset SEND Strategy 2021 – 2024, the Council reaffirmed its vision for children and young people with SEND. "We want our children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) to be healthy, happy and safe and able to achieve their potential to lead a fulfilling life. We want them to have, and to expect the same opportunities in life as other children and young people."

- 1.2 The Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Capital Strategy 2020 – 2025 (link: [Dorset SEND Capital Strategy 2020 to 2025 - Dorset Council](#)) was agreed by Cabinet on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2020 and committed to future capital funding to a programme of work to deliver increased SEND specialist provision across the County. This was approved to support the mitigation of the deficit on the High Needs Block and support more children being educated locally in their communities.
- 1.3 The Strategy set out the demand and provision for pupils with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP). There were approximately 2,800 pupils with an EHCP in August 2020 and as at June 2022 there are now approximately 3,300 pupils with an EHCP.
- 1.4 The total number of children and young people with EHCPs nationally has increased each year since the Children and Families Act 2014 reforms came into law. The following graph sets out the national position showing the growth and continuing rise in children and young people being supported by an EHCP:

**Number of EHC plans and statements of SEN, 2015 to 2022**



- 1.5 At the meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2021 Cabinet agreed a total funding commitment of between £35m and £40m to support the implementation of the SEND Capital Strategy, subject to further feasibilities and planning.
- 1.6 Working collaboratively between Children’s Services and Place, projects were developed and put forward to Cabinet for the second phase of investment to be approved in September 2022. The report taken to Cabinet details ten schemes at an estimated total cost of £31.5m to create an additional 228 places over three years with places available from September 2023 to September 2025.
- 1.7 The proposal put to Cabinet describes two types of investment in new provision:

- 1.7.1 Firstly, the expansion of existing specialist provision to increase their capacity to meet local needs. The prioritisation across the programme is for the projects at special schools including Mountjoy School, Westfield Arts College and for the urgent need for further capacity in the East Dorset Learning Centre. Dorset specialist provision is typically rated Good or Outstanding and we would seek to expand this excellent provision that already exists.
- 1.7.2 Secondly, to invest in the inclusion hubs programme to develop new provision attached to mainstream schools to support children who can access a mainstream curriculum and need some additional support.

#### Inclusion Hubs in mainstream schools

- 1.8 Inclusion hubs are specialist resourced provisions within mainstream school settings, which make provision for children and young people with an EHCP to allow them to remain in mainstream settings with suitable support. This allows pupils with EHCPs to remain with their peer group, to access a broader curriculum.
- 1.9 In an inclusion hub, pupils spend most of their time (usually well over 50% of their timetable) in mainstream classes. They attend the inclusion hub facilities for individual support, to learn a specific skill or to receive therapeutic support.
- 1.10 Inclusion hubs will have one of two designations. This is because the prevalent needs of pupils with an EHCP are either one of these:
- One type of inclusion hub will meet the needs and ambitions of children and young people with Communication and Interaction needs (C&I).
  - The second type of inclusion hub will support children and young people with Social, Emotional and Health (SEMH) difficulties.
- 1.11 To meet the prevalent needs of pupils with EHCPs in each locality there needs to be a mix of Communication and Interaction and SEMH inclusion hubs across all phases of education. Where there is an existing inclusion hub in a primary setting, a secondary (or a first, middle and upper school) inclusion hub will be commissioned to provide a stable transition to through the phases for pupils with EHCPs.
- 1.12 The inclusion hubs must be at the heart of the school to achieve the most benefit for all pupils at a school. They should allow pupils to move flexibly between mainstream and hub settings, to encourage inclusion of pupils with an EHCP.

- 1.13 There are several inclusion hubs, which are included as part of this report for approval and delivery between September 2023 and September 2025. Please see the Appendix for the details of these.
- 1.14 The proposals set out in 1.7 are in addition to the places already signed off at Beaucroft School for the creation of a new Post 16 provision which is proposed to complete in May 2023 to create an additional 80 places; and Coombe House School where the school will grow to over 200 pupils over time.
- 1.15 Details of the specific schemes is commercially sensitive and so is contained in a confidential exempt Appendix (Appendix 2 of this report) within the meaning of paragraph 4 of schedule 12 A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

#### Department for Education Free Schools

- 1.16 The Department for Education (DfE) is leading the development of two Free Schools in Dorset to support with the expansion of provision.
- 1.17 Osprey Quay 14-19 AP Special School for ASC and SEMH ranges – is proposed to open in September 2024.
  - 1.17.1 The project is a Department for Education (DfE) led free school meaning it is being funded and project managed by the DfE.
  - 1.17.2 The new special school, which will be located at Osprey Quay on Portland, will aim to provide up to 75 places for children and young people aged 14-19 years with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND).
  - 1.17.3 The Council is supporting the DfE and Delta Education Trust to support the delivery of this scheme.
- 1.18 The Harbour School in Wareham opened in its new buildings in April 2022 and supports children and young people with autism spectrum (ASC), social emotional and mental health (SEMH) and co-morbid conditions from year 5 to year 13. The school is new and growing and pupil numbers have been increasing gradually since April 2022. The school will grow to 160 places when at full capacity.

## **2. Financial Implications**

### Capital Funding

- 2.1 The SEND Capital Strategy 2020-2025 is supported with a capital allocation of up to £40M to enable the expansion of local specialist provision by approximately 500 places to support the council's management of the high needs funding for children and young people with SEND.
- 2.2 Of the £40m originally earmarked for SEND provision, £15.5m has been spent on the acquisition and set up of Coombe House School at the Dorset Centre of Excellence. This leaves a balance of £24.5m.
- 2.3 In addition, the DfE has allocated Dorset Council £7.0m of High Needs Capital to cover the period 2021-24. This next phase of investment in the SEND capital implementation strategy will therefore be funded as follows:

	£'m
SEND Capital Budget	24.5
DFE High Needs Provision Capital Allocation	7.0
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>31.5</b>

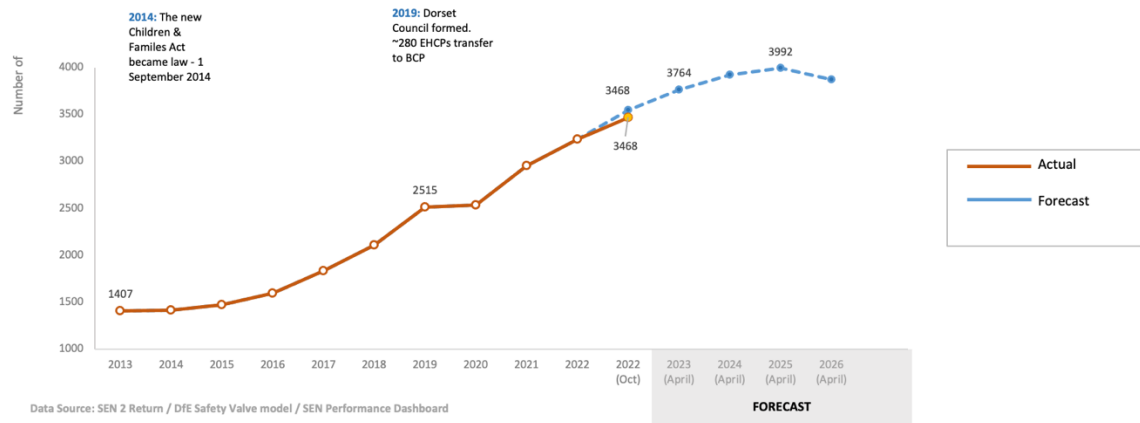
#### The High Needs Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant

- 2.4 The Council received an overall grant of £47m (2022/23 allocation) through the High Needs Block to fund provision for children and young people with SEN in the 2022/23 financial year. The High Needs Block has a forecast in-year deficit on the budget for the 2022/23 financial year.
- 2.5 The greatest pressure on the High Needs Block comes from the Independent and Non-Maintained Special School spend of approximately £14m and therefore the imperative to grow specialist provision in maintained schools and academies to offset this is clear.
- 2.6 The growing pressure on the High Needs Block is unlikely to ease in the immediate short term, even as improvements in inclusive practice are implemented in schools and the growth in the cohort slows. However, improvements in practice will support the improvement of inclusive practices in our schools to ensure more children and young people can be supported in state funded educational settings to the future.

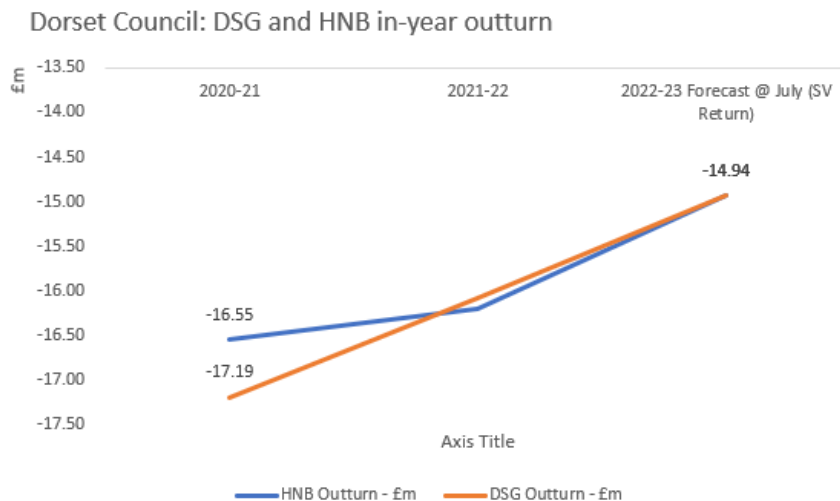
#### The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) "Safety Valve"

- 2.7 The Dedicated Schools Grant 'Safety Valve' Agreement is an agreement between the DfE and Dorset Council for the years from 2021-22 to 2025-6 and is available online here ([link](#)).
- 2.8 At paragraph 2 "the authority undertakes to reach an in-year balance on its DSG account by the end of 2026-27 and in each subsequent year". Further at 3.9 "Direct an increase in sufficiency through Dorset SEND Capital Strategy 2020-2025 to expand specialist provision for children and young people".
- 2.9 The Council submit quarterly monitoring reports to the Department for Education. The Q2 monitoring report to be provided on the 15<sup>th</sup> of September will reference those projects approved for delivery on 7<sup>th</sup> September 22 by Cabinet to demonstrate the progress being made by the council to deliver this commitment.
- 2.10 As at the 31 July, Dorset Council are on track to deliver 8 out of the 9 conditions set out in the Safety Valve Agreement. In particular, the Council remains ahead of its forecast for the number of children being supported by an EHCP, owing to the positive delivery against 8 of the 9 conditions in the agreement.

Number of Statements / EHCPs over time



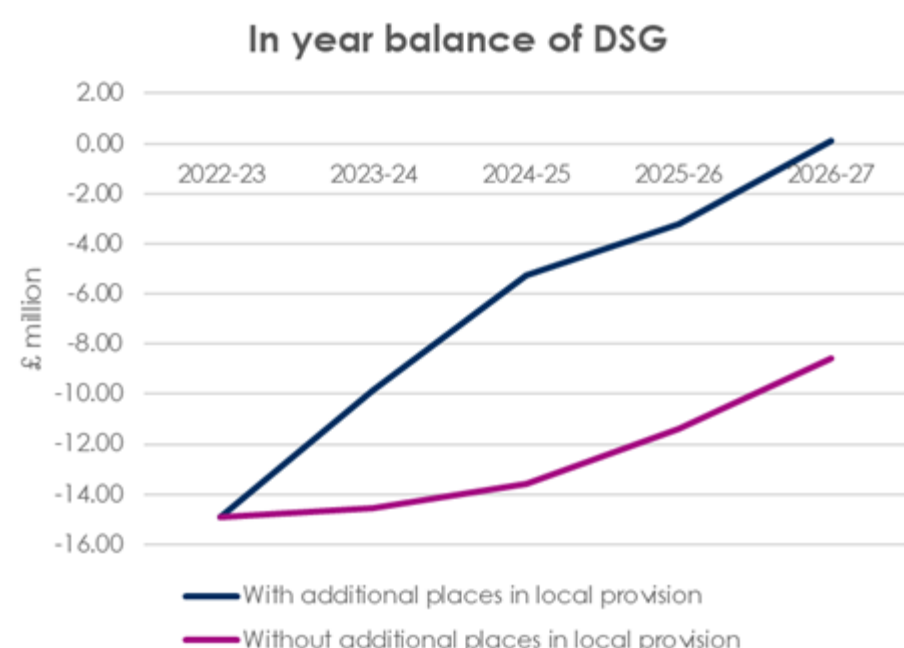
- 2.11 There remains however an amber risk against one condition: 3.9 Direct an increase in sufficiency through Dorset SEND Capital Strategy 2020 – 2025, to expand specialist provision for children and young people). As set out in the report to Cabinet on 6<sup>th</sup> September, there is a commitment from Cabinet to invest in additional places across the council area, rising construction material and labour shortages are impacting capital projects (including Department for Education Free School delays). This includes capital projects costing more than initially thought and taking longer to deliver than expected due to later start times.
- 2.12 As a result, the financial forecast for this financial year has moved to a £14.9m overspend (against a £10.4m overspend target). Whilst the in-year deficit continues to decline year-on-year since a peak in 2020/21, the impact of delays in capital projects does mean the deficit is not yet declining at the rate the council had forecasted in 2020.



### Revenue implications

- 2.13 Revenue costs for the running of each of the new provisions will be paid from the High Needs Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG).
- 2.14 The average cost of a placement in independent special school placements are £55,700 per pupil, compared to an average cost of a place at a maintained special school which are delivered at an average of £23,127 per pupil. This is an average difference of £32,573 per pupil per annum. If this saving is applied over a child's maximum fourteen-year education duration, then this would total a saving of £459,276 for a single child.
- 2.15 Currently 8% of pupils are in Independent Specialist Provision, Non-Maintained Special Schools (INMSS) and Specialist Post 16 provision (SPI) costing 31% of the revenue cost for places and top ups. The safety valve agreement aims to reduce this to 1% of pupils (costing 4% of the funding for places and top ups).
- 2.16 The potential savings to the High Needs Block is based on the assumption that 50% of the new places created will be taken up by children in existing high cost, independent placements that would then return to Dorset created provision, through partnership working with families. The remaining 50% of places would be to support new demand and cost avoidance of children that would otherwise require an independent specialist placement.
- 2.17 The graph below shows the impact of the additional places described in this paper and how they support the safety valve programme. Without the additional places and assuming that the proportion of children in each type of school remains as it is now, the costs to the High Needs Block would continue to rise giving a deficit in the High Needs Block in 5 years' time of over £100m which

would continue to rise annually by ~£6m. With the local places the DSG revenue will be able to balance moving forwards. The 'safety valve' agreement contributions from DfE and Dorset Council and our assumptions for DSG funding will have removed the cumulative deficit in this period leaving the high needs block to balance within its grant income.



### 3. Environmental Implications

- 3.1 It is anticipated that the delivery of this programme of new provision will enable suitable places to be located more locally which will avoid the significant travel implications some pupils currently have to undertake.
- 3.2 More local provision to meet the highest levels of need will reduce travel for pupils and therefore reduce climate impact.
- 3.3 As with all property related work climate change implications are always considered and will be addressed where possible. For example, in the options appraisal for each provision e.g. Westfield South Annexe proposal the option of re-purposing an existing Council building to avoid the climate impact of new construction and additional built assets has been considered for each project.

### 4. Well-being and Health Implications

- 4.1 The provision of good quality SEND local education provision is essential for health and wellbeing of children, young people, and families.

## **5. Other Implications**

Not used

## **6. Risk Assessment**

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

Current Risk: High

Residual Risk: High

A schedule of risks is maintained by the Assets and Property team for the programme. Rising inflation is having an impact on construction costs nationally. Rising construction material costs and labour shortages may start to impact capital projects (including Free School delays). This includes capital projects costing more than initially thought and taking longer to deliver than expected due to later start times. These risks have been factored into this report.

## **7. Equalities Impact Assessment**

- 7.1 This proposal will increase the number of Special School places available to Dorset pupils, with the intention of reducing the number having to be placed outside the Council area and in independent special schools. An equalities impact assessment was completed as part of the original SEND Capital Strategy.

## **8. Appendices**

- Appendix 1 – Cabinet 6 September 2022 SEND Capital Strategy Implementation Plan
- Appendix 2 - Cabinet 6 September 2022 SEND Capital Strategy Programme Report (Exempt)

## **9. Background Papers**

- SEND Capital Strategy 2020-2025 approved by Cabinet 8th December 2020 (link: [SEND Strategy 2021 to 2024 - Dorset Council](#))
- SEND High Needs Block Management Strategy approved by 8th November 2021 (link: [SEND High Needs Block Management Strategy approved by 8th November 2021](#))

# Cabinet

6 September 2022

## SEND Capital Strategy Implementation Plan

### For Decision

**Portfolio Holder:** Cllr T Ferrari, Economic Growth, Assets & Property

**Local Councillor(s):** All

**Executive Director:** J Sellgren, Executive Director of Place

Report Author: Peter Hopkins  
Title: Corporate Director – Assets & Property  
Tel: 01305 221621  
Email: peter.hopkins@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

**Report Status:** Public

#### Brief Summary:

The Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Capital Strategy 2020 – 2025 was agreed by Cabinet on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2020 and committed to future capital funding to a programme of work to deliver increased SEND specialist provision across the County. This was to support the mitigation of the deficit on the High Needs Block and support more children being educated locally in their communities.

At their meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2021 Cabinet agreed a funding commitment of between £35m and £40m to support the implementation of the SEND Capital Strategy, subject to further feasibilities and planning. The further work has been completed and this paper details ten schemes at an estimated total cost of £31.5m to create an additional 228 places over three years with places available from September 2023 to September 2025.

Details of the specific schemes is commercially sensitive and so is contained in a confidential Appendix within the meaning of paragraph 4 of schedule 12 A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

#### Recommendation:

That Cabinet:

1. Approve the budget allocation as set out in the Appendix to enable a range of projects to be delivered as part of the SEND Capital Strategy. The projects set out total an approximate delivery of 228 new specialist places for the capital investment plus any yet to be determined variation to the PFI contract at The Sir John Colfox Academy.
2. Delegate authority to the Executive Director for Place, in consultation with the Executive Director for People - Children's to enter construction contracts at the appropriate time, in line with an existing delegation. This will be subject to the outcome of the formal consultation process in respect of each project and provided that following procurement, the project is within the set budget level of this Cabinet paper.
3. Delegate authority to the Executive Director for People – Children to agree to the commencement of any required 4-week formal consultation period, in line with relevant statutory guidance. Exercise of this delegation will be necessary if a school is to be required to formally expand their capacity by more than 10% or 20 places as part of this programme of works, at the appropriate time.

**Reason for Recommendation:**

To show the progress of the implementation of the SEND capital strategy and to approve the next phase of projects for delivery.

1. **The Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Capital Strategy and High Needs Block (HNB) Management Strategy**
  - 1.1 The SEND Capital Strategy 2020-2025 was approved by Dorset Council Cabinet on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2020.
  - 1.2 The Strategy set out the demand and provision for pupils with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP). There were c.2,800 pupils with an EHCP in August 2020 and as at June 2022 there are now approximately 3,300 pupils with an EHCP.
  - 1.3 The High Needs Block (HNB) Management Strategy sits alongside the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Capital Strategy for 2020 to 2025 and was approved by Cabinet on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2021.
  - 1.4 The HNB Management strategy cites that further capital projects will be brought forward to support the expansion of specialist provision.
  - 1.5 The purpose of this Cabinet report is to bring forward the next phase of projects which are focused on:
    - 1.5.1 expanding the Council's existing special schools;

- 1.5.2 growing the Council's pupil referral unit provision (for children with social, emotions and mental health needs); and
- 1.5.3 growth of resourced provision (to be known as inclusion hubs) which is provision for children with special educational needs and disabilities in mainstream schools.
- 1.6 This paper seeks approval to create approximately 228 additional places to meet the needs of SEND children within Dorset. This programme will contribute to the council delivering its HNB management strategy, where reducing the council's use of independent specialist provision by expanding its own provision is a central feature.
- 1.7 The growing SEND cohort nationally and locally within Dorset brings financial pressure to the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and the Council's revenue budget. The current statutory instrument protecting the Council's budget from the DSG is scheduled to end in 2022-23, and from April 2023 responsibility for accounting for and funding the deficit could transfer to Dorset Council.

## **2. Inclusion Hubs in mainstream schools**

- 2.1 Inclusion hubs are specialist resourced provisions within mainstream school settings, which make provision for children and young people with an EHCP to allow them to remain in mainstream settings with suitable support. This allows pupils with EHCPs to remain with their peer group, to access a broader curriculum.
- 2.2 In an inclusion hub, pupils spend most of their time (usually well over 50% of their timetable) in mainstream classes. They attend the inclusion hub facilities for individual support, to learn a specific skill or to receive therapeutic support.
- 2.3 Inclusion hubs will have one of two designations. This is because the prevalent needs of pupils with an EHCP are either one of these:
  - One type of inclusion hub will meet the needs and ambitions of children and young people with Communication and Interaction needs (C&I).
  - The second type of inclusion hub will support children and young people with Social, Emotional and Health (SEMH) difficulties.
- 2.4 To meet the prevalent needs of pupils with EHCPs in each locality there needs to be a mix of Communication and Interaction and SEMH inclusion hubs across all phases of education. Where there is an existing inclusion hub in a primary setting, a secondary (or a first, middle and upper school) inclusion hub will be commissioned to provide a stable transition to through the phases for pupils with EHCPs.

- 2.5 The inclusion hubs must be at the heart of the school to achieve the most benefit for all pupils at a school. They should allow pupils to move flexibly between mainstream and hub settings, to encourage inclusion of pupils with an EHCP.
- 2.6 There are several inclusion hubs, which are included as part of this report for approval and delivery between September 2023 and September 2025. Please see the Appendix for the details of these.
- 3 **Analysis of projects in train and a gap analysis of future projects required**
- 3.1 There are a range of projects currently under development that will contribute to meeting need for maintained specialist places.
- 3.2 Beaucroft School expansion – currently in progress.
- The Beaucroft school expansion was approved by Cabinet on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2021. The project involves refurbishing the former Wimborne First School premises to provide additional places for post 16 pupils. This frees up space on the main school campus for the admission of additional pupils and provides a transition to a post 16 provision that is more like a college.
  - The project is adapting one of the blocks of accommodation on the site to specifically cater for students with complex needs. This block would be able to accommodate up to 24 of the additional 80 places and has been specifically targeted to this need as the post 16 cohort are those predominately being educated in independent placements.
  - The approved budget from the SEND Capital budget to undertake the proposed works at the School Lane premises for the Post 16 provision is £3.917m and is expected to be completed by May 2023.
  - This budget allocation does not make any allowance for any works which could be undertaken on the main Colehill campus, which will be required to deliver an increase in under 16 places.
- 3.3 Osprey Quay 14-19 AP Special School for ASC and SEMH ranges – proposed to open in September 2024.
- The project is a Department for Education (DfE) led free school meaning it is being funded and project managed by the DfE.
  - The new special school, which will be located at Osprey Quay on Portland, will aim to provide up to 75 places for children and young people aged 14-19 years with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND).
  - The Council is supporting the DfE and Delta Education Trust to support the delivery of this scheme.

#### **4 Process for delivery of the SEND Projects proposed in this Cabinet report**

- 4.1 The prioritisation across the programme is for the projects at special schools including Mountjoy School, and secondly Westfield Sixth Form and thirdly for the urgent need for further capacity in the East Dorset Learning Centre. Dorset specialist provision is typically rated Good or Outstanding and we would seek to expand this excellent provision that already exists.
- 4.2 The inclusion hubs programme follows additional special school and alternative provision places priority overall. The schools within this proposed programme provide an excellent education for pupils and are highly sought after by parents, so should be expanded further in future phases where possible.
- 4.3 This programme is driven by technical deliverability including value for money and engagement with Dorset schools. This Cabinet paper seeks approval to develop the projects identified in Appendix 1 in terms of technical deliverability at the same time as working with the schools involved. It is anticipated that because of this further technical work and school engagement that some projects may prove not to be deliverable within the budget set out in this report or final agreement may not be reached with schools. The over-programming of projects is a mitigation to this risk.
- 4.4 One of the main risks to the programme that is mitigated by over-programming is the availability of suitable sites. Dorset schools and trusts are custodians of significant land holdings for educational use. Some of these projects propose potentially purchasing land.
- 4.5 There are a wide range of factors that may impact on the delivery. Some of these factors are known and quantifiable at this point and some are unknown or unforeseeable despite a clear risk approach to this programme.
- 4.6 The approach taken has been to price the knowns and include various allowances for unknowns in the cost plans to mitigate their risk to the costs of the programme. Optimism bias is also calculated.
- 4.7 Provisional sums have been included for items such as retaining structures, drainage, electrical transformer capacity, brise soleil to address over-heating and other risks that the desk top viability study and engagement with the schools has highlighted. A narrative of the consideration of these factors is included at Appendix 1 and includes but is not limited to; planning, ground conditions, scheduling in terms of on-site requirements particularly with respect to consideration and requirement of school operating requirements and views expressed through consultations with schools.
- 4.8 A programme for the delivery of additional places is set out in Appendix 1.

- 4.9 External consultants AECOM have been appointed to support this initial viability study and have produced a revised High-level Order of Cost Estimate for the SEND Programme. The costs included within this estimate have been benchmarked against cost data from a recent (May 2021) Hampshire County Council National School Delivery Report, with specific allowances for any site abnormalities included as extra over.
- 4.10 In addition, a 20% combined design and construction risk allowance is included with a further 13.78% allowed for optimism bias (OB) based on standard Dorset Council budgeting requirements. The OB was calculated by AECOM following guidance from the HM Treasury's Green Book.
- 4.11 An inflation allowance has also been included and based upon AECOM's latest tender price indices (TPIs). The allowance for inflation is linked to the programme and when the works are due to complete. This allowance ranges from 10% - 20% depending on the programme.
- 4.12 Further technical feasibility studies will need to be undertaken at some school sites. For example, if additional land is secured to increase the capacity of accommodation at Mountjoy School then this will require further feasibility to refine the cost plans and understand the risks and timing of delivery of any provision.
- 4.13 Approval of this Cabinet report will allow the programme to move to this next and vital phase, to deliver more specialist provision for the children and young people of Dorset.
- 4.14 Prescribed alterations are required when making changes to the size, type or location of a school. They are statutory consultation requirements that are aimed "to ensure that good quality school places can be provided quickly where they are needed; those local authorities (LAs) and governing bodies (GBs) do not take decisions that will have a negative impact on other schools in the area; and that changes can be implemented quickly and effectively where there is a strong case for doing so.
- 4.15 In line with these aims it is expected that, where possible, additional new places will only be provided at schools that have an overall Ofsted rating of 'good' or 'outstanding'. Schools which do not fall within the above categories should only be expanded where there are no other viable options. Requirement to undertake a full consultation as the proposal to expand the School will increase numbers by more than 10% or by more than 20 places." Statutory Department for Education Guidance – 'Making significant changes ('prescribed alterations') to maintained schools October 2018'.
- 4.16 The guidance requires the Local Authority, as the proposer and decision maker, initiate a four-week consultation through the publication of a notice to expand

numbers, followed by a formal decision through Cabinet to agree the expansion subject to the responses to and outcome of the consultation. The notice will identify and detail the reasons for the change, the extent of the change and the timelines as to when the additional places will be made available. This process can commence once agreement to progress with this project is given.

- 4.17 A similar process exists for academies where they will be required to follow the Making significant changes to an open academy (January 2022) guidance.
- 4.18 On completion of the prescribed alterations (set out above), the project will be able to proceed to delivery. This will involve procurement of contractors, planning applications (where required) and preparation for the logistics of the works on site with the school.

## 5 Financial Implications

### Capital Funding

- 5.1 The SEND Capital Strategy 2020-2025 is supported with a capital allocation of up to £40M to enable the expansion of local specialist provision by approximately 500 places to support the council's management of the high needs funding for children and young people with SEND.
- 5.2 Of the £40M originally earmarked for SEND provision, £15.5M has been spent on the acquisition and set up of Coombe House School at the Dorset Centre of Excellence. This leaves a balance of £24.5M.
- 5.3 In addition, the DFE has allocated Dorset Council £7.0M of High Needs Capital to cover the period 2021-24. The SEND capital implementation strategy will therefore be funded as follows:

	£'m
SEND Capital Budget	24.5
DFE High Needs Provision Capital Allocation	7.0
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>31.5</b>

### The High Needs Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant

- 5.4 The Council received an overall grant of £47m (2022/23 allocation) through the High Needs Block to fund provision for children and young people with SEN in the 2022/23 financial year. The High Needs Block has a forecast in-year deficit on the budget for the 2022/23 financial year.

- 5.5 The greatest pressure on the High Needs Block comes from the Independent and Non-Maintained Special School spend of approximately £14m and therefore the imperative to grow specialist provision in maintained schools and academies to offset this is clear.
- 5.6 The growing pressure on the High Needs Block is unlikely to ease in the immediate short term, even as improvements in inclusive practice are implemented in schools and the growth in the cohort slows. However, improvements in practice will support the improvement of inclusive practices in our schools to ensure more children and young people can be supported in state funded educational settings to the future.

#### Value for Money

- 5.7 The tendering process will be a means of ascertaining value for money, as competition will drive value.
- 5.6 As mentioned above, the High-level Order of Cost Estimate has been based upon robust benchmark costing from recent similar Hampshire schemes and national benchmarks. AECOM allowances are aligned with this data which demonstrates value for money at this early stage. Please note the overall costs are somewhat inflated, as there is a significant amount of risk pricing included within the Estimate.

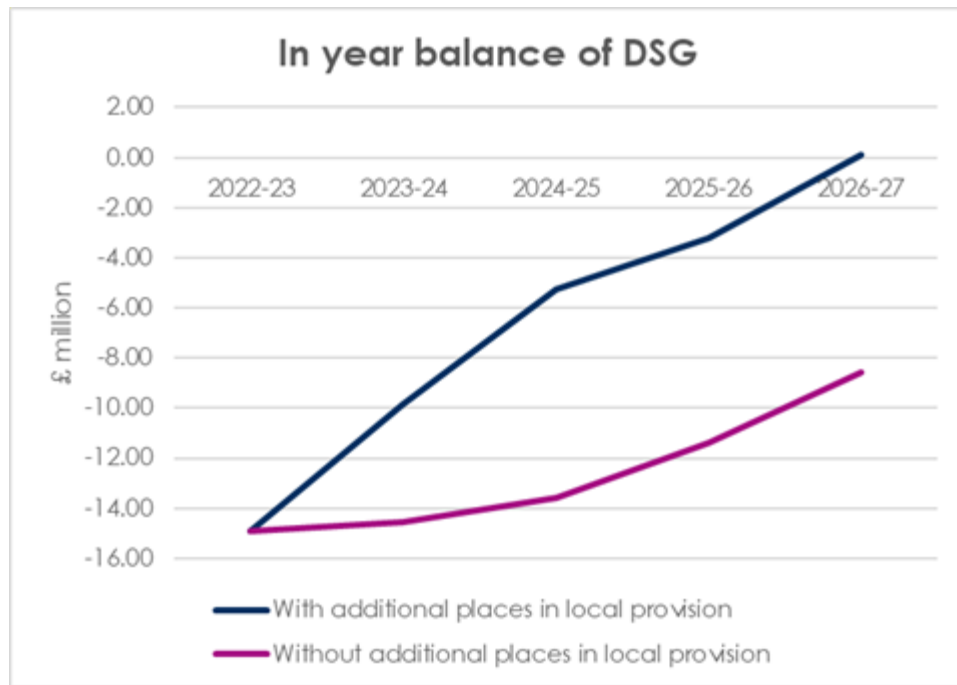
### **6 The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) “Safety Valve”**

- 6.1 The Dedicated Schools Grant ‘Safety Valve’ Agreement is an agreement between the DfE and Dorset Council for the years from 2021-22 to 2025-6 and is available online here ([link](#)).
- 6.2 At paragraph 2 “the authority undertakes to reach an in-year balance on its DSG account by the end of 2026-27 and in each subsequent year”. Further at 3.9 “Direct an increase in sufficiency through Dorset SEND Capital Strategy 2020-2025 to expand specialist provision for children and young people”.
- 6.3 The Council submit quarterly monitoring reports to the Department for Education. The Q2 monitoring report to be provided on the 15<sup>th</sup> of September will reference those projects approved for delivery on 7<sup>th</sup> September 22 by Cabinet to demonstrate the progress being made by the council to deliver this commitment.
- 6.4 Appendix 3 contains a detailed commentary of the financial position across capital and revenue relating to the SEND Capital Programme.

### **7 Revenue implications**

- 7.1 Revenue costs for the running of the school will be paid from the High Needs Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG).

- 7.2 The average cost of a placement in independent special school placements are £55,700 per pupil, compared to an average cost of a place at a maintained special school which are delivered at an average of £23,127 per pupil. This is an average difference of £32,573 per pupil per annum. If this saving is applied over a child's maximum fourteen-year education duration, then this would total a saving of £459,276 for a single child.
- 7.3 Currently 8% of pupils are in Independent Specialist Provision, Non-Maintained Special Schools (INMSS) and Specialist Post 16 provision (SPI) costing 31% of the revenue cost for places and top ups. The safety valve agreement aims to reduce this to 1% of pupils (costing 4% of the funding for places and top ups).
- 7.4 The potential savings to the High Needs Block is based on the assumption that 50% of the new places created will be taken up by children in existing high cost, independent placements that would then return to Dorset created provision, through partnership working with families. The remaining 50% of places would be to support new demand and cost avoidance of children that would otherwise require an independent specialist placement.
- 7.5 The graph below shows the impact of the additional places described in this paper and how they support the safety valve programme. Without the additional places and assuming that the proportion of children in each type of school remains as it is now, the costs to the High Needs Block would continue to rise giving a deficit in the High Needs Block in 5 years' time of over £100m which would continue to rise annually by ~£6m. With the local places the DSG revenue will be able to balance moving forwards. The 'safety valve' agreement contributions from DfE and Dorset Council and our assumptions for DSG funding will have removed the cumulative deficit in this period leaving the high needs block to balance within its grant income.



## 8 Climate implications

- 8.1 It is anticipated that the delivery of this project will enable suitable places to be located more locally which will avoid the significant travel implications some pupils currently have to undertake.
- 8.2 More local provision to meet the highest levels of need will reduce travel for pupils and therefore reduce climate impact.
- 8.3 As with all property related work climate change implications are always considered and will be addressed where possible. For example, in the options appraisal for each provision e.g. Westfield South Annexe proposal the option of re-purposing an existing Council building to avoid the climate impact of new construction and additional built assets has been considered for each project.

## 9 Well-being and Health Implications

- 9.1 The provision of good quality SEND local education provision is essential for health and wellbeing of children, young people, and families.

## 10 Other implications

- 10.1 Not used

## 11 Risk Assessment

- 11.1 Having considered the risks associated with this decision, the level of risk has been identified as:
- Current Risk: High
- Residual Risk: High
- 11.2 A schedule of risks is maintained by the Assets and Property team for the programme.
- 11.2 Rising inflation is having an impact on construction costs nationally.
- 11.3 Rising construction material costs and labour shortages may start to impact capital projects (including Free School delays). This includes capital projects costing more than initially thought and taking longer to deliver than expected due to later start times.
- 11.4 These risks have been factored into this report.

## **12 Equalities Impact Assessment**

- 12.1 This proposal will increase the number of Special School places available to Dorset pupils, with the intention of reducing the number having to be placed outside the Council area and in independent special schools. An equalities impact assessment was completed as part of the original SEND Capital Strategy.

## **13 Appendix (Exempt)**

- Programme
- 220721 Dorset SEND-Project Sheets
- Narrative on known and unknown risks to the SEND Capital programme
- Detailed commentary on SEND programme – capital and revenue

## **14 Background papers**

**SEND Capital Strategy 2020-2025 approved by Cabinet 8<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

**SEND High Needs Block Management Strategy approved by 8<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A  
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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## People and Health Scrutiny Committee – Forward Plan

Title	Description	Date of Committee Meeting	Requested by	Report Author	Portfolio Holder/s	Other Meetings (CLT, SLT, Cabinet etc)
Resettlement and the Homes for Ukraine Scheme		<b>8 November 2022</b>		Claire Shiels, Corporate Director for Commissioning and Partnerships		
Sufficiency of SEND Provision	Scrutiny Review	<b>8 November 2022</b>		Theresa Leavy, Executive Director of People, Children	Portfolio Holder for Children, Education, Skills and Early Help	
Dorset Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report		<b>8 November 2022</b>			Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Health	Health & Wellbeing Board – 9 November
Budget Scrutiny		<b>9 December 2022</b>		Aidan Dunn, Executive Director of Corporate Development		
Risk Management Update Report	To provide an update on the key risks facing the Council and the activities being undertaken to support the Council in developing a culture of being	<b>10 January 2023</b>		David Trotter, Risk & Resilience Officer  Mark Eyre, Assurance Manager	Leader of the Council	

Title	Description	Date of Committee Meeting	Requested by	Report Author	Portfolio Holder/s	Other Meetings (CLT, SLT, Cabinet etc)
	'Creative & Aware of Risk'.					
Performance Scrutiny	A review of the relevant Dorset Council performance dashboard to inform the Scrutiny Committee's Forward Plan and identify items for deep dives.	<b>10 January 2023</b>	David Bonner	David Bonner, Service Manager for Business Intelligence and Performance	Portfolio Holder for Corporate Development and Change	
Housing Scrutiny	Report back to committee with findings	<b>10 January 2022</b>		Andrew Billany, Corporate Director for Housing	Portfolio Holder for Housing and Community Safety	
		<b>9 March 2023</b>				
<b>Potential agenda items to be considered</b>						
Progress of Implementation of the Dorset Care Framework	Consider whether actions contained in the Cabinet report 220621 have resulted in better outcomes for residents and DC	<b>March/May 2023</b>		Vivienne Broadhurst, Executive Director People, Adults	Portfolio Holder for Adult Care and Health	

<b>Title</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date of Committee Meeting</b>	<b>Requested by</b>	<b>Report Author</b>	<b>Portfolio Holder/s</b>	<b>Other Meetings (CLT, SLT, Cabinet etc)</b>
Integrated Care Board	An update on the progress of the ICS	<b>TBC 2022</b>		Patricia Miller, Chief Executive Designate, ICS  Kirsty Hillier, Public Health	Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Health	
LGSCO – Investigation into a complaint in connection with special education needs provision	Review the council's ongoing performance in addressing the Ombudsman's criticisms and concerns			Jonathan Mair, Monitoring Officer	Portfolio Holder for Children, Education, Skills and Early Help	
Birth to Settled Adulthood		<b>TBC May 2023</b>				
Somerset Hyperacute Stroke Unit	Update on change to health services and affect it will have on Dorset	<b>TBC</b>				
Dorset County Hospital – Building a new ED and Critical Care Unit	Update members on the progress	<b>November 2022</b>			Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Health	

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## The Cabinet Forward Plan - November 2022 to February 2023 (Publication date – 4 OCTOBER 2022)

### 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

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

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
<b>November</b>					
<b>Quarter 2 2022/23 Financial Monitoring Report</b>  <b>Key Decision</b> - No <b>Public Access</b> - Open  To consider the Quarter 2 Financial Monitoring Report for 2022/23.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 1 Nov 2022		Portfolio Holder for Finance, Commercial and Capital Strategy	<i>Jim McManus, Corporate Director - Finance and Commercial</i> <i>J.McManus@dorsetcc.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, Corporate Development - Section 151 Officer (Aidan Dunn)</i>
<b>Dorset Council 20mph speed limit Process and Guidance</b>  <b>Key Decision</b> - Yes <b>Public Access</b> - Open  A report setting out the council's approach to 20mph speed limits.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 1 Nov 2022	Place and Resources Overview Committee 6 Oct 2022	Portfolio Holder for Highways, Travel and Environment	<i>Wayne Sayers, Transport Planning Manager</i> <i>wayne.sayers@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, Place (John Sellgren)</i>
<b>Update on Children in Care Strategy and Plan</b>  <b>Key Decision</b> - Yes <b>Public Access</b> - Open  To review a proposal to increase fees for foster carers to ensure the offer of Dorset Council is comparative to neighbouring authorities and recognises the work that out foster carers do for our children.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 1 Nov 2022	People and Health Overview Committee 24 Oct 2022	Portfolio Holder for Children, Education, Skills and Early Help	<i>Louise Drury, Head of Service Children in Care and Care Leavers</i> <i>louise.drury@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, People - Children (Theresa Leavy)</i>

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
<b>Wild Woodbury Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace</b>  <b>Key Decision</b> - Yes <b>Public Access</b> - Open  The project forms part of the Heathland Interim Mitigation Strategy for the emerging Purbeck Plan and has been approved under the scheme of delegation for the delivery of habitat mitigation CIL spend by the Heathland Mitigation Steering Group. Proposed spend exceeds £500,000.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 1 Nov 2022		Portfolio Holder for Planning	<i>Bridget Betts, Environmental Advice Manager            bridget.betts@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Hilary Jordan, Service Manager for Spatial Planning            hilary.jordan@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk            Executive Director, Place (John Sellgren)</i>
<b>Wimborne neighbourhood Plan</b>  <b>Key Decision</b> - Yes <b>Public Access</b> - Open  To adopt final versions of the suite of commissioning strategies to form the basis of the Council's priorities under this portfolio for the coming five year. This will follow a period of public engagement and will include mechanisms for ensuring that the documents can be used as further work is done.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 1 Nov 2022		Portfolio Holder for Planning	<i>Ed Gerry, Community Planning Manager            ed.gerry@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk            Executive Director, Place (John Sellgren)</i>
<b>Dorset Council Plan Priorities Update: Adult Social Care</b>  <b>Key Decision</b> - No <b>Public Access</b> - Open  To receive a report from the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care & Health.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 1 Nov 2022		Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Health	<i>Executive Director, People - Adults</i>

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
<b>Introduction of Investment Zone in Dorset</b>  <b>Key Decision</b> - Yes <b>Public Access</b> - Open  To consider the introduction of an Investment Zone in Dorset	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 1 Nov 2022		Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth, Assets and Property	<i>John Sellgren, Executive Director, Place</i> <i>john.sellgren@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, Place (John Sellgren)</i>
<b>Coombe House - Expansion of School Provision and Conference and Training Facilities</b>  <b>Key Decision</b> - Yes <b>Public Access</b> - Fully exempt  Continuation of building programme on this site to provide the school with capacity for 230 pupils as well as the establishment of the Conference and Training Facilities.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 1 Nov 2022		Portfolio Holder for Children, Education, Skills and Early Help, Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth, Assets and Property	<i>Paul Scothern, Manager- Assets &amp; Property</i> <i>paul.scothern@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, People - Children (Theresa Leavy)</i>
<b>New Household Recycling Centre for the Eastern Area of Dorset</b>  <b>Key Decision</b> - Yes <b>Public Access</b> - Fully exempt  Selection of the preferred location for the new Household recycling Centre to serve the eastern area of Dorset.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 1 Nov 2022	Place and Resources Overview Committee 6 Oct 2022	Portfolio Holder for Culture, Communities and Customer Services	<i>Gemma Clinton, Head of Commercial Waste and Strategy</i> <i>gemma.clinton@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, Place (John Sellgren)</i>
<b>December</b>					

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
<p><b>Dorset Council Plan Priorities Update: Climate and Ecology, Assets and Property</b></p> <p><b>Key Decision</b> - No <b>Public Access</b> - Open</p> <p>To receive an update from the Portfolio Holders for Highways, Travel and Environment and Economic Growth, Assets and Property.</p>	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 6 Dec 2022		Portfolio Holder for Highways, Travel and Environment, Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth, Assets and Property	<i>Executive Director, Place (John Sellgren)</i>
<b>January 2023</b>					
<p><b>Quarter 3 2022/23 Financial Monitoring Report</b></p> <p><b>Key Decision</b> - Yes <b>Public Access</b> - Open</p> <p>To consider the Quarter 3 Financial Monitoring Report for 2022/23.</p>	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 17 Jan 2023		Portfolio Holder for Finance, Commercial and Capital Strategy	<p><i>Jim McManus, Corporate Director - Finance and Commercial</i>  <i>J.McManus@dorsetcc.gov.uk</i>  <i>Executive Director, Corporate Development - Section 151 Officer (Aidan Dunn)</i></p>
<p><b>Medium Term Financial (MTFP) and Budget Strategy Report</b></p> <p><b>Key Decision</b> - Yes <b>Public Access</b> - Open</p> <p>The Council is required to set a balanced revenue budget, and to approve a level of council tax as an integral part of this.</p>	Decision Maker Dorset Council	Decision Date 14 Feb 2023	<p>Cabinet People and Health Scrutiny Committee Place and Resources Scrutiny Committee 17 Jan 2023 9 Dec 2022 12 Dec 2022</p>	Portfolio Holder for Finance, Commercial and Capital Strategy	<p><i>Jim McManus, Corporate Director - Finance and Commercial</i>  <i>J.McManus@dorsetcc.gov.uk</i>  <i>Executive Director, Corporate Development - Section 151 Officer (Aidan Dunn)</i></p>

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
<b>Commissioning Strategies for Adult Social Care</b>  <b>Key Decision</b> - Yes <b>Public Access</b> - Open  To adopt final versions of the suite of commissioning strategies to form the basis of the Council's priorities under the portfolio for the coming five years.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 17 Jan 2023	People and Health Overview Committee 16 Dec 2022	Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Health	Jonathan Price, Interim Corporate Director for Commissioning jonathan.price@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, People - Adults
<b>Fees and Charges Policy</b>  <b>Key Decision</b> - No <b>Public Access</b> - Open  To approve the Fees and Charges Policy.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 17 Jan 2023	Place and Resources Overview Committee 24 Nov 2022	Portfolio Holder for Finance, Commercial and Capital Strategy	Dawn Adams, Service Manager for Commercial and Procurement dawn.adams@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, Corporate Development - Section 151 Officer (Aidan Dunn)
<b>Dorset Council Plan Priorities: One Customer Account and Digital Innovation</b>  <b>Key Decision</b> - Yes <b>Public Access</b> - Open  To receive a report from the Portfolio Holders for Corporate Development and Transformation and for Culture, Communities and Customer Services.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 17 Jan 2023		Portfolio Holder for Corporate Development and Transformation, Portfolio Holder for Culture, Communities and Customer Services	Executive Director, Place (John Sellgren)
<b>February</b>					

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
<p><b>Dorset Council Plan Priorities:</b> <b>Update: County Deals/Community Safety</b></p> <p><b>Key Decision</b> - No <b>Public Access</b> - Open</p> <p>To receive a report from the Portfolio Holders for Economic Growth, Assets and Property and Housing and Community Safety.</p>	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 28 Feb 2023		Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth, Assets and Property, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Community Safety	Andrew Billany, Corporate Director of Housing, Dorset Council andrew.billany@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, People - Adults
March					
<p><b>Dorset Council Plan Priorities</b> <b>Update: Housing for Local People</b></p> <p><b>Key Decision</b> - No <b>Public Access</b> - Open</p> <p>To receive a report of the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Community Safety.</p>	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 28 Mar 2023		Portfolio Holder for Housing and Community Safety	Andrew Billany, Corporate Director of Housing, Dorset Council andrew.billany@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, Place (John Sellgren)
<p><b>Climate and ecological strategy - refresh</b></p> <p><b>Key Decision</b> - Yes <b>Public Access</b> - Open</p> <p>A refresh of the Climate and ecological strategy.</p>	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 28 Mar 2023	Place and Resources Scrutiny Committee	Portfolio Holder for Highways, Travel and Environment	Steven Ford, Corporate Director for Climate and Ecological Sustainability Executive Director, Place (John Sellgren)

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
<b>Council decision making building in climate and ecological considerations</b>  <b>Key Decision</b> - Yes <b>Public Access</b> - Open  A new decision-making tool to embed climate and ecological considerations.	<b>Decision Maker Cabinet</b>	<b>Decision Date 28 Mar 2023</b>	Audit and Governance Committee 16 Jan 2023	Portfolio Holder for Highways, Travel and Environment	<i>Steven Ford, Corporate Director for Climate and Ecological Sustainability Executive Director, Place (John Sellgren)</i>

**April**

<b>Dorset Council Plan Priorities Update: Working with the Integrated Care System</b>  <b>Key Decision</b> - No <b>Public Access</b> - Open  To receive a report of the Portfolio Holder for Social Care and Health.	<b>Decision Maker Cabinet</b>	<b>Decision Date 25 Apr 2023</b>		Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Health	<i>Executive Director, People - Adults</i>
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**May**

<b>Dorset Council Plan Priorities Update: Value for Money (Unitary Council Benefits)</b>  <b>Key Decision</b> - No <b>Public Access</b> - Open  To receive a report of the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Commercial and Capital Strategy.	<b>Decision Maker Cabinet</b>	<b>Decision Date</b>		Portfolio Holder for Finance, Commercial and Capital Strategy	<i>Executive Director, Corporate Development - Section 151 Officer (Aidan Dunn)</i>
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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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### **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.