

Date of committee: 28 February 2023
Date published: 1 March 2023
Date of implementation: 9 March 2023

**DECISIONS OF THE CABINET
28 FEBRUARY 2023**

The following decisions were made by the Cabinet on 28 February 2023 and will come into force and may be implemented on xxx unless the decision is called in for scrutiny.

In accordance with the council's constitution, any six members of the same relevant Scrutiny Committee may request the Monitoring Officer to 'call-in' a decision for scrutiny. The Monitoring Officer will be provided with written notice that will identify the decision to be called-in and the ground for the call-in when the request is made. If satisfied that there are reasonable grounds for the proposed call-in, the Monitoring Officer will notify the decision-maker of the call-in within 5 clear working days. The deadline for this request is **8 March 2023**

The full call-in procedure is set out in the Constitution or for further information and advice please telephone Kate Critchel on 01305 252234

6 COST OF LIVING CHALLENGE

That, to support Dorset Council residents who were hardest hit by the current cost-of-living crisis, the proposed activity and funding from council reserves be approved.

Reason for the decision

Extensive support has been provided to Dorset Council residents over recent months to help them cope with the impact of rising prices, particularly affecting energy bills, fuel, food, and housing costs.

The proposed support should be seen as a preventative intervention that aimed to help households, families and individuals avoid falling into deeper crisis which could lead to consequences such as homelessness, debt, mental illness and so on.

7 LGA PEER PROGRESS REVIEW - SEPTEMBER 2022

- (a) That the report from the Local Government Association (LGA) team be welcomed.
- (b) That the action plan, prepared in response to the findings set out in the LGA Peer Progress Review report (at appendix 2), be approved.

Reason for the decision

To ensure the Council acts on the LGA Peer Team's recommendations.

8 DATA AND BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE STRATEGY

That the Data and Business Intelligence Strategy and action plan be adopted.

Reason for the decision

1. The strategy would drive forward the council's ambition to evolve into a proactive data driven organisation.
2. The strategy was aligned with the themes of the Councils Plan and positions data and BI as enablers to deliver all the council's priorities.
3. The approach to data and BI was approved by members of the two overview committees at an informal workshop on Wednesday 23 November 2022.

9 PROCUREMENT FORWARD PLAN REPORT - OVER £500K (2023-24)

It was agreed:

- (a) To begin each of the procurement procedures listed in appendix 1 to the report of 28 February 2023.
- (b) That in each instance the further step of making any contract award should be delegated to the relevant Cabinet Portfolio Holder, after consultation with the relevant Executive Director.

Reason for the decision

Cabinet is required to approve all key decisions with financial consequences of £500k or more. It is good governance therefore to provide Cabinet with a summary of all proposed procurements, that individually are estimated to be total value of £500k or more, prior to procurement procedures formally commencing.

10 COMMISSIONING STRATEGIES FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE 2023-2028

- (a) That the strategies as presented, to shape activity for the coming years on the development of the local adult social care system, be adopted.
- (b) That the suggested priorities for co-production work for the coming year be noted.

Reason for the decision

If people were to be able to engage meaningfully with the council about the future of social care, it was important that there was a clear account of the Council's view on future priorities. This should not be set in stone but having a clear starting point for the discussion was central to the Council's commitment to involve those who draw on support, its staff, local service providers, and partners. Additionally, it was important that there was a strategy in place that could help to shape the future decisions about the financial frameworks within which social care operates, particularly in the context of the interface with the care market during a period when it is under significant pressure. Even with further work to be done, this set of documents outlined a current view on the future of care services and some of the priorities for their improvement, stabilisation, and development. The documents also sought to set out some interventions for the management of demand and the improvement of service quality.

11 CONSULTATION ON REFORMS TO NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY

That a full response to the consultation questions, as set out in the appendix to the report of 28 February 2023, be sent to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.

This response included welcoming those changes that gave greater weight to the development plan in decisions and that simplify the process of calculating five-year housing land supply requirements.

Reasons for the decision

To ensure that the Council could influence the direction of changes to national planning policy.

12 POTTERNE PARK, VERWOOD, DORSET

- (a) That a market engagement to obtain expressions of interest for leasing of all the site, be approved.

This engagement is to be open to any operators that have interest in the opportunity, with the aim to attract operators with experience in accessing leisure grant monies and could maximise the leisure offer within Verwood community for existing and future leisure users.

- (b) That delegated authority be given to the Executive Director of Place, following consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Culture, Communities and Customer Services and the Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth, Assets and Property and after evaluation of the expressions of interest (short-listing interviews and the undertaking of due diligence and best offer consideration) to select a preferred party and agree with them the terms of a new lease.

Reason for the decision

To promote and assist in the delivery of improved leisure facilities through investment funds not available to Dorset Council. To retain the freehold of the site and to deliver the improvements by way of a new lease and if necessary, an additional agreement referring to investment by the preferred bidder.

13 DORSET COUNCIL PLAN PRIORITIES: DORSET COUNCIL'S DIGITAL VISION UPDATE

- (a) That the refreshed Digital Dorset Vision updated delivery plan attached to the report of 28 February 2023, be adopted.
- (b) That the Place and Resources Overview Committee be asked to examine the role and potential benefits of a Digital Infrastructure Strategy for Dorset.
- (c) In the meantime the roles of a Local Authority Digital Champion and Digital Co-ordinator as envisaged in [Government guidance](#) be confirmed with the Portfolio holder for Corporate Development and Transformation and the Service Manager for Digital Place.

Reason for the decision

The delivery plan has been updated to reflect progress over the last 18 months and to align with our refreshed council plan outcomes:

- digital connectivity is widely available.
- we work together as 'one Dorset Council', with partners to provide easy to access, responsive services that meet the needs and expectations of our customers.

- we develop our use of data and insights to support evidence-led decisions and targeted and timely delivery of our services to improve outcome.

14 SCHOOL ADMISSIONS ARRANGEMENTS AND COORDINATED SCHEME 2024-2025

That the following policies that make up Dorset Council's School Admissions Arrangements and Co-ordinated Scheme 2024-25 for school place allocations from September 2024 be approved and adopted:

- (a) Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme Timetable 2024-2025
- (b) Primary Co-ordinated Scheme 2024-2025
- (c) Secondary Co-ordinated Scheme 2024-2025
- (d) In Year Co-ordinated Scheme 2024-2025
- (e) Admissions Arrangements for Community & Voluntary Controlled Schools 2024-2025.
- (f) Admissions to Maintained Nursery Units Policy 2024-2025
- (g) Sixth Form Admissions Policy 2024-2025
- (h) Guidance on Placement Outside of Normal/Chronological Age Group 2024-2025
- (i) Armed Forces Policy 2024-2025

Reason for the decision

To determine admissions arrangements in accordance with statutory requirements including the Schools Admissions Code September 2021.

To ensure compliance with the latest legislation and any subsequent regulation/statutory guidance.

15 UPDATE ON CHILDREN IN CARE STRATEGY AND PLAN

That there be a 15% increase to the overall payment for Dorset foster carers and supported lodging carers.

Reason for the decision

To progress work to ensure that foster carers and supported lodgings carers receive financial uplift in their overall payment to support sufficiency of Dorset Council carers and ensure carers were suitably financially rewarded for the invaluable role they play for our children in care and care leavers. Successful recruitment and retention of foster carers would support the health and wellbeing of our children in care and result in cost efficiencies for the Council through the reduced use of high-cost residential placements.

17 CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT POLICY AND PROTOCOL

- (a) That the Consultation and Engagement Policy be approved

- (b) 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
- (c) 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.
- (d) 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.

Reason for the decision

Prior to Dorset Council there was an adopted Consultation and Engagement Policy from a sovereign council. As part of the harmonisation work, a transformation programme of the Consultation and Engagement function is being conducted, of which the policy and internal protocol were key elements to underpin the standards. It was deemed imperative there was a minimum set of standards and defined consistent process for how Dorset Council conducts consultations and engagement with our residents.

21 THE PROPOSED SALE OF THE FORMER BERE REGIS PRIMARY SCHOOL, RYE HILL, BH20 7LP

That recommendations 1 to 3 as set out within the exempt report of 28 February 2023 be approved.

Reason for the decision

To approve a delivery approach for this project.

22 CHARGING AHEAD: PUBLIC ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMME

That recommendations 1 to 2(as amended) as set out within the exempt report of 28 February 2023 be approved.

Reason for the decision

As part of the Council's work to address the climate and ecological emergency there is a programme of public electric vehicle ChargePoint (EVCP) installation.

23 LOCAL AUTHORITY HOUSING FUND (LAHF) ACQUISITION OF 30 FAMILY HOMES UNDER THE LAHF GRANT PROGRAMME

That the detail set out in recommendations 1 to 4 of the exempt report of 28 February 2023, be approved.

Reason for the decision

To agree to receive DLUHC grant funding to support the acquisition of 30 family homes.