



Dorset Council

Date: Thursday, 20 October 2022
Time: 6.00 pm
Venue: Council Chamber, County Hall, Dorchester, DT1 1XJ

All members of Dorset Council are requested to attend this meeting of the Full Council.

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

For more information about this agenda please contact Democratic Services
Meeting Contact susan.dallison@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

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1. TRIBUTES TO HER LATE MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

A period of up to 40 minutes has been set aside for the Chairman, Group Leaders and councillors to pay their personal tributes to Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

2. APOLOGIES

To receive any apologies for absence.

3. MINUTES

5 - 20

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 14th July 2022.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To disclose any pecuniary, other registrable or non-registrable interests as set out in the adopted Code of Conduct. In making their decision 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.

5. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

To receive any announcements from the Chairman of Council.

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS

A period of 30 minutes is allocated to receive and respond to questions and statements on the business of the Council in the following order:

- (a) Questions and statements from Town and Parish Councils;
- (b) Questions and statements from those living or working in the Dorset Council area;

A person or organisation can ask either 2 questions, or 2 statements or 1 question and 1 statement at each meeting. No more than 3 minutes shall be allowed for any one question or statement to be asked/read.

The full text of the question or statement must be received by 8.30am on 17th October 2022.

Details of the Council's procedure rules can be found at:

[Council Procedure Rules](#)

7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS

A period of 15 minutes is allocated to receive and respond to petitions in accordance with the council's petitions scheme.

A period of 15 minutes is allocated to receive and respond to deputations in accordance with the council's constitution.

The petitions scheme and procedures relating to deputations can be viewed at:

[Council Procedure Rules](#)

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS FROM THE LEADER OF COUNCIL AND CABINET MEMBERS

To receive any announcements and reports from the Leader of Council and members of the Cabinet.

9. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

To receive questions submitted by councillors. The deadline for receipt of questions is 8.30am on Monday 17th October.

10. REFRESHED COUNCIL PLAN 2022-24

To consider a recommendation from Cabinet.

11. **COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW: PARISHES IN THE VALE OF ALLEN GROUP, THE WINTERBORNE FARRINGDON GROUP, CHICKERELL AND WEYMOUTH** 59 - 66
- To consider a report by the Service Manager, Democratic & Electoral Services.
12. **UPDATE ON ROLE OF HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARDS IN THE INTEGRATED CARE SYSTEM** 67 - 72
- To consider a report by the Director of Public Health.
13. **GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS FOR HARBOURS** 73 - 80
- To consider a report by the Head of Environment and Wellbeing and the Director for Legal & Democratic.
14. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN OF THE AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**
- Following the resignation of Cllr Matt Hall as Chairman of the Audit & Governance Committee, Full Council is asked to appoint a new Chairman of the Committee. In accordance with the committee's terms of reference the Chairman of the Audit and Governance Committee shall be from the largest political group that is different to that of the Leader.
- The nomination for Chairman from the Liberal Democrat Group Leader is Cllr Richard Biggs. Full Council is asked to confirm this appointment.
- If Cllr Richard Biggs is appointed as Chairman of the Committee, Full Council will be asked to appoint a new Vice-chairman of the Committee.
- The nomination from the Liberal Democrat Group Leader for Vice-chairman is Cllr Robin Legg.
15. **DISPENSATION REPORT** 81 - 84
- To consider a report by the Democratic Services Team Leader.
16. **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.

17. EXEMPT BUSINESS

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

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

There is no exempt business.



DORSET COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 14 JULY 2022

Present: Cllrs Val Potheary (Chairman), Tony Alford, Jon Andrews, Shane Bartlett, Pete Barrow, Pauline Batstone, Laura Beddow, Derek Beer, Richard Biggs, Dave Bolwell, Alex Brenton, Cherry Brooks, Piers Brown, Ray Bryan, Andy Canning, Graham Carr-Jones, Simon Christopher, Kelvin Clayton, Susan Cocking, Tim Cook, Toni Coombs, Jean Dunseith, Beryl Ezzard, Tony Ferrari, Spencer Flower, Les Fry, Simon Gibson, Matthew Hall, Paul Harrison, Jill Haynes, Brian Heatley, Ryan Holloway, Ryan Hope, Rob Hughes, Nick Ireland, Sherry Jespersen, Carole Jones, Andrew Kerby, Paul Kimber, Rebecca Knox, Nocturin Lacey-Clarke, Howard Legg, Cathy Lugg, Louie O'Leary, Jon Orrell, Andrew Parry, Mary Penfold, Bill Pipe, Byron Quayle, Molly Rennie, Belinda Ridout, Mark Roberts, Julie Robinson, David Shortell, Andrew Starr, Gary Suttle, Clare Sutton, Gill Taylor, Bill Trite, David Walsh, Peter Wharf, Kate Wheller and John Worth

In attendance remotely: Cllrs Robin Cook, Barry Goringe (Vice-Chairman), Jane Somper, David Morgan, David Tooke.

Apologies: Cllrs Rod Adkins, Mike Barron, Belinda Bawden, Janet Dover, Mike Dyer, David Gray, Stella Jones, Robin Legg, Emma Parker, Mike Parkes, Maria Roe, Roland Tarr and Sarah Williams.

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

Susan Dallison (Democratic Services Team Leader), Aidan Dunn (Executive Director - Corporate Development S151), John Sellgren (Executive Director, Place), Kate Critchel (Senior Democratic Services Officer), Jacqui Andrews (Service Manager for Democratic and Electoral Services) and Theresa Leavy (Executive Director of People - Children)

16. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 May 2022 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

17. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests were made at the meeting.

18. Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman reported the death of former Weymouth & Portland Councillor, Margaret Leicester. She invited Cllr P Kimber to pay tribute.

19. **Public Participation - Questions and Statements**

Public questions and the responses from the Leader or the Council or appropriate portfolio holder are set out in Appendix 1 to these minutes.

20. **Public participation - petitions and deputations**

There were no petitions or deputations.

21. **Announcements and Reports from the Leader of Council and Cabinet Members**

The Leader of Council advised councillors that his bulletin would be published following the meeting and areas that would be included were as follows:

- The cost-of-living crisis and energy rebates
- Support for Ukraine refugees
- Dorset Council sofa session
- Dorset Education Conference
- Dorset Council's Key Priorities

Councillors asked questions regarding, the local plan, support provided and associated with all refugees, including those from Ukraine and the support being provided in respect of the cost-of-living crisis.

In respect of the "Household Support Fund" and Food Projects, and any additional plans to address the cost-of-living crisis, the Leader of Council agreed to report back to members on the position of any possible supplementary government funding.

22. **Questions from Councillors**

A copy of the councillor questions and the response is attached at Appendix 2 to these minutes.

As a supplementary to Cllr B Bawden's question relating to the termination of bus services, the Portfolio Holder for Highways Travel and Environment confirmed that the council continued to work with its neighbouring authorities to make sure that cross-border issues were addressed collectively.

As a supplementary question from Cllr Ireland in respect of allegations and complaints from parents with children at Coombe House, the Portfolio Holder for Children, Education, Skills, and Early Help advised that if there was evidence of such behaviour, it should be reported to the appropriate Executive Director for People (Children). He continued that as Corporate Parents all allegations must be taken seriously and investigated accordingly.

23. **Youth Justice Plan 2022/23**

The Portfolio Holder for Children, Education, Skills, and Early Help set out the Cabinet recommendation to approve the Youth Justice Plan. In proposing the recommendation, he also advised that the plan was considered and supported by People & Health Overview Committee on 3 May 2022.

Decision

That the Youth Justice Plan 2022/23 be approved.

24. Community Governance Review - Final Recommendations

The Leader of Council presented the report in respect of the Community Governance Review following the public consultation exercise and the cross-party working group.

Cllr L Fry seconded the recommendation.

In supporting the reports proposals, several councillors welcomed the removal of certain parishes from the final recommendation.

Decision

- (a) That the proposals set out in Appendix 1 of the report, be adopted by the Council as Final Recommendations for the purposes of the Community Governance Review.
- (b) That, save as set out in the Final Recommendations, the existing parishes in the Dorset Council area, and the names, boundaries, council size, groupings, and other parish governance arrangements in respect of those parishes, remain unchanged.
- (c) That the Final Recommendations form a Reorganisation Order to take effect on 1 April 2024.

25. Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel

The Leader of the Council introduced the report and proposed its recommendation. This was seconded by Cllr N Ireland.

Cllr N Ireland put forward the following amendment.

That part 5 (7.) of the Scheme of Allowances in the constitution be amended to read: -

“A dependent carers’ allowance paid to members of up to £11* per hour, i.e. actual expenditure incurred up to a maximum of £11 per hour, *or in exception and by prior arrangement with the Service Manager for Democratic & Electoral Services invoiced expenditure above £11 per hour*, will be paid for care of dependants, whether children, elderly people or people with

disabilities, while a member is on Dorset Council business where travelling allowances are payable.”

The Leader of the Council confirm that he was supportive of the amendment and seconded the motion.

Upon being put to the vote the amendment was **CARRIED**.

Cllr B Quayle left the meeting at this juncture.

Decision (Substantive)

That the attached report and recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel, in respect of the review of allowances for co-opted and independent members, as set out in paragraph 8.2 of the Dorset Council Scheme of Members' Allowances, and other matters reviewed, be adopted by Full Council and that the Panel be thanked for their work in arriving at the recommendations.

- (a) To increase the allowance for the Co-opted Members of the Police and Crime Panel (PCP) to £2,000 per annum in recognition of the significant role that they perform and the huge impact they have on the success or otherwise of the PCP.
- (b) To increase the retainer for the Independent Person appointed to contribute to the arrangements of promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct to £1,000 per annum and that any significant additional duties are agreed and remunerated at an hourly rate to be determined in the discretion of the Monitoring Officer.
- (c) To increase the allowance for the Co-opted Members of the Harbours Committee to £1,000 per annum to recognise the role performed outside of the formal meetings of the Committee.
- (d) To increase the allowance paid to Co-opted Members of the Overview Committee to £500 per annum on the basis that this might increase the likelihood of recruiting members to these positions.
- (e) To include an allowance within the Travel Allowances section of the Scheme to reimburse the cost of charging an electric vehicle and that this should be set at the same rate as for petrol and diesel vehicles.
- (f) That a consultation be undertaken of Dorset Councillors regarding the possible introduction of a policy for Parental/Adoption/Sick leave and that the response be considered as part of the Panel's next fundamental review of the Scheme.
- (g) That part 5 (7.) of the constitution's Scheme of Allowances be amended to read: -

“A dependent carers’ allowance paid to members of up to £11* per hour, i.e. actual expenditure incurred up to a maximum of £11 per hour, *or in exception and by prior arrangement with the Service Manager for Democratic & Electoral Services invoiced expenditure above £11 per hour*, will be paid for care of dependants, whether children, elderly people or people with disabilities, while a member is on Dorset Council business where travelling allowances are payable.”

26. Honorary Aldermen/Alderwomen of the Dorset Council Area

The Leader of the Council introduced a recommendation from Audit and Governance Committee of 22 June 2022. The recommendation was seconded by Cllr M Hall.

Several councillors spoke against the proposed scheme as they failed to see how the proposal was of benefit to Dorset’s residents. There were no projected costs for the scheme or its administration and there were also concerns expressed on how an “outstanding contribution” would be measured.

Upon being put to the vote the motion was **LOST**.

27. Urgent items

There were no urgent items.

28. Exempt Business

There was no exempt business to report.

Appendix 1 - Public Questions

Appendix 2 - Councillor Questions and Responses

Duration of meeting: 6.30 - 8.06 pm

Chairman

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**Full Council
14 July 2022**

Questions and Statements submitted for the Public Participation Period

Question 1 – submitted by Richard Lonsdale - WITHDRAWN

Recently a telegraph pole in the parish I live in was knocked down resulting in a loss of phone line & internet for a number of residents and businesses. My understanding is that, whilst Openreach only needed a day to install a new pole and re-connect the lines, it required however a road closure which took several days to approve. As a result, phone & internet lines were out for a week.

In 2022 surely a communication line (especially in a rural area) would be deemed an essential service & warrant an emergency road closure without the need to wait for Dorset Council's permission (rather than merely inform them)?

Question 2 – submitted by Jane Ashdown

A number of local media outlets (West Dorset Magazine <https://westdorsetmag.co.uk/editions/edition-9/> Dorchester Nub) recently reported that Dorset Council has received £135,000 from the Government's Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC). According to MP Chris Loder, these funds are to support Dorset Council in reworking their Local Plan. In particular Mr. Loder claims that this reworking will allow the Council to shelve the 4,000 houses proposed for the north of Dorchester (DOR13). Given how unpopular this latter proposal is and given the water quality, traffic, environmental, heritage and cultural degradation this development would bring such news is to be welcomed. As is the prospect of rethinking the overall Plan.

However, in a May press release the Government's DLUHC web site (May 21st, 2022 – see link below) lists North Dorchester (DOR 13) as a Garden Village project in receipt of £135,000 to promote its development for housing.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/garden-communities-set-to-flourish-across-england#:~:text=Today's%20investment%20brings%20total%20funding,North%2C%20Midlands%20and%20South%20West.>

This is puzzling - two different announcements about the proposed housing development north of Dorchester and the same amount of funding in each case. The people of Dorset and particularly Dorchester could be forgiven for being confused. And amidst these possibly conflicting announcements Dorset Council has not issued any statement or press release about receiving government funding which might clarify the situation. Indeed, since Councillor Flower's press release back in January reflecting his concerns about the Local Plan there has been radio silence in terms of changes to the Local Plan as a result of the consultation well over a year ago and silence on a timetable for moving forward.

As taxpayers we should be the first to know about changes to the Plan. Can Councillor Flower clarify how this £135,000 will be used? Can he also clarify the status of the north of Dorchester (DOR 13) proposal for 4,000 houses in light of this funding?

Response by Cllr David Walsh

The £135,000 is in fact part of the Garden Communities initiative and is not related to reworking of the emerging local plan. Dorset Council has been provided with funding to evaluate the feasibility of bringing forwards a garden community in North Dorchester and work is taking place with the involvement of local communities to consider options. The site at North Dorchester will need to be taken forward through the emerging Dorset Local Plan.

Question 3 – submitted by Giles Watts

At a recent planning meeting for Town and Parish Councils on 29th May, Dorset Council published a timetable for Dorset's Local plan which shows submission of the new plan between October 2022 and March 2023. This is contrary to Spencer Flower's suggestion that he is negotiating a 2-year extension with the government along with mitigation against failing the 5-year housing supply and the housing delivery. In public, the council have been silent on the schedule for the Local Plan and what changes they plan to make. Furthermore, they have not published any analysis of the initial public consultation that took place over a year ago. Can the council please confirm the schedule for the Local Plan going forward and clarify what further opportunities there will be for consultation with the general public when a revised plan is published.

Response by Cllr Spencer Flower

The dates quoted at the meeting with the town and parish councils were the dates from the current adopted local development scheme. We have not yet confirmed a revised programme, but are likely to do so later this year. There will be a further opportunity for people to comment, at the next stage when a revised version of the plan will be published. There will also be a public examination, where all the issues will be considered by an independent inspector, before the plan is adopted'

Question 4 – submitted by Sandra Reeve

Energy Efficiency.

I welcome the recent changes to building regulations, which came into force on 15th June, that require new homes in England to produce significantly less CO2. I also welcome the phasing out of gas boilers by 2025 which will support the change towards heat pumps. These changes pave the way for the Future Homes and Buildings Standard in 2025 which will mean that all future homes will be net zero ready and will not need retrofitting. However, it is within Dorset Council's power to act faster. It is wrong that new houses are being built now that will require retrofitting

in a few years' time. It is also wrong that houses are not being built with rooftop solar as standard in this time of very high energy prices and rising cost of living. Will Dorset Council use its powers to make sure new developments conform to the highest possible standards of insulation and have rooftop solar as standard for clean, renewable energy generation?

Response by Cllr David Walsh

Building Regulations are being stepped up to improve the energy performance of new buildings and this is a vital step forward in tackling the climate emergency. Planning applications must be considered in the context of the adopted local plan and government policy, which currently do not require such measures to be included. However, Dorset Council is reviewing its policies on new development to ensure that development is optimised for minimising its carbon footprint and resilient to climate change.

Question 5 – submitted by Alistair Chisholm

Nutrient Neutrality.

In June, Dorset Council generated a report on the “Five Year housing land supply” and its impact on the Purbeck Local Plan. The conclusion was that, due to the new guidance issued by Natural England about nutrient neutrality for nitrogen and phosphorous, no new developments in the Poole Harbour watershed which are not yet started can be included in the five-year housing supply. As a result, the Council is unable to identify a deliverable housing supply for the 2021-2026 plan period. Presumably this advice will also impact any similar developments in Local Plan such as DOR13. Please can the council provide more information on the implications for both the Purbeck and the Dorset local plans?

Response by Cllr David Walsh

Dorset Council will be assessing the implications of the need to secure nutrient neutrality across the various catchment areas that affect Dorset. In the case of Poole Harbour catchment and the Purbeck Local Plan, Dorset Council is awaiting clarification from Natural England on the degree to which current nutrient mitigation measures secure nutrient neutrality for both nitrogen and phosphorus. Dorset Council will provide updates to its evidence and understanding of the issue as and when it has further information to publish.

Question 6 – submitted by Tracee Cossey

The County Hall site in Dorchester is barely used. The library has moved, the County Court has closed and many of the remaining buildings have few permanent staff with many people choosing to work from home. This is a large site with considerable

potential for brownfield development that would have a much lower carbon footprint than any greenfield development in the area. Would the council consider a full redevelopment of the site by adding it to the official Brownfield register with the purpose of providing affordable and social housing for the people of Dorset?

Response by Cllr Tony Ferrari

We are very aware of the changes occurring in office use over recent times and made the strategic decision to either reuse South Walks House or County Hall. The decision was taken that despite the reduced numbers of staff coming in every day, significant staff numbers still need an office location and Dorset Council needed to retain a substantial building in Dorchester. We will continue to look for efficiencies across our office usage but a site needs to be retained.

Although it did not generate housing, the solution adopted was to lease South Walks House to the NHS. Doing so enabled the NHS to provide additional health facilities for Dorset residents. This was the right use of a building offsetting any negligible carbon footprint increase, with healthcare facilities into the centre of Dorchester that in turn is generating increased footfall and trade to local businesses and substantially reduced Dorset Councils property costs which is a fantastic outcome for Dorset residents"

**Full Council
14 July 2022**

Questions submitted by Councillors

Question 1 – submitted by Cllr Andrew Starr

Given that Dorset is blessed with many outstanding protected sites some benefiting much needed statutory protection and in light of the fact that this council has quite rightly declared an environmental emergency. Can I ask for a response to the worrying news that the Environment Secretary has declared his intention to scrap the habitat directive as part of the forthcoming Brexit freedoms bill.

The stated aim of this move is to “cut red tape” or as some see it make it easier for developers to encroach on nationally and internationally important conservation areas. Given that the present legislation has been used in numerous cases to protect habitats and species and that this move has been objected to by such organisations as the RSPB. Can I ask if this Council will be making representations to the Environment Secretary expressing their concern about this seemingly backwards step in environmental protection at a time when it is needed more than ever.

Response by Cllr Ray Bryan

Indeed we are blessed with an outstanding natural environment here in Dorset. Under the Environment Act 2021 (already enacted through Parliament), there is a mandate for a Local Nature Recovery Strategy. Dorset Council responded to the government’s recent ‘Nature Recovery Green Paper: Protected Sites and Species’ consultation in May 2022. This included future options for wildlife designated sites. In it we said: ‘In order to deliver the Government’s ambitions for nature recovery, there is a need to strengthen the protected site network. There is strong scientific evidence that the UK’s most important wildlife designations (European sites, which include Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs)) are effective in protecting the habitats and species for which they are designated.

In the consultation response we supported options which provided even greater protection to the most important wildlife sites emphasising the need for protected sites to be given the same level of protection that is currently given to European Sites. This will prevent the deterioration of SAC and SPAs and deliver improvements to the condition of Sites of Special Scientific Interest. We asked that the process of designating sites should be expediated to deliver the Defra promise of protecting 30% of land and sea for nature by 2030.

Dorset Council places great value upon the protection and stewardship of our unique environment, reflected in commitments expressed in our policies, including statutory local plans and our Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy. The Government has committed to reviewing retained EU law following Brexit, via a ‘Brexit Freedoms’ Bill. Dorset Council will pay close attention to this Bill as it progresses through Parliament, including any draft consultation stages, and we will continue to respond

as necessary once further details of the Bill are known where it is appropriate to do so.

Question 2 – submitted by Cllr Belinda Bawden

The recent sudden announcement by Stagecoach that they would be terminating their bus service from Exeter to Lyme Regis at Seaton from 31st July has left many people in Seaton, Lyme Regis and the villages in between very anxious indeed. Many rely on the service to get to work, to attend medical, dental or hospital appointments, to go shopping, or for leisure travel. Devon County Council has agreed to subsidise the new service but the majority of passengers are, we are told, from Lyme Regis. I hope that Dorset Council will also agree to provide support to retain an adequate bus service between Lyme Regis, Seaton and Exeter.

Could the criteria for and the process by which decisions are made by Dorset Council over which bus services could be subsidised be explained, particularly when the route crosses county boundaries and what assessment could be done of the impact on community resilience, mental health, the cost of living crisis and the climate and ecological emergency strategy and action plan if people lose their jobs or have to increase the use of private cars when buses they rely on are withdrawn?

Response by Cllr Ray Bryan

When deciding whether a bus route receives subsidy, a number of factors are taken into consideration and each route is considered on a case by case basis.

The main priorities are

1. Does the route provide home to school transport for Dorset students?
2. Does the corridor form part of Dorset's Interurban Network? (Attached)
3. Are there other public or community transport alternatives for residents along the route?

The number of passengers that use the service is also taken into consideration when assessing the value for money.

Dorset Council does not currently subsidise Saturday, Sunday or evening services. In 2016, Dorset Council withdrew support for all Market Day services (those that ran from villages to market towns on market days only).

With regards to the impact on the community, Dorset Travel has a remit and limited resources to help people get from A to B. The wider remit of mental health, cost of living crisis and climate & ecological emergency rests with other services within the Council, that may have resources to assist with public transport if it meets their criteria.

I am currently waiting for a date from the BSIP team at DFT to explain why our bid failed.

We met with Baroness Vere a few weeks ago and asked for an explanation, sadly nothing received so far.

Chris Loder MP asked again at a recent Transport Select Committee meeting in London and was assured that an explanation would be given. My patience is running out fast.

To enable us to become carbon zero by 2050 we need to provide the Dorset Residents with a public transport system that gives them an alternative to use of their car.

Question 3 – submitted by Cllr Alex Brenton

In response to the climate and biodiversity emergency, and Dorset Council aims to become Carbon neutral by 2050.

As we all know the public demand that we **Plant More Trees!** However experts agree that preserving mature trees does more for biodiversity and air quality and cooling than a new sapling will, for approximately **15 -20years**. It takes that long for a new tree to capture carbon at a rate approaching that of a mature tree. Therefore, planting two new trees to replace one felled tree is **not** a solution to our problems. The solution is to save existing trees from danger as well as to plant more young successional trees.

In my ward, we seem to have a many cases of the felling of mature trees on possible development sites before planning is agreed, on the principle that if they do not have a TPO (Tree Preservation Order) the owner can do what they like. I would not be surprised to hear that happens elsewhere.

Could Dorset do more to publicise that anyone especially Parish & Town Councils can ask for a TPO to be put on significant trees if there is a perceived risk of felling?.

Could a blanket temporary TPO be put on all trees on a site as soon as any Planning Application is registered to prevent trees ‘disappearing’ before planning conditions can be agreed. This can then be assessed by Tree Officers as to whether that should be permanent.?

Response by Cllr David Walsh

It is fully acknowledged that trees play a vital role in terms of amenity, biodiversity and carbon capture. Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) are made by local planning authorities where they have an amenity value that justifies the tree’s preservation, assuming it is justified. Whilst biodiversity and climate change can be taken into consideration, these alone are not grounds for making a TPO. Trees within conservation areas are also protected under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

The Council’s website provides information about Tree Preservation Orders and how to notify us if people have concerns about a particular tree, but it is acknowledged that the relevant pages could be improved to provide better and more proactive

information about TPOs. This is something we will be rolling out as part of our improvements to the web portal.

Under current legislation, local authorities can only make a TPO if it appears to them to be 'expedient in the interests of amenity to make provision for the preservation of trees or woodlands in their area'. Orders are provisional until confirmed 6 months after they come into effect, but should only be issued where it is considered necessary to do so. Therefore, it is not possible to issue blanket TPOs as a default position as each tree or group of trees need to be assessed. However, biodiversity net gain is due to become a statutory requirement in 2023, and retaining existing trees will therefore be a potentially significant way of ensuring a net overall benefit can be achieved. The LPA will be exploring this further as part of its policy approach to Biodiversity Net Gain and the Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy.

Question 4 – submitted by Cllr Nick Ireland

Allegations have been made in the press, social media and directly to some members of this Council that Coombe House opened prematurely with too many pupils, insufficient staff trained to or having experience at the required level for the needs of the pupils, some fire doors that didn't open, windows without safety glass that were subsequently broken by pupils and, if that isn't enough, some pupils 'escaped' the school site.

Are any of these allegations true?

Response by Cllr Andrew Parry

Coombe House School is an Independent Special School, situated on the site of the Dorset Centre of Excellence – the building is owned by Dorset Council.

The school is run by a company, called Dorset Centre of Excellence. The company structure has a Chief Operating Officer COO (this role is currently vacant and being recruited to) who reports into an Independent Board of Non-Executive Directors. The Chair of the Independent Board is Ian Comfort.

The premises were purchased as part of Dorset Council's legal duty to ensure that there are sufficient suitable places in education for children and young people with special education needs and disabilities (SEND). This decision was met with 92% agreement in public consultation and with cross party support

Responsibility for the running of the school, including pupil wellbeing, staffing, and the curriculum, sits with the Independent Board of Dorset Centre of Excellence, the COO and the Schools Leadership Team.

The school received its notice of registration from the Department for Education on 6 May 2022. The inspection report from Ofsted associated with that registration was very positive.

It independently confirmed that appropriate policies, procedures, and safeguards were in place to open the school. The Independent Board considered the Ofsted report and the advice of the Chief Operating Officer and Headteacher. It decided for the school to open with a staggered start on 16 May 2022. The school opened on that day with 15 children. It was the independent board's understanding that the individual needs of child had been jointly assessed by Coombe House Leadership and Dorset Council SEND Service and that they had been allocated to a class with an appropriate number of suitable qualified and experienced staff.

It was also the independent board's understanding that a significant amount of planning and training had been undertaken since January 2022 with most of the staff. The numbers of children attending the school increased each day, reaching a capacity of 47 by the Wednesday of that first week. The board was assured by the COO and the head teacher that the staggered start could be managed as all of the children had been involved in transition visits prior to opening.

At the point of opening there remained challenges with fencing supply and delivery of the contract to fence the school site, and the site boundary, with welded wire mesh fencing leading to some requirement of infill in small areas with Heras fencing. This had been risk assessed although this was not ideal it could be managed. There were incidences of children climbing over or simply moving the fences in the first week, a child left the site and walked home which was close by.

Some matters were dealt with straight away with an appropriate intervention from staff, as part of the School's management of its boundary; there were no intruders to the site. Some areas of the site remain under development – all windows on the fenced school site have the required glass, there was an incident where a child threw a stone and a window was broken - no one was hurt.

All other areas where there is a plan for use in September are scheduled to have suitable glass and or covering by the time they are being brought into use.

The independent fire assessment undertaken states 'fire safety on this small site is adequate and will be improved further with planned works over the summer'.

However, the first week of school was bumpy with children and staff coming together, and despite assurances from the COO and the Headteacher, not sufficiently well planned to ensure that children could be safely and effectively managed. Following a letter of concern to the Council the Executive Director and the Chair of the Board reviewed the situation and determined to close the school for one week from 23rd May. This joint decision was the first stage in bringing forward the 'Enhanced Co-operation' element of the commissioning framework. The Chair of the Independent Board considered, along with the Executive Director, the matter of how the leadership of the school had managed events both in the lead up to opening and during that first week and as a result the Headteacher is presently not in school; and as has been communicated previously, COO Mark Blackman resigned from his post.

The Enhanced Cooperation allows the Executive Director and her team to provide support to the Board to ensure everything that we require to be in place to ensure

safe and effective delivery is in place, this has been welcomed by the Independent Chair and his Board.

Following half term 32 children on roll have been in school for set days each week, but none full time, and some of the original 47, have now not been considered by the school to be ready or able to return, the Council are working with those families to source a suitable education offer elsewhere as they would do when any educational placement does not work for whatever reason.

All these families have a single point of contact at Dorset Council, and I am confident they are being kept informed as to why the school feels we need to make these changes.

In acknowledgment of the help needed at the school, Sean Kretz the Head of Westfield Arts College, the Executive Director and her leadership team have been providing day-to-day support to the staff and children and support and challenge to the Board to develop a suitable recovery plan.

That work continues and involves other members of our special school system too.

The school has now closed for the summer on Friday 8 July in line with other Independent Schools.

This allows a crucial couple of weeks at the close of term to ensure that staff have an opportunity to make sure all training and development requirements are up to date. It will also allow for some vital works to be completed on the site in preparation for a September start.

We are continuing to recruit at pace again to ensure sufficiently experienced staff will be available for September.

We plan the school opening in September with 36 children on roll – slightly lower than planned initially but this allows a secure and steady growth as we progress with plans and the school's senior leadership team recruitment.

Children and young people are at the heart of our decision making and we must make sure the school can offer the first-class education that we know we can provide them by supporting the Board, the staff and our families. There is not an overnight solution to this, it will take a bit more time than we had envisaged but we are confident that it is going in the right direction.

I appreciate your patience as we support the Independent School in settling. I was on the school site for the last week and the children in school were engaged and positive.

Dorset Council

20 October 2022

Refreshed Council Plan 2022 - 2024

For Recommendation to Council

Portfolio Holder: Cllr J Haynes, Corporate Development and Transformation

Local Councillor(s): All

Executive Director: M Prosser, Chief Executive

Report Author: Aidan Dunn
Title: Executive Director for Corporate Development
Tel: 01305 838086
Email: aidan.dunn@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Report Status: Public

Recommendation:

Members of the Council approve the refreshed Council Plan 2022-24 and the new strategic delivery plan.

Reason for Recommendation:

As the strategic document setting out the priorities of the council for 2022 - 24, this should be approved by all Dorset councillors.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Dorset Council plan is the council's key strategic planning document, which articulates the council's overall aims and ambitions, and is the focus for setting key targets for the council.
- 1.2 The first iteration of the Dorset Council plan was approved by Full Council on 18 February 2020. A second iteration was developed following the COVID-19 pandemic, to reflect some of the changed priorities and support COVID recovery. This was approved by Cabinet on 5 October 2021 and is available on the council website: www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/council-plan. This version of the plan continues to follow the same format as previous iterations for continuity.

1.3 At the Annual Council meeting on Thursday 12 May 2022, Leader Cllr Spencer Flower set out 10 priorities as his 'leadership mission statement'. These 10 Cabinet Commitments relate to:

- a) Dorset Local Plan
- b) Housing for local people
- c) Adult social care
- d) Children's services
- e) Assets and property
- f) Working with the Integrated Care system
- g) Climate and ecological strategy
- h) Community safety
- i) County deal
- j) Digital innovation

1.4 Councillors and officers have reviewed the Dorset Council Plan to ensure that 10 commitments are fully incorporated alongside agreed transformation plans. Once approved by full Council, this refreshed Dorset Council Plan will become council policy for delivery, streamlining our policy documents and providing a clear strategic focus.

1.5 The development of the plan has been led by Councillors through the following steps:

- 12 May: Cabinet mission statement shared with full Council
- 7 June: Review of the draft council plan at People and Health Overview Committee
- 28 June: Review of the draft council plan at Places and Resources Overview Committee
- 26 July: Council Plan reviewed at Cabinet and recommended to full council
- 20 October: Recommended for approval by full Council

Amendments made to the Dorset Council Plan as a result of this consultation process are documented in the minutes of each relevant meeting.

1.6 The refreshed Council Plan incorporates the following:

- 10 cabinet commitments derived from the leadership mission statement
- Transformation plans relating to activity in 2022-24
- Legislative change
- Service improvement

1.7 The main changes to the Dorset Council Plan are as follows with 6 priorities changed and condensed to 5 priorities:

- a) 'Economic growth' changed to 'driving economic prosperity'

- b) 'Unique environment' and 'climate and ecology' merged to a single new priority 'protecting our natural environment, climate and ecology'
- c) 'Suitable housing' changed to 'creating sustainable development and housing' which also now incorporates more of our work on the Local Plan as well as housing
- d) 'Strong healthy communities' and 'staying safe and well' merged into a single priority for 'creating stronger, healthier communities'
- e) Creation of a new priority 'becoming a more responsive, customer focused council'

1.8 A new strategic delivery plan 2022-24 has been created which is attached in draft at Appendix B. This sets out the council's key activities to achieve the 5 priorities in the Dorset Council Plan. These will be monitored quarterly with progress shared with the Dorset Council Cabinet, and annually with Dorset Councillors, residents, businesses and partners.

A summarised version and an easy read version for people with learning disabilities will also be made available on the Dorset Council website.

2. **Financial Implications**

The Dorset Council Plan and Delivery Plan 2022-24 is costed and will be delivered in line with the councils budget strategy and medium term financial plan (MTFP).

The MTFP shows how we intend to ensure that money will be prioritised to those services that matter most to residents and how the council will re-shape itself to be better able to deliver those services within the available funding. This year's budget setting exercise takes place against a national and global background of extreme pressures for councils. There is high and sustained inflation and we have seen a prolonged period of political instability. War in Ukraine and its humanitarian and economic consequences are also being felt globally.

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

The council continues to deliver services to support residents with their specific needs. The Council Plan is designed to impact positively on the well-being and health of all through the joined up, consistent delivery of over 450 services. This includes the provision of universal and specialist services to residents and businesses alongside benefits driven from responsible management of the natural environment.

4. **Environmental Implications**

Dorset Council is committed to delivering the Climate and Ecological strategy and as such, the new council plan incorporates a priority to ensure delivery of this. The purpose of our council plan is to ensure a joined-up and consistent approach across all council services to ensure that we improve access to and use of Dorset's natural environment in a sustainable way which protects it for future generations.

5. **Other Implications**

None

6. **Risk Assessment**

6.1 Having considered the risks associated with this decision; the level of risk has been identified as:

Current Risk: Low Residual Risk: Low

7. **Equalities Impact Assessment**

We are committed to ensuring fair and accessible services for everyone in Dorset through the delivery of services and improvements as set out in our council plan. Where the council will make changes to a service or offer, an equality impact assessment will be undertaken to ensure due regard of the Equality Act 2010 and the Public Sector Equality Duty.

The overall council plan has not been the subject of a separate equality impact assessment but the changes upon which delivery of the plan will depend will themselves be subject to impact assessments.

8. **Appendices**

Appendix A is the draft Council Plan 2022-24

Appendix B is the new draft Delivery Plan 2022-24

9. **Background Papers**

Dorset Council Plan approved 18 February 2020

Dorset Council Plan update with Covid-19 implications approved 5 October 2021

Draft Dorset Council Plan 2022-24 Cabinet paper 26 July 2022

Footnote:

Issues relating to financial, legal, environmental, economic and equalities implications have been considered and any information relevant to the decision is included within the report.

Dorset Council's Plan

2022 - 2024



Updated: July 2022

Welcome

Our bold and ambitious Council Plan sets out our key priorities for the next two years, to 2024. It is our commitment to you, our residents, and our partners.

Our bold and ambitious Council Plan sets out our key priorities for the next two years, to 2024. It is our commitment to you, our residents, and our partners.

We have made huge progress since the council was created in 2019. Achievement of our initial objectives is something we are particularly proud of, at a time of huge challenge during the pandemic where we responded with compassion and resilience.

This has given us a renewed sense of determination and ambition and I am optimistic that we can look back with pride having delivered our commitments. Democracy is an important part of our society, and we will stand on our record of achievements. We have and will continue to work hard to fulfil the needs and aspirations of our communities.

Ward councillors play a key role in supporting their communities and ensuring that local voices are heard, and issues, both individual and community-wide, are dealt with in an effective and timely manner. Do keep them informed about local concerns which affect you and offer constructive challenge. By working together, we can continue to make Dorset a great place to live, work and visit. The same can be said about the strong and productive partnerships we have established with key stakeholders, helping to create bold and ambitious relationships which deliver the best outcomes for the people of Dorset.

Thank you



Cllr Spencer Flower,
Leader of Dorset Council

Key Cabinet Commitments

Working on your behalf, we will ensure that we achieve the best outcomes, continuing to lobby Ministers and Dorset MPs on a regular basis to ensure a fairer deal for Dorset. **To achieve our vision for 2024 we will:**

- 1 Dorset Local Plan** – Take a different approach to Local Plan preparation by being far more strategic, including a two-year extension for having an approved plan. We will continue to work with Homes England and the New Communities Team to deliver a sustainable garden town in Dorset.
- 2 Housing for local people** - Develop stronger relationships with registered providers (including housing associations), working together to deliver affordable housing to rent. We will build on our investment in council owned temporary accommodation to substantially reduce the dependance on bed and breakfast for those who are homeless and need short-term accommodation.
- 3 Climate and Ecological Strategy** – Deliver on our agreed policy and commitments and attract government funding to enable us to meet our net zero target by 2040.
- 4 Adult Social Care** – Change the way we deliver services to ensure we respond to increased demand at a stable and affordable cost.
- 5 Children's Services** – Continue to roll out our £37.5m Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) investment programme and undertake the objectives set out in our 2020-2023 Children's Plan and the Strategic Alliance for Children & Young People.
- 6 Assets and Property** – Drive our disposal and repurposing programme and maximise the potential of the Dorset Centre of Excellence in Shaftesbury.
- 7 Shaping the Integrated Care System** – Get a better deal for the council in the partnership that will ensure the best outcomes for those who need our support and achieve affordable costs to the council and the NHS.
- 8 Community Safety** – Work closely with Dorset Police to ensure we achieve the best outcomes when dealing with local crime and anti-social behaviour. We will work with the Police and Crime Commissioner to make Dorset the safest county in the country.
- 9 County Deal** – Work with Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole (BCP) Council and Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) to bid for a County Deal agreement with the government which will enhance and drive economic development, the skills agenda, and attract additional government funding.
- 10 Digital Innovation** – Continue to pioneer new technologies and create the foundations for long-term economic prosperity. We will work to safeguard and encourage job retention and growth, working with the private sector.

Understanding Dorset

Population

Dorset Council area has a population of 380,000 residents, 29% of whom are aged 65 and older (compared to 19% in England and Wales). Dorset is an attractive place, and many people choose to retire here. It has a large population of older people, and relatively low birth rates. Currently there are over 7,000 people in Dorset living with dementia, and the number is increasing. Younger people often move away from the area. The population continues to grow slowly, driven by people moving into the county and longer life expectancy. The greatest area of population growth is among over 65s. Dorset's working age population is expected to see a marginal decline over the next 25 years.

The Dorset rural idyll can conceal hidden deprivation. There are significant areas of deprivation, mostly in urban areas (mainly Weymouth and Portland) and in Bridport and the east of Dorset in Ferndown, Wimborne and Verwood. There is some rural deprivation due to isolation and difficulty accessing housing, transport and essential services. Crime is generally low in Dorset, although anti-social behaviour and rural crime are an ongoing concern. The population is predominantly white British, with 4.4% of our residents from ethnically diverse communities.

Natural, geological and historic environment

Dorset's natural environment is a great asset. 95 miles of coast in Dorset and Devon are classified as a UNESCO Natural World Heritage Site – the only one in England. Over half of Dorset (54%) is covered by an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB); 7% of Dorset is protected as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI); and Dorset has one of the largest areas of protected lowland heath in Europe. These mark Dorset as a special place but also present challenges in terms of available land for delivering housing and employment development.

Dorset also has a rich historic environment, with one in twenty of all the protected ancient monuments in England, a well preserved pre-historic landscape and around 10,000 listed buildings.

Economy and infrastructure

Employment in Dorset is high but, like the UK, our economy has a productivity gap. Manufacturing, health, retail, education and hospitality are all big employers in Dorset. 20,000 businesses are based in Dorset: 86% are micro firms (0-9 employees) and fewer than 1% are large firms.

Dorset's economy is worth around £8.1 billion and provides 142,000 jobs. Dorset has an above average number of advanced engineering and manufacturing businesses, but there is also a continuing seasonal, low skill, low wage economy within tourism and agriculture which are significant industries. The area is rich in valuable minerals, including stone, sand/gravel and oil.

Earnings are below average and house prices are high with affordability issues for many young people and keyworkers.

Dorset has no motorway but over 2,500 miles of roads.

97% of premises in the Dorset Council area have access to superfast broadband and 24% of Dorset with 'gigabit-capable' coverage.

The pandemic in Dorset

Over 25,400 people in Dorset (approximately 7% of our population) had to shield. Sadly between 2020 and 2021, 589 people in Dorset died within 28 days of a positive COVID-19 test. Through this time, the council and its partners provided a wide range of support, including:

- leading a complex health protection programme through Public Health
- handling 34,559 calls through our COVID-19 contact centre, coordinating food parcel and prescription deliveries, practical help with everyday tasks and befriending
- administering £250 million of government grants to support local businesses
- accommodating 49 rough sleepers and homeless households as part of the "everyone in" initiative
- delivering 2,025 food packages and helping local COVID-19 support groups
- working with partners to provide nearly 600,000 vaccines
- vaccinating 96% of care home staff including agency staff

Partners and partnerships

The pandemic has changed how we live, work and think, and one thing it has proved is just how much more we can achieve by working together, across sectors and organisations, to protect and support those in greatest need.

Hundreds of organisations responded to the crisis, including voluntary and community groups, town and parish councils, nurseries, schools and colleges, health and social care providers, registered housing providers and the police, not to mention residents. We have been keeping that energy and spirit of collaboration alive as we find ourselves in a 'new normal' and focus on delivering the priorities described below.

We cannot do this in isolation. Key partners include organisations in the health and social care economy, voluntary and community organisations, education providers, the local business community, Dorset's Local Nature Partnership, digital infrastructure providers, the Jurassic Coast Trust, Dorset Wildlife Trust, the National Trust, Natural England, Art Development Company, Homes England, Dorset Police, Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service, Community Land Trusts, Public Health England, colleagues in the Integrated Care System, NHS Dorset, Dorset Healthcare Trust, Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council, the Local Enterprise Partnership, the ambulance service, transport providers, the Armed Forces and probation services.

Our values, behaviours and principles

The delivery of our priorities will be undertaken in line with our core organisational values.

Our values

At Dorset Council we:

- are an advocate for Dorset on a local, national and global stage
- we work together with our communities and our partners to make things happen
- put people first and design services around their needs now and in future
- are open, accessible and accountable
- use time and money wisely
- value people and build on their strengths

Our cultural and equality objectives

We will:

- foster good relations with and within the community
- develop a supporting and diverse workforce
- develop, commission and deliver inclusive and responsive services
- employ a zero-tolerance approach to any form of modern slavery
- remain committed to acting ethically, with integrity and transparency in all that we do

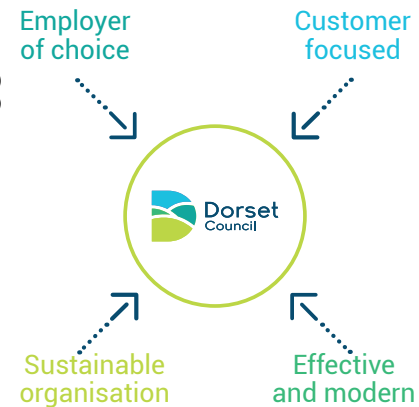
Our behaviours

The Dorset Council behaviours form part of everything we do. Our colleagues will demonstrate them through our attitude and approach when we work with you so that we can help you achieve what you need. Our behaviours are:

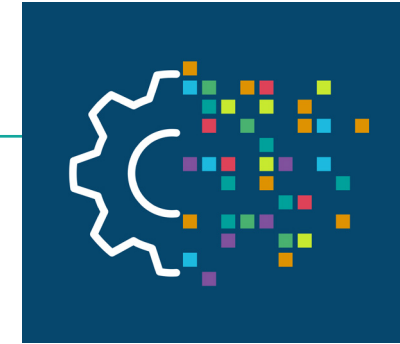


Responsibility • **Respect** • **Recognition** • **Collaboration**

Our principles



Our long-term vision and transformation plan



While our priorities focus on key areas for 2022-24, our big plans do not end there. Our short-term vision is supported by medium and long-term plans to enable us to think 'bigger and bolder'.

Short term – Our priorities for 2022 to 2024

Medium term – Our priorities for 2024 to 2029

Long term – Our aspirations for 2029 and beyond

Our long-term vision will see us strengthen our work with our health partners to deliver the integrated care system 'Our Dorset'. We have joined up to tackle health inequalities and all the things that affect health and wellbeing, to make real change, and improve things for our communities.

We have developed a transformation programme to improve services for residents. It focuses on:

- 1 Being more commercial** – Modernising the way we operate to ensure we are business friendly, to behave in a more business-like way and commission as one council.
- 2 Putting our customers first** – Working together to design and deliver modern, accessible services to our customers.
- 3 Delivering climate and ecological priorities** – Ensuring our change programme delivers in line with our climate and ecological strategy.
- 4 Making the best use of our assets and leading economic growth** – Reviewing the council buildings and properties to ensure best use and value of assets and help drive prosperity whilst adopting a focus on places and spaces.
- 5 Implementing a digital, intelligent, data led approach** – Using our data to help us predict demand and improve our prevention agenda.
- 6 Working with the Integrated Care System** – Working with partners to transform our care services by removing traditional divisions between services, and ensure people and communities get the support and care that they need.

Our priorities for Dorset

Our vision is underpinned by five key priorities for 2022-24 that outline the steps we will take to make Dorset a great place to live, work and visit.

We remain focused on improving the lives of people as well as protecting and enhancing our local places.

These reflect our key areas of focus over the next two years and are collectively established from the following:

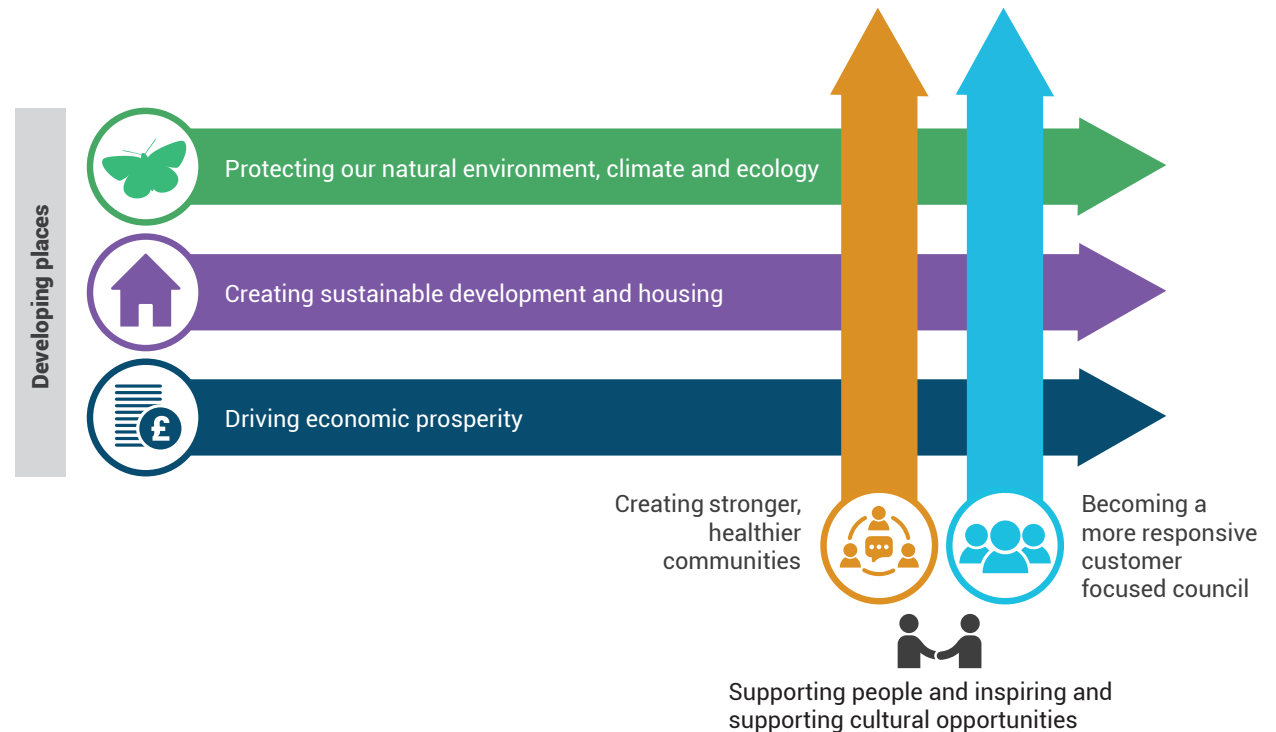
- The local political vision and manifesto
- Our transformation principles
- Planned improvement of our core services
- Response to legislative change or government initiatives

In addition to these priorities, there will be times when we must respond quickly during times of emergency or crisis and will adapt our planning. For 2022-24 this includes, but is not limited to, leading a local response on the following:

- The covid-19 pandemic response and recovery
- The war in Ukraine and the provision of asylum to families
- The cost-of-living crisis and the impact of this on residents and businesses in Dorset

The Delivery Plan sets out in detail how we will deliver our priorities over the next two years. Key actions for each priority are monitored and reported on a quarterly basis to the Cabinet and annually in a report prepared for all councillors, residents, businesses, and partners.

Dorset council refers to all the people we work with, support and work for as 'our customers'. This includes all individuals, families, groups and businesses that interact with the council or one of its partners.





Protecting our natural environment, climate and ecology

We will improve access to, and use of, Dorset's environment in a sustainable way which protects it for future generations.

Dorset Council declared a climate and ecological emergency at its first full council meeting and in July 2021 adopted a strategy and action plan setting out how the council will respond.

This commits us to taking direct action across our operations to become a carbon-neutral council by 2040, and through our wide-ranging services and partnerships, to facilitate the changes required for the whole of Dorset to become carbon-neutral by 2050, and to protect and enhance biodiversity across Dorset.

Our focus will be on the continued decarbonisation of our fleet, expanding electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure, reducing the emissions from our estate and increasing renewable energy generation. We will continue to redefine and shape our policies in key areas to ensure that the council plays its part in accelerating change throughout Dorset, and will accelerate our engagement with residents, businesses and government, including sourcing additional external funds. Dorset Council will also work with others to help improve Dorset's natural environment, working towards a collective goal of 30% of land in positive management by 2030 in line with government targets.

This will involve developing a Local Nature Recovery strategy with partners, as well as taking action in areas such as reducing pollution, ensuring wildlife thrives and increasing conservation work to protect habitats.

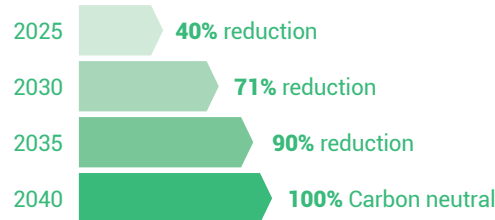
The council will also start to develop a better approach, with partners, to the issue of adaptation to climate change.

Dorset Council's focus in this priority is ensuring that the council meets its net-zero target by 2040 and continues to contribute towards its wider leadership role in delivering the 2050 carbon and 2030 nature ambitions.

Our strategic delivery plan sets out how we will deliver these priorities.

Carbon neutral by 2040

To achieve this, Dorset Council will need to meet interim Carbon budgets of:



Our approach to change is threefold

Direct

Take direct action to reduce our own carbon footprint in order to become carbon neutral by 2040

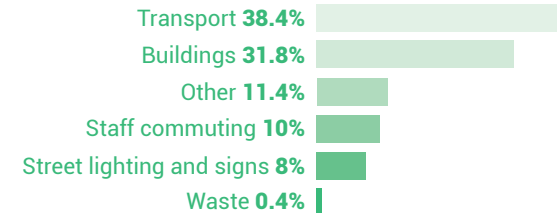
Indirect

Take indirect action to facilitate change

Influence and partnership

Work in partnership with others to drive change across the county and support other projects and programmes

Dorset Council baseline emissions profile, 2019-2020



Action

Our key areas for action are:

Renewable energy

Waste Food & drink

Buildings

Water

Transport

Economy

Natural assets

Temperature predictions

The MET office predicts that:

- Average temperatures will rise by between 1-7 degrees
- Average sea levels will rise by between 27-115cm in the southwest by 2100





Protecting our natural environment, climate and ecology

Dorset environmental economy

(natural assets, agriculture, forestry, fishing, energy, tourism)



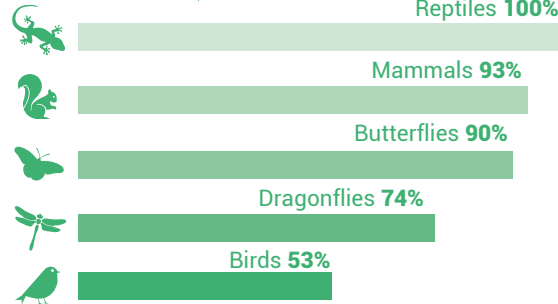
...is valued at up to **15%** of the local economy and supports up to **61,000** jobs

**Living in Dorset

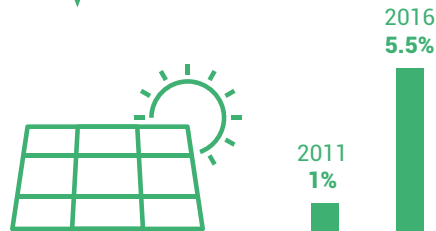


Nine out of ten Dorset residents said the environment was an important factor in their decision to live in Dorset

Native species living in Dorset



*Renewable energy production in Dorset

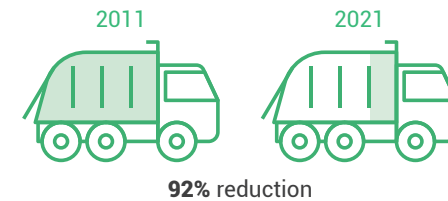


Natural status



Dorset has England's only natural **World Heritage Site** and two **Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)** covering **54%** of the Dorset Council area

**Amount of waste sent to landfill



Publicly available charging points in Dorset



2011 1

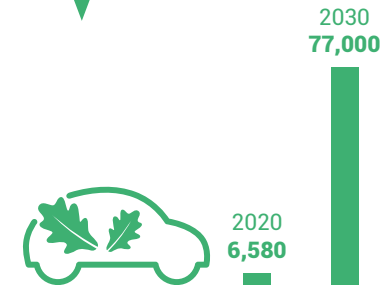
April 2022 133

Car and van emissions



Government targets:
All new cars and vans should be "effectively zero emission" by **2035**

Ultra Low Emission Vehicles (ULEVs)



Current and predicted ULEVs registered in Dorset



Creating stronger, healthier communities

We will enable our residents, working with partners, to develop strong networks of support and maintain strong communities. We will focus on the most vulnerable in our communities to improve wellbeing and reduce inequality through collaboration between public services, community leaders, residents and voluntary groups.

The pandemic has intensified the challenges many vulnerable adults and our children and young people face, and there are widespread concerns about the impact on babies and the very youngest from lost learning, families facing job losses and diminished income, and the impact of social distancing and lockdowns on mental health and wellbeing.

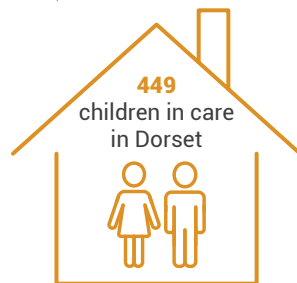
One of the most positive things to have emerged from the pandemic has been the speed and determination of communities, voluntary and community groups, town and parish councils, local shops, and other organisations to support those who need it.

Government funding to local councils has reduced every year for over a decade now and the reality is that we cannot continue to provide everything residents, businesses and visitors want and need, so it is more important than ever that we find the best way of working together. We will do more to support and enable voluntary and charitable organisations who are providing valuable help and support and making a positive difference to our communities.

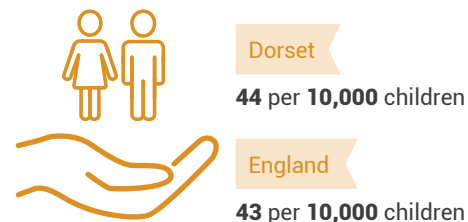
Whether by volunteering for a local group, standing for your local town or parish council, donating to a local food bank, offering your time and expertise to a local initiative, or simply learning more about your local community, everyone can do something. We will continue to support new community groups and initiatives to help make this happen.

Our delivery plan sets out how we will deliver these priorities.

Children in care



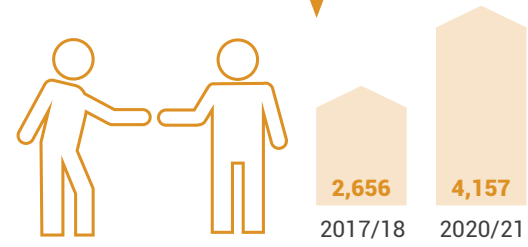
Child protection rate



Level of development

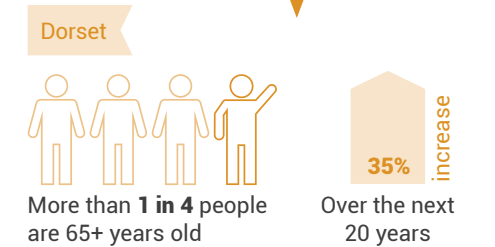


Adult safeguarding concerns



This reflects an increased cultural awareness of adult safeguarding and more informed reporting

Services for older people

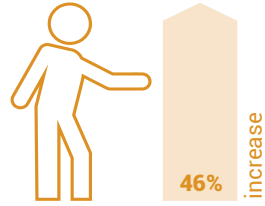


This increase will put pressure on these services



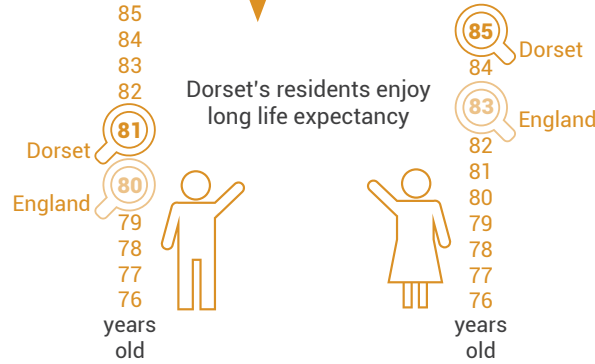
Creating stronger, healthier communities

85+ year olds in Dorset

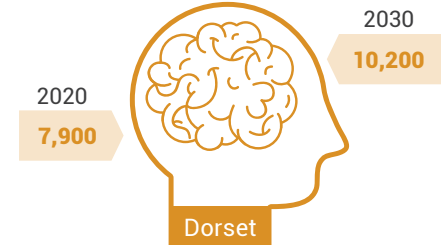


Over the next 10 years

Life expectancy



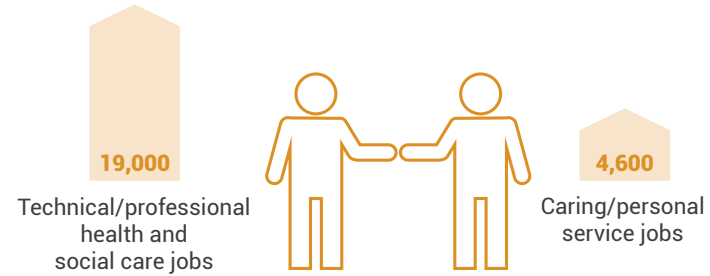
65+ year olds with dementia



Social care services



*Social care jobs over the next 10 years





Creating stronger, healthier communities

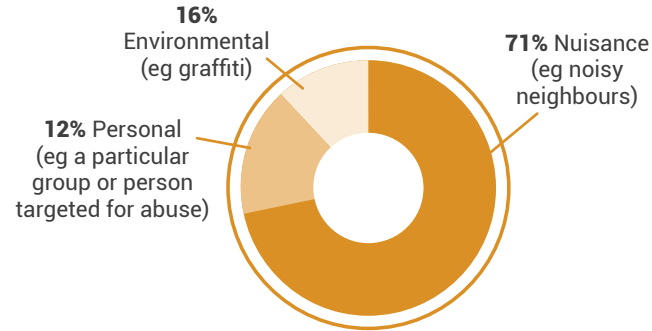
Deprived areas

Dorset has few deprived areas in national terms, but... deprivation is concentrated in certain areas



10 out of 11 deprived areas are in **Weymouth & Portland**

Anti-social behaviour in Dorset



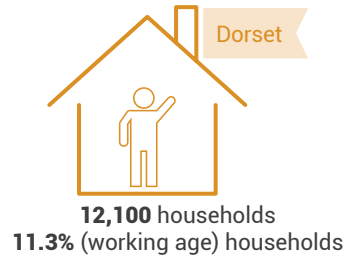
Social Supermarkets

100% increase over the last year in the need to use The Nest Social Supermarket from 2021 to 2022



325 to 650 users

Workless households



Regular physical activity (adults)





Creating sustainable development and housing

We will work with government, registered housing providers, community land trusts and local housing partners to deliver affordable, suitable and decent housing. We will ask for their support to help us promote our climate and ecological priorities by providing sustainable services such as rainwater harvesting, solar panels and other such approaches.

We will take a different approach to Local Plan preparation by being far more strategic, including a two-year extension for having an approved plan. We will continue to work with Homes England and the New Communities Team to deliver a sustainable new settlement within Dorset.

The council will receive and consider an annual report of performance in Dorset from all registered provider housing associations that manage more than 250 homes so residents can access suitable homes.

The pandemic has put enormous pressure on housing services alongside the pre-existing shortage of suitable land for housing development and problems with the supply chain in the construction industry.

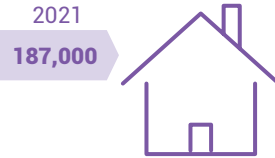
As we see more people moving to Dorset, changing work practices are putting additional pressure on the sales and rental housing market. Working with partners and private owners will be critical in the coming months and years to prevent homelessness and reduce reliance on short term or poor-quality temporary accommodation.

We are committed to supporting providers and private landlords in the increased provision of local rental properties in the same way we remain focussed on the provision of affordable homes for purchase.

We will continue to monitor the impact of local housing being used for tourism such as holiday home rentals. This is in addition to our response to the use of local housing for second homes and the impact this has on the local economy.

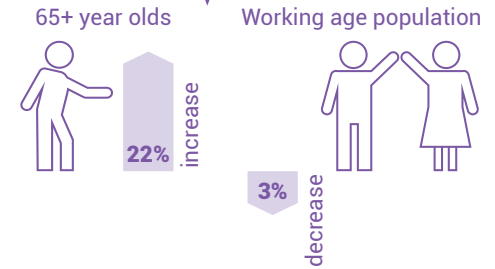
Our delivery plan sets out how we will deliver these priorities.

Properties in Dorset



We will see an increase of around **11,000** properties over the next 5 years

Population change 2022 - 2032



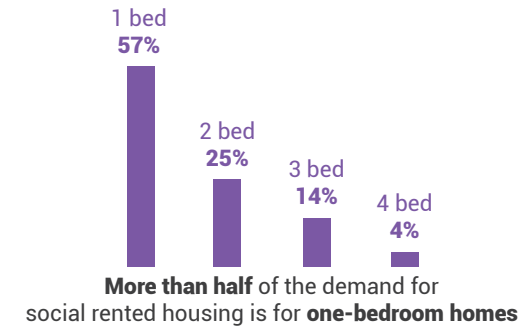
Housing supply needs to reflect this

Homeless households



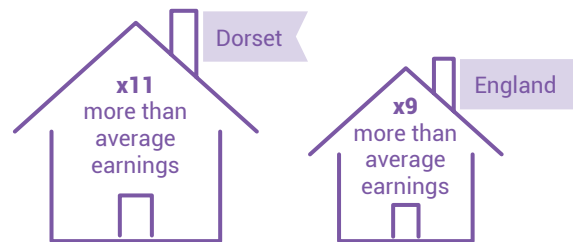
There are **115** homeless households in Dorset

Bedroom demand



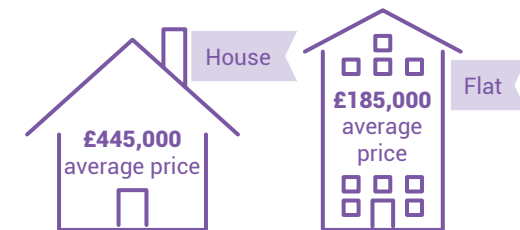
More than half of the demand for social rented housing is for **one-bedroom homes**

Average property prices are...



This makes it **very hard for first time buyers** to join the property market

Property types



Detached houses are the most common type of property in Dorset



Driving economic prosperity

We will support sustainable economic growth across the county, enabling high-quality jobs through improvements to productivity, sustainability, and accessibility, creating great places to live, work and visit. We will drive forward a plan whereby Dorset Council is a catalyst for prosperity and growth, working with and supporting local businesses and partners.

We will focus on supporting social mobility and protection of the environment. We will address Dorset's particular challenges related to its demographics and will be aware of Dorset's unique landscapes. We will also challenge low productivity and lower than average skills.

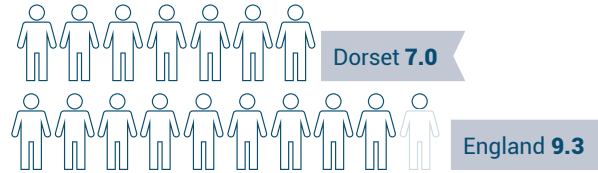
We will create the right conditions to grow a highly skilled workforce matched to high-quality jobs, helping businesses stay, start, grow, and move to Dorset.

The pandemic has had a significant impact on Dorset's economy, though precisely what those impacts are, and how long they will last, will take years to fully understand. The council has worked hard to ensure local businesses have received government grants, distributing over £250m in just 12 months.

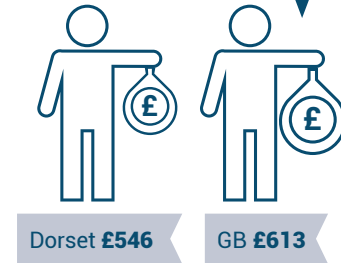
The pandemic has also accelerated flexible and remote working for many people, and this has the potential of supporting Dorset's low-carbon economy and promoting digital skills in future. We will work together to build on these opportunities, driving the roll out of 'gigabit-capable' coverage and 5G to enable people to travel less and access opportunities online so that Dorset's economy can become stronger and more environmentally sustainable.

Our delivery plan sets out how we will deliver these priorities.

Number of employees per business



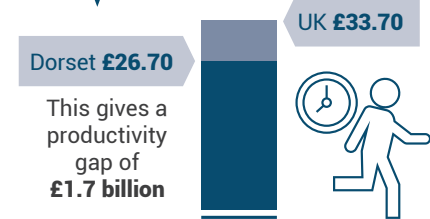
Average weekly earnings



Workforce aged 50+



Value produced for every hour worked





Driving economic prosperity

New businesses



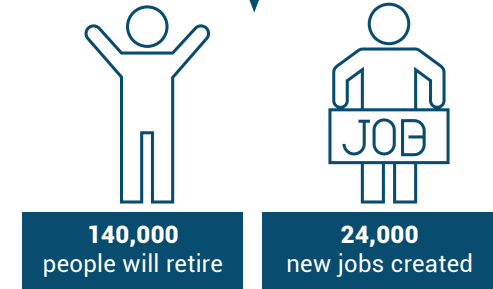
(per 10,000 working age people)

The rate of creation of new businesses is below the national average and has changed little in the last four years

Superfast broadband coverage

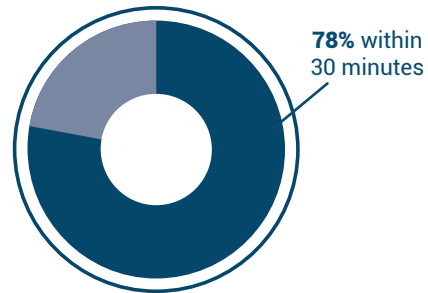


*By 2030...

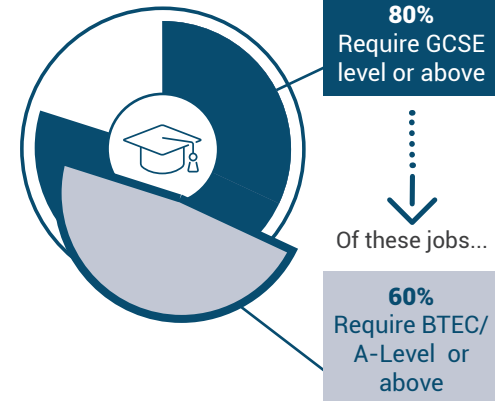


Leaving 164,000 jobs to be filled

Households within 30 minutes of Dorset's towns by public transport



Of these jobs...





Becoming a more responsive, customer focused council

We will continue to be responsive, fair, and efficient in how we deliver services to our customers by listening and learning from their experiences. We will strive to constantly improve with an emphasis on innovation and working with you in a collaborative approach.

We refer to all the people we work with, support and work for as 'our customers'. This includes all individuals, families, groups, and businesses that interact with the council or one of its partners.

We will continue to modernise the way we operate to ensure we are efficient, accessible for residents and achieve the best value for money. We will improve the way we respond to residents, businesses, partners, and visitors by simplifying and joining up the ways we work as much as we can, using data to help us make decisions.

We will ensure residents, businesses, partners, and visitors are able to access the information and support they need quickly and easily, using new technology to provide a better online experience and join up their dealings with the council.

Equally, we want to attract the most skilled people to work with us and will use opportunities that remote working has provided during the pandemic to do this.

We will work closely with our communities to engage and involve them in decisions that impact them. We will pilot a place-based, community-led approach to improve social mobility and other outcomes in Weymouth & Portland through the Stronger Neighbourhoods project.

Our delivery plan sets out how we will deliver these priorities.

65% of Dorset's residents are satisfied with the way Dorset Council run things



94% of businesses satisfied with the service they received from traded standards



40% of residents agree that the council "acts on residents' concerns"



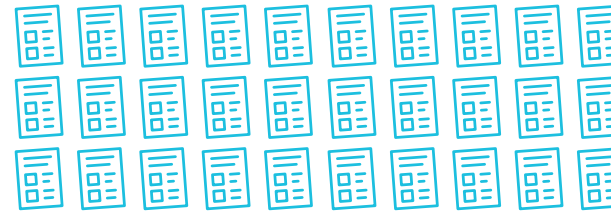
65% of residents believe that we keep them well informed about the services and benefits Dorset Council provides.



56% of residents say that they trust the Council a great deal or a fair amount



30 significant consultations have been undertaken over the last 12 months



4,400 customers

4,400 customers have accessed help and support from our **40** community volunteers and **323** employee digital champions to use digital tools where they want to



40 community volunteers

323 employee digital champions



Making Dorset a great place to
Live, work and visit

 [dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk)

 [@dorsetcounciluk](https://twitter.com/dorsetcounciluk)

 [dorsetcounciluk](https://www.facebook.com/dorsetcounciluk)

 [@dorsetcounciluk](https://www.instagram.com/dorsetcounciluk)

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Dorset Council's Delivery Plan

2022 - 2024



Introduction

This Delivery Plan 2022 to 2024 sets out in detail how we will achieve the Dorset Council Plan priorities and cabinet commitments over the next two years. It sets out our outcomes and targets with the key activities that are being undertaken to monitor our achievements.

How will we monitor the delivery of our plan?

Dorset Council will monitor the delivery of this plan quarterly by measuring data through metrics contained within a strategic performance framework. This will help us measure progress against our targets.






The plan will be managed and monitored by our Corporate Leadership Team through cross-functional working groups with annual performance reports provided to all councillors, residents, businesses, and partners.



Which council strategies help deliver the council plan?

The following strategies support the delivery of our priorities by setting out specific ambitions and detailed plans for that service area. These are each developed following research, engagement and consultation with residents, businesses and partners as appropriate.

The strategies below are organised across our council priorities however it is acknowledged that many of these are cross-cutting across more than one priority and as such, we will work collaboratively across the council to deliver consistent, joined up services to our customers.

Strategies that support all five themes	 Protecting our natural environment, climate and ecology	 Creating stronger, healthier communities	 Creating sustainable development and housing	 Driving economic prosperity	 Becoming a more responsive, customer focused council
COVID-19 recovery strategy and workplans (Local Resilience Forum) Budget strategy 2021 to 2022 Transformation plan 2020 to 2024 Commercial strategy - commissioning and procurement 2021 Asset management strategy 2020 to 2023 Dorset Council digital vision 2020 External communications strategy 2020 to 2024 Diversity and inclusion strategy 2021 to 2024 Our people strategy 2019 to 2024 Customer strategy 2016 to 2021* Cultural strategy Data and business intelligence strategy* Integrated Care Partnership strategy 2022 Local Plan*	Climate and ecological & emergency strategy 2021 Harbours strategy 2022 to 2032* Coast strategy 2011 to 2021 Jurassic coast partnership plan 2020 to 2025 Coastal community team connective economic plan 2018 Dorset and Cranborne Chase area of outstanding natural beauty management plans 2019 to 2024 Rights of way improvement plan 2011 to 2021 Joint Municipal Waste Management strategy 2008 to 2033 Bournemouth, Christchurch, Poole and Dorset Waste plan 2022 to 2033	Community safety plan 2020 to 2023 Domestic abuse strategy 2021 to 2024 Special Education Needs and Disabilities strategy 2021 to 2024 Pan Dorset reducing reoffending strategy Children, young people and families' plan 2020 to 2023 Pan-Dorset child exploitation strategy Youth justice strategy 2021 to 2022 Corporate parenting strategy 2020 to 2023 Placement sufficiency strategy 2020 to 2023 Health and wellbeing strategy 2020 to 2023 Enabling communities' strategy* Library strategy* Adults commissioning plan and strategy 2023 to 2028*	Local plan* Homelessness and rough sleeper strategy 2022 to 2026 Housing strategy 2023 to 2028* Affordable housing programme Housing allocations policy 2021 to 2026*	Economic growth strategy 2020 to 2024 Passenger transport strategy 2015 to 2026 Bournemouth, Poole and Dorset local transport plan 2011 to 2026	Customer strategy* Library strategy* People strategy 2019 to 2024



Protecting our natural environment, climate and ecology

We will improve access to and use of Dorset's environment in a sustainable way which protects it for future generations.

Outcome	How we will achieve it	Lead role / service
Contributing towards Dorset having 30% of land in positive management by 2030	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will develop a local nature recovery strategy An ecological baseline will be undertaken as part of the 2030 aspirations We will strengthen partnership working to support the aspirations of the ecological emergency programme at scale, working closely with the Dorset Local Nature Partnership We will have protected our wildlife and local species We will work across the farm estate to develop the innovation potential across renewable energy generation and technologies, agricultural and business development, and ecology and nature recovery. There will have been an improvement in air, land and water quality since last measured 	<p>Head of Environment and Wellbeing</p> <p>Portfolio Holder for Highways, Travel and Environment</p>
Dorset Council will be carbon-neutral by 2040	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New bidding capability will be in place to attract government funding to enable the council to meet its net zero target by 2040 We will continue the decarbonisation of the Dorset Council vehicle fleet including expansion of electric vehicles by 2024 Energy and water efficient technologies will have been installed in our properties We will continue to reduce the carbon emissions from our estate utilising efficient renewable energy supplies such as solar power A new carbon and ecological decision-making tool will be integrated into council decision-making Employee and councillor carbon and ecological literacy training models will be available 	<p>Corporate Director Climate & Ecological</p> <p>Portfolio Holder for Highways, Travel and Environment</p>
Dorset county area will be carbon neutral by 2050	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A comprehensive engagement approach will be developed with residents, businesses, and town and parish councils Dorset Council will source external funds to deliver against its 2050 ambitions, with a focus on housing and transport We will facilitate an increase in renewable energy generation across Dorset We will shape supporting and underpinning policies such as the local transport plan, economic development strategy, and local plan to enable and support decarbonisation. We will manage the impact of waste on the Dorset environment by implementing a reduce and reuse campaign, increasing recycling rates and reducing the volume of waste to landfill 	<p>Corporate Director Climate & Ecological</p> <p>Portfolio Holder for Highways, Travel and Environment</p> <p>Head of Commercial Waste & Strategy/Head of Waste Operations</p>



Protecting our natural environment, climate and ecology

Outcome	How we will achieve it	Lead role / service
We will better avoid or reduce exposure to climate risks by adapting how we respond to them	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will deliver an adaptation strategy setting out how we will adapt to the unavoidable impacts of climate change and become climate resilient 	Corporate Director Climate & Ecological Portfolio Holder for Highways, Travel and Environment
Our highways, coasts and greenspaces will be managed and maintained more efficiently	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A joined-up delivery approach will be implemented for place-based management and maintenance including assets, highways and coast and greenspaces 	Corporate Director Economic Growth and Infrastructure Portfolio Holder for Highways, Travel and Environment
Harbour processes will have been improved to make it easier for visitors to access services consistently	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will respond to the harbour revision orders, provide a more consistent customer experience when moving from harbour to harbour and align fees and charges 	Head of Environment and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder for Highways, Travel and Environment



Creating stronger, healthier communities

We will enable our residents, working with partners, to develop strong networks of support and maintain strong communities. We will focus on the most vulnerable in our communities to improve wellbeing and reduce inequality through collaboration between public services, community leaders, residents and voluntary groups.

Outcome	How we will achieve it	Lead role / service
Effective networks of support in place for residents across universal, targeted and specialist services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Care Dorset, a new company for delivering care will be in place from October 2022 There will be a plan in place to deliver the Adult Social Care White Paper A locality model will have been established to deliver early intervention in adult social care A carers' strategy will have been developed and implemented 	Executive Director for Adults Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Health
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The children's and adults' commissioning strategy will have been developed and will be implemented A 0-25 birth to settled adulthood offer will have been established to improve the way we support children and young people as they move from Children's to Adult services 	Executive Director for Adults and Executive Director for Children Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Health Portfolio Holder for Children, Education, Skills and Early Help
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Children's Residential Home in Dorchester Road will be open and providing placements for Dorset's children The Harbour Service will be delivering outreach and residential provision to young people Accommodation for Dorset's Care Leavers will be available in Kirtleton Avenue We will have embedded specialist workers with children's social workers to operate a single practice model of whole family working by 2025 A new model to support and retain foster carers and improve stability will be established The 0-5 offer through the provision of family hubs within the community will have been embedded The council will deliver its SEND capital strategy to deliver over 500 new specialist provision places by 2025 The Children's Plan 2020 – 2023 will have been delivered 	Executive Director for Children Portfolio Holder for Children, Education, Skills and Early Help
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The council will have an effective preventative offer Dorset will be a safer county 	Service Manager for Community Safety Portfolio Holder for Housing and Community Safety



Creating stronger, healthier communities

Outcome	How we will achieve it	Lead role / service
Visible, appealing and welcoming spaces for residents to access help and support and rationalisation of existing provision to be fit for purpose and flexible to meet changing needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The customer strategy and new approach to responding to residents first contact will be developed 	Head of Customer Services, Libraries and Archives Portfolio Holder for Culture, Communities and Customer Services
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adults' day services will have been reviewed to improve opportunities for care and support needs 	Corporate Director for Adult Care Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Health
Delivery of best-in-class service provision driving high customer satisfaction whilst delivering best value and a reduction in inequality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A new library strategy and delivery plan will be published and being implemented 	Head of Customer, Libraries and Archives Portfolio Holder for Culture, Communities and Customer Services
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will have reviewed all waste routes across the county and optimised in terms of efficiency of service, cost and carbon footprint by 2025 We will have reviewed the leisure services offer and implemented modern delivery models that are sustainable for the future by 2026 	Corporate Director for Place Services Portfolio Holder for Culture, Communities and Customer Services



Creating stronger, healthier communities

Outcome	How we will achieve it	Lead role / service
Effective relationships between the council, health, statutory partners and the VCSE sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will be an active partner of the Integrated Care System for Dorset and the Dorset Intelligence and Insight Service By 2026, we will have delivered an effective care framework to enable procurement as part of the ICS, created a platform for local strength and asset-bases approaches and completed a review of adult brokerage systems and processes 	Senior Leadership Team Leader of the Council
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Better Life Programme and Greater Partnership Programmes will be successfully concluded 	Executive Director for Adults Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Health
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment will be updated 	Director for Public Health
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Voluntary and community sector organisations will be commissioned to provide vital infrastructure support: including information and advice to residents struggling financially, organisation development and strategic voice for the voluntary sector, and management of volunteering opportunities Grant funding will be provided to a range of voluntary and community sector organisations across Dorset to deliver work that contributes to achieving the Council Plan priorities 	Head of Strategic Communications and Engagement Portfolio Holder for Culture, Communities and Customer Services
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 'Dorset Together' network of voluntary and community organisations will jointly tackle emerging issues alongside the council and other public sector partners 	Business Partner - Communities and Partnerships Portfolio Holder for Culture, Communities and Customer Services
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A new Enabling Communities strategy will be developed, outlining a council-wide approach to how we work with communities 	Head of Strategic Communications and Engagement Portfolio Holder for Culture, Communities and Customer Services
Identify and enhance strengths and abilities of local communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community support to reduce food poverty will be embedded and improving the lives of residents 	Director for Public Health



Creating sustainable development and housing

We will work with government, registered housing providers, community land trusts and local housing partners to deliver affordable, suitable and decent housing. We will seek their support to help us promote our climate and ecological priorities by providing sustainable services such as rainwater harvesting, solar panels and other such approaches.

Outcome	How we will achieve it	Lead role / service
Sustainable, and suitable housing for all, now and in the future	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dorset Council will be working on a new housing strategy, considering all aspects of housing need, demand, supply and quality. This will link with a range of key council priorities and strategies, recognising that good housing is essential for a good life • The housing strategy will support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 10 long-term empty properties to be brought back into use for housing purposes, as part of a wider set of initiatives to reduce the number of potential homes remaining empty • the build of 1200 new affordable homes by Registered Providers at 400 per year • At least 20 new and additional units of temporary accommodation acquired per year, as part of a wider drive to find housing for people and families who are either homeless or in urgent housing need • an incremental reduction in households with homeless main/relief duties owed, with a higher proportion of people having their housing need settled earlier, and homelessness prevented • Alternatives will be found to bed and breakfast accommodation for those who are homeless and need short term support. These will be cost-effective and of a decent quality and will cause an incremental reduction in the number of households accommodated in bed and breakfasts. No family will be in bed and breakfast accommodation for greater than six weeks • A continued relationship with Registered Providers of social housing will ensure that the quality of services and accommodation is kept high or improved, with complaints responded to in a timely way. An annual report of performance from all registered provider housing associations with greater than 250 homes in our area will be requested to review performance 	Corporate Director Housing Portfolio Holder for Housing and Community Safety
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dorset Council will be working with government on a strategically based new Local Plan linked to the local transport plan • The new Local Plan will be agreed by 2026 and work on a 30-year plan will be started • There will have been significant progress in developing a new settlement for Dorset • There will be a single planning system in place across the county supported by an increase in public engagement in the planning process and improvements including the redesign of the online register • We will implement planning policy to encourage developers to integrate renewable energy approaches • Homes will have been delivered in line with land supply target and the local plan • All developments will be designed in line with the 'planning for the future' white paper and the 'levelling up and regeneration' bill 	Corporate Director Economic Growth and Infrastructure Portfolio Holder for Planning



Driving economic prosperity

We will enable sustainable economic growth across the county, enabling high quality jobs through improvements to productivity, sustainability, and accessibility, creating great places to live, work and visit. We will drive forward a plan whereby Dorset Council is a catalyst for prosperity and growth, working with and supporting local businesses and partners.

Outcome	How we will achieve it	Lead role / service
<p>There is sufficient employment, land and workplaces in Dorset.</p> <p>Jobs are created and safeguarded, especially in key growth sectors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By 2024, the council in partnership with BCP council and the Dorset LEP will have established a dialogue with government for a county deal for the whole of Dorset to enhance and drive economic development and the skills agenda, attracting additional government funding into Dorset By 2026, the Dorset County Deal will have been agreed with central government and a proposal implemented 	<p>Executive Director for Place</p> <p>Portfolio Holder for Highways, Travel and Environment</p> <p>Portfolio Holder for Planning</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By 2023, dedicated support for growth in high value sectors, including advanced engineering/manufacturing, defence, security, agritech, marine, aquaculture, and tourism is available By 2023, the Dorset Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan will deliver a new approach to investment in local business support, that features a range of commissioned and directly delivered services including business grants, specialist advice and mentoring, and workforce skills support By summer 2022, the Levelling Up Fund round 2 bid will have been submitted By 2023, the Future Farm Resilience Fund programme will be available (subject to funding approval) 	<p>Head of Service for Growth & Economic Regeneration</p> <p>Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth, Assets and Property</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By 2026, employment land for development in appropriate locations across Dorset will be safeguarded in the Local Plan By 2024, development will have started on regenerating key sites in Weymouth, including North Quay and the Bowling Alley site 	<p>Corporate Director for Assets and Property</p> <p>Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth, Assets and Property</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By 2026, a campaign to create vibrant towns through improvements to town planning will have been launched We will deliver a total Dorset plan on public transport and transport delivery models will be reviewed The local plan will support economic regeneration plans, aligned to the local transport plan for Dorset 	<p>Corporate Director for Economic Growth & Infrastructure</p> <p>Portfolio Holder for Highways, Travel and Environment</p>



Driving economic prosperity

Outcome	How we will achieve it	Lead role / service
<p>Dorset has a reputation as the 'Natural Place to Do Business', attracting inward investment to create jobs and wealth for local people</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By 2033, 9,600 additional local, full time employment jobs will have been created • By 2024, Dorset will have formed a local visitor economy partnership with a range of local partners to address strategic challenges to the sector and access government support and funding • By 2023, the 'Visit Dorset' suite of websites will be receiving over 2 million visits a year, raising the global profile of Dorset • By 2023, Dorset's largest employers receive regular communication and interaction to form relationships where mutual opportunities and challenges can be shared with relevant partners • By 2024, Quadrant 2 commercial development at Dorset Innovation Park will be delivered • By 2023, phase 1 of the Defence Innovation Centre will be delivered, maximising the catalytic opportunity to attract further investment in Dorset Innovation Park • By 2024, resources will be in place to help to exploit opportunities presented by the Department for International Trade's High Investment opportunities (i.e. Sustainable Aquaculture in Dorset; Marine Autonomy in the South West; Smart and Sustainable Aviation in South West England), including attracting the proposed National Aquaculture Centre of excellence to Dorset 	<p>Head of Service for Growth and Economic Regeneration</p> <p>Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth, Assets and Property</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will have been an % increase in the number of Dorset based firms accessing training on public procurement requirements and accessing public sector frameworks and contracts • New contracts with Dorset Council will include skills development, training and apprenticeship opportunities for Dorset's residents 	<p>Service Manager for Commercial & Procurement</p> <p>Portfolio Holder for Finance, Commercial and Capital Strategy</p>



Driving economic prosperity

Outcome	How we will achieve it	Lead role / service
There are more level 4+ qualifications and apprenticeships available, appropriate for the workplace of tomorrow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By 2024, the Dorset Education Board will be embedded By 2024, the Education and Skills Leadership Board will be established 	Corporate Director, Education and Learning Portfolio Holder for Children, Education, Skills and Early Help
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By 2026, an apprenticeship strategy with a focus on increasing starts in higher and degree level apprenticeships will be developed 	Head of Organisational Development Portfolio Holder for Corporate Development and Transformation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By 2023, the Skills Commission will make recommendations to address Dorset's skills-gap By 2023, the 'multiply' investment plan will be developed, approved and in delivery phase to provide additional support to adults with numeracy skills Work will continue to increase the take-up of the government's Lifetime Skills Guarantee programme 	Head of Service for Growth and Economic Regeneration Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth, Assets and Property
Digital connectivity is widely available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The rural connected community's programme will be being delivered Ubiquitous full fibre will be available by 2028/2033 Gigabit capable (full fibre) networks will have risen from 24% to 85% by 2025 2G coverage of A and B roads will have increased from 42.6% 	Corporate Director Transformation, Innovation and Digital Portfolio Holder for Corporate Development and Transformation
Dorset Council inspires and supports cultural opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with the Dorset Arts Development Company and other local partners to promote a year of culture for 2023 To bring inward funding to Dorset to develop and celebrate culture and arts 	Corporate Director for Place Services Portfolio Holder for Culture, Communities and Customer Services



Becoming a more responsive, customer focused council

We will continue to be responsive, fair and efficient in how we deliver services to our customers by listening and learning from their experiences. We will strive to constantly improve with an emphasis on innovation and working with residents and businesses in a collaborative, co-production approach.

Outcome	How we will achieve it	Lead role / service
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By 2023, publish our customer strategy, and a transformation plan to achieve a modern, customer first operating model by 2028. This will mean that the number of people who speak positively about the council will increase We will reduce the number of 'front doors' and bring more high-volume customer management and assessment into our professional customer services, Dorset Direct Embed our accessibility principles and assessment guidance within our strategy plans Adopt consistent organisational design principles to redesign services making the most of modern technology and understanding customer needs to provide the foundations for a one council approach Embed customer feedback across all high demand service areas to drive continuous service improvement, improving customer experience 	<p>Head of Customer Services, Libraries & Archives</p> <p>Portfolio Holder for Culture, Communities and Customer Services</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will develop our customer platform and customer account to provide easy to use, accessible, services, increasing the number of customers using online services independently or with assistance 	<p>Head of Digital Strategy and Design</p> <p>Portfolio Holder for Corporate Development and Transformation</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will invest and explore advances in technology, automation, artificial intelligence and digital ways of delivering services to increase productivity and help manage demand We will deliver an updated applications portfolio and roadmap, focus on implementing integrated systems and processes and provide good employee experiences 	<p>Head of ICT Operations</p> <p>Portfolio Holder for Corporate Development and Transformation</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The council's engagement and consultation processes will be reviewed and improved to ensure that residents' views are sought, listened to and acted on 	<p>Head of Strategic Communications and Engagement</p> <p>Portfolio Holder for Culture, Communities and Customer Services</p>



Becoming a more responsive, customer focused council

Outcome	How we will achieve it	Lead role / service
We work together as 'one Dorset Council', with partners to provide value for money services that meet the needs and expectations of our customers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will have set realistic budgets for the council and our spending will have not exceeded them Our medium-term financial strategy will continue to act as a key financial tool that drives good financial decision making and supports strategy, transformation and commercial thinking We will implement the agreement reached with the Department for Education on the High Needs Block historic deficit We will consistently commission services, developing the market to meet need in the most-cost effective way We will focus on increasing the number of residents who think the council delivers value for money 	Executive Director for Corporate Development (S151 Officer) Portfolio Holder for Finance, Commercial and Capital Strategy
Increased the reach of our services through accessible and inclusive services ensuring we proactively tailor the level and type of support available to suit the needs of different groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A new citizens panel will be set up jointly with ICS partners to engage a representative panel of residents The Equality Diversity and Inclusion strategy and action plan will be implemented to ensure Dorset Council meets its duties under the Equality Act 2010 	Head of Strategic Communications and Engagement Portfolio Holder for Corporate Development and Transformation
We design the places and spaces we need to support services and customers in-person, via outreach, or in a virtual way that meet the needs of our communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will deliver a new asset management strategy, rationalising our property, co-locating services and developing our commercial approach to property Development and investment in our customer, community, family, and library hub model will provide plans for co-location together and with other agencies to maximise community impact and support agile working and hybrid service delivery By 2026, a review of how local depots are used and managed will be complete An efficient, hybrid way of working for all council employees will have been implemented, reducing office space and increasing value for money 	Corporate Director Assets & Property Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth, Assets and Property
Our workforce takes advantage of learning opportunities to develop the skills to deliver modern, customer first services, by thinking innovatively and using data, intelligence technology and customer insight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will have launched an organisational development strategy, supporting and developing skills within leadership and workforce, recognising talent, improving retention and embedding diversity and inclusion We will develop and embed our employer brand, helping to showcase what we have to offer and become identified as an employer of choice, ensuring that we can recruit and retain the best people 	Head of Organisational Development, and Head of Human Resources Portfolio Holder for Corporate Development and Transformation



Becoming a more responsive, customer focused council

Outcome	How we will achieve it	Lead role / service
<p>We develop our use of data and insights to support evidence-led decisions and targeted and timely delivery of our services to improve outcomes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will publish a Business Intelligence and Data strategy • We will undertake regular self-assessment of our data culture and maturity shows improvement • The number of users of the Dorset Care Record will have increased • We will work closely with our partners to overcome barriers to join up and improve the quality of our data • We will encourage a culture where the importance of data is understood by everyone within the council 	<p>Corporate Director Transformation, Innovation and Digital</p> <p>Portfolio Holder for Corporate Development and Transformation</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By 2027 we will have modernised the way that information and case records are stored and accessed, supporting an agile workforce • We will provide learning and development for staff to understand the power of sharing data as well as the legal, moral and financial implications • We will bring together operational data to support a better service to customers and strategic level data to help ensure better outcomes and decisions by the council and with our partners • We will review internal services to more efficiently transact, receive information and engage with the workforce including the completion of a corporate system review 	<p>Head of Customer, Libraries and Archives</p> <p>Portfolio Holder for Culture, Communities and Customer Services</p>



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Full Council

20 October 2022

Community Governance Review: Parishes in the Vale of Allen group, the Winterborne Farringdon group, Chickerell and Weymouth

For Decision

Portfolio Holder: Cllr S Flower, Leader of the Council

Local Councillor(s): Vale of Allen – Cllrs P Brown and R Cook
Winterborne Farringdon – Cllr R Tarr
Chickerell – Cllrs J Dunseith and J Worth
Weymouth – Cllrs P Barrow, T Ferrari, D Gray, R Hope, B Heatley, H Legg, L O’Leary, J Orrell, C Sutton, G Taylor and K Wheller

Executive Director: J Mair, Director of Legal & Democratic

Report Author: Jacqui Andrews
Title: Service Manager, Democratic and Electoral Services
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Email: jacqui.andrews@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Report Status: Public

Brief Summary:

To agree Terms of Reference for a Community Governance Review of the parishes forming the Vale of Allen Grouped Parish Council, (namely Crichel, Gussage All Saints, Gussage St Michael, Hinton and Witchampton), the parishes forming the Winterborne Farringdon Grouped Parish Council (namely Bincombe, Whitcombe, Winterborne Came, Winterborne Herringston and Winterborne Monkton) and also the parishes of Chickerell and Weymouth.

Recommendation:

To adopt Terms of Reference for a community governance review set out at Appendix 1.

Reason for Recommendation:

To ensure that community governance arrangements within the area under review are reflective of the identities and interests of the community in those areas.

1. Why is the Council undertaking a review?

- 1.1 A community governance review looks at the governance arrangements of parishes in the area under review and seeks to ensure that these are reflective of the identities and interests of the community in that area.
- 1.2 In July 2022, Dorset Council published final recommendations following a Council-wide review of all parishes falling within the Dorset Council area. In agreeing final recommendations, Full Council agreed that the parishes within the Vale of Allen group, Chickerell, Weymouth and the parishes within the Winterborne Farringdon group be removed from the final recommendations. Substantial alternative proposals were submitted in response to draft recommendations in respect of these parishes and Full Council believed that further public consultation should be undertaken to seek residents' views on these proposals. The Community Governance Review legislation requires that any Review is concluded within 12 months of the publication of the Terms of Reference so it was not possible for further consultation to be undertaken as part of the earlier Review that concluded in July 2022. For that reason, these parishes were removed from the Review, and Full Council is being asked to agree Terms of Reference for a further Review in respect of these parishes only - no other parishes will be considered as part of this further Review, unless affected by any proposals. This enables full consultation to be undertaken with local residents and other interested parties that would be affected by any governance changes that might be agreed.
- 1.3 In undertaking the Review, Dorset Council ("the Council") will comply with the requirements of Part 4 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 ("the 2007 Act" and the relevant parts of the Local Government Act 1972, and have regard to Guidance on Community Governance Reviews issued in accordance with section 100(4) of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 by the Department of Communities and Local Government and the Local Government Boundary Commission for England in March 2010.

2. What is a Community Governance Review?

- 2.1 A Community Governance Review is a legal process whereby the Council will consult with those living in the area, and other interested parties, on the most suitable ways of representing the people in the area identified in the review. This means making sure that those living in the area, and other interested groups, have a say in how their local communities are represented.
- 2.2 Section 93 of the 2007 Act allows principal councils to decide how to undertake a Review, provided that it complies with certain duties in that

Act including details set out relating to consultation, the need to ensure any proposals reflect the identities and interests of the community in that area and is effective and convenient. The Council has to publish its recommendations but the manner in which the Council consults with its residents is not prescribed.

2.3 A Review can consider one or more of the following options:

- creating, merging, altering or abolishing parishes;
- the naming of parishes and the style of new parishes and the creation of town councils;
- the electoral arrangements for parishes (for instance, the ordinary year of election; council size; the number of councillors to be elected to the council, and parish warding);
- grouping parishes under a common parish council or de-grouping parishes;
- other types of local arrangements, including parish meetings

3. **Terms of Reference**

3.1 The Council is asked to agree Terms of Reference for the Review (attached at Appendix 1), that sets out the scope of the Review, and also a timetable for carrying out the Review, including dates for public consultation. The Review must be completed within 12 months of the publication of the Terms of Reference.

3.2 The Council recognises that the development of strong, sustainable communities depends on residents' active participation in decision making in respect of the governance arrangements of parish councils, and the Council is therefore committed to engaging effectively with the diverse communities it serves and to enabling local people to participate meaningfully in the creation of effective community governance arrangements where all people feel able to take an active part in influencing service delivery. The timetable set out in the Terms of Reference sets out dates for 2 periods of public consultation.

4. **Implementation**

4.1 The adoption of the Terms of Reference by Full Council will commence the Review which must be concluded within 12 months. If Full Council chooses to accept the final recommendations of the Review, concluded after public consultation, it will be necessary to prepare a Reorganisation Order and publish this together with the reasons for the changes, making maps available for public inspection. There are also various bodies that must be notified of the changes including the Local Government Boundary Committee for England.

4.2 Any changes to governance arrangements of the parishes will form a Reorganisation Order that will take effect on 1 April 2024 in readiness for the next scheduled parish elections in May 2024.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 There are no financial implications to Dorset Council associated with this report.

6. Environmental Implications

6.1 There are no environmental implications associated with this report.

7. Well-being and Health Implications

7.1 There are no well-being and health implications associated with this report.

8. Other Implications

8.1 There are no other implications associated with this report.

9. Risk Assessment

9.1 HAVING CONSIDERED: the risks associated with this decision; the level of risk has been identified as:
Current Risk: Low
Residual Risk: Low

10. Equalities Impact Assessment

10.1 A detailed Equalities Impact Assessment was prepared for the Community Governance Review that was undertaken between July 2021 and July 2022 and this is relevant to this Review. A copy of the assessment can be viewed at Appendix 2 of the Full Council report dated 15 July 2021 [here](#).

11. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Terms of Reference.

12. Background Papers

[Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007](#)
[Local Government Boundary Commission for England - Guidance on Community Governance Reviews](#)

Community Governance Review

Parishes within the following Parish Council areas: Vale of Allen Parish Council, Winterborne Farringdon Parish Council, Chickerell Town Council and Weymouth Town Council

Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007

Terms of Reference

Published on 24 October 2022

1. Introduction

What is a Community Governance Review?

A Community Governance Review is a review of the whole or part of the Council's area to consider one or more of the following:

- creating, merging, altering or abolishing parishes;
- the naming of parishes and the style of new parishes;
- the electoral arrangements for parishes (the ordinary year of election, council size (the number of councillors to be elected to council), and parish warding); and,
- grouping parishes under a common parish council or de-grouping parishes;
- Other types of local arrangements, including parish meetings.

A Community Governance Review is required to take into account:

- the impact of community governance arrangements on community cohesion; and
- the size, population and boundaries of a local community or parish.

The Council is required to ensure that community governance within the area under review will:

- be reflective of the identities and interests of the community in that area; and
- be effective and convenient.

If the Council is satisfied that the recommendation of a Community Governance Review would ensure that community governance within the area under review will reflect the identities and interests of the community in that area, and is effective and convenient, the Council makes a Reorganisation Order.

Why is the Council carrying out this Community Governance Review?

The Council is required to keep its area under review every 10-15 years. Following the creation of Dorset Council, and a number of requests from Parishes for a Review, it was

deemed appropriate to undertake a Review of the whole principal council area, rather than dealing with review requests piecemeal. During the public consultation period from 28 February 2022 to 23 May 2022 in respect of draft recommendations published by the Council, a number of alternative proposals were put forward that Dorset Council wants to study further, and also to carry out public consultation in respect of the alternatives put forward. However, due to the statutory timetable, it was not possible to carry out a full and detailed public consultation prior to the end date of the Review in July 2022.

Dorset Council agreed to remove a limited number of parishes from the Review commenced in July 2021 and to undertake a further Review to ensure that residents of the areas affected and other interested parties had an opportunity to review and comment on the proposals.

Scope of the Review

The Review will consider the following parishes:

All parishes forming the Vale of Allen Grouped parish council, namely the parishes of Crichel, Gussage All Saints, Gussage St Michael, Hinton and Witchampton.

Chickerell

Weymouth

All parish forming the Winterborne Farringdon Grouped parish council, namely the parishes of Bincombe, Whitcombe, Winterborne Came, Winterborne Herringston and Winterborne Monkton.

2. **Consultation**

How the Council proposes to conduct consultations during the Review?

Before making any recommendations or publishing final proposals, the Council must consult local government electors for the area under review and any other person or body (including a local authority) which appears to the Council to have an interest in the review. The Council will therefore:

- publish a Notice and these Terms of Reference on the Council's website via www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/community-governance-review and arrange for copies to be available for public inspection at County Hall, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1XJ during normal office hours;
- send a copy of the Notice and these Terms of Reference to all parish clerks of the areas affected, and to the Dorset Association of Town and Parish Councils;
- seek to arrange for the notice to be published on parish council websites and notice boards; and
- send a copy of the Notice and these Terms of Reference to all local Members of Parliament.

Before making any recommendations, the Council will take account of any representations received. The Council will publish its recommendations as soon as practicable and take such steps as it considers sufficient to ensure that persons who may be interested in the Community Governance Review are informed of the recommendations and the reasons behind them.

3. **Timetable for the Community Governance Review**

The Council has to complete a Community Governance Review within twelve months from the day on which the Council publishes the Terms of Reference. A Community Governance Review is concluded on the day on which the Council publishes the recommendations made by the Community Governance Review.

Timetable

Action	Timeline	Details
Report to Full Council	Thursday 20 October 2022	Council approves the principle of the Community Governance Review and its Terms of Reference.
Publish Terms of Reference	Monday 24 October 2022 (The Review must be completed within 12 months of the date of publication).	Publish Terms of Reference and notify stakeholders of the commencement of the Review.
Prepare draft consultation document and invite initial submissions	1 November 2022 – 28 December 2022 (8 weeks)	Initial submissions invited: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • town and parish councils • Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils (DAPTC) • Member of Parliament • local groups and interested parties Publish proposals on Dorset Council website.
Consider submissions	3 January 2023 – 3 February 2023	Consider any submissions/representations and prepare report of draft recommendations for Full Council on 14 February 2023.

Publish draft recommendations	20 February 2023 – 17 April 2023 (8 weeks)	<p>Publish draft recommendations for further consultation with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • all local government electors • all town and parish councils • DAPTC • Member of Parliament • local groups and interested parties. <p>Publish draft recommendations on Dorset Council website.</p>
Make final recommendations	11 May 2023 Full Council meeting	Consider any further submissions/representations and prepare final recommendations for report to Full Council.
Publish final recommendations	May 2023	Publish final recommendations and make Order.

Full Council

20 October 2022

Update on role of Health and Wellbeing Boards in the Integrated Care System

For Decision

Portfolio Holder: Cllr P Wharf, Adult Social Care and Health

Local Councillor(s): All

Executive Director: S Crowe, Director of Public Health

Report Author: Sam Crowe,
Title: Director of Public Health
Tel: 01305-891000
Email: sam.crowe@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Report Status: Public

Brief Summary: This report updates Members about the developing role and purpose of the Health and Wellbeing Board as the Integrated Care System evolves. It summarises new national guidance for Health and Wellbeing Boards on their ongoing responsibilities. In addition, a brief summary of key points from the recent joint development session is presented, including recommendations for how boards should operate from the Local Government Association.

Recommendation:

That the Full Council agree an addition to the terms of reference of the Health and Wellbeing Board so that it becomes the strategic board for the place-based partnership developing in the Dorset Council area, as part of the Dorset Integrated Care System.

Reason for Recommendation:

To ensure that the Health and Wellbeing Board is the strategic body responsible for developing a clear Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for the Dorset Council 'place'. This will provide the ICS with a clear strategic steer on priorities for place-

based commissioning and health and wellbeing improvements, as well as avoiding unnecessary duplication.

1. **Report**

- 1.1 Health and Wellbeing Boards are statutory committees of Councils responsible for promoting integration and prevention in local systems and undertaking Joint Strategic Needs Assessments to inform Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategies for their areas.
- 1.2 As Integrated Care Systems develop, these responsibilities have been confirmed as continuing by national guidance published in July 2022. However, there is ongoing potential for confusion because the legislation enacted to create ICSs also creates a new Integrated Care Partnership for the local system, as well as two place-based partnerships beneath this, covering the Dorset Council and BCP Council areas.
- 1.3 Over time, place-based partnerships are intended to be effective committees for developing integration and place-based commissioning plans, supported by shared outcomes frameworks and devolved budgets for local areas. This creation of place-based partnerships by the legislation means Health and Wellbeing Boards, with their existing statutory functions, should consider their future role and purpose, as potential strategic leaders of each place within the ICS.
- 1.4 There is a Place Based Partnerships Steering Group meeting to develop the place-based approach in Dorset. This group is intending to develop a Place Based Plan which will support the two Health and Wellbeing Strategies and provide the delivery plan for these. It is very much hoped that this work will enable engagement at community level and drive a stronger focus on preventative work and health wellbeing improvement.
- 1.5 In the light of these changes, Dorset Health and Wellbeing Board and BCP Council Health and Wellbeing Board held a joint development session in July to consider a number of recommendations from the Local Government Association, alongside the revised national guidance on the role of Health and Wellbeing Boards.
- 1.6 This short summary is intended to present the main points for the Council to consider. In addition, Members are asked to support a recommendation for the Dorset Health and Wellbeing Board to assume the role of being the strategic level board responsible for developing a clear view of priorities

and an effective Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for the Dorset Council place.

2. **Summary of key points from the joint development session**

2.1 In the first part of the session Members from both Boards heard a presentation from Sarah Pickup, Deputy Chief Executive of the LGA on how Health and Wellbeing Boards will work with ICSs based on existing responsibilities, and new responsibilities coming from the ICS legislation.

2.2 The presentation acknowledged HWBs ongoing statutory responsibilities with much continuity in how they would work. However, it also set out some key areas where HWBs and ICS partners would have new duties. This includes:

- ICSs will need to engage HWBs on key planning documents, including the ICB forward plan and annual reports. The Board will be asked to comment on the extent to which it's joint local health and wellbeing strategy has been enacted through ICB plans;
- ICPs will need to have 'due regard' to HWBs joint strategic needs assessments, and local health and wellbeing strategies, and to involve HWBs in the creation of the ICP strategy;
- HWBs are expected to provide a strong focus for place, improving wellbeing through joint working, and set the strategic direction to improve health and wellbeing;
- In their annual reports, the ICB must set out the steps they have taken to implement joint local health and wellbeing strategies;
- HWBs should consider revising their health and wellbeing strategies after the development of the ICP strategy;
- All ICSs required to make rapid progress in developing place-based partnerships – including governance to bring NHS and Local authority leadership together; this will include a single accountable place leader for each place – which could be a HWB member;
- Where ICSs and HWBs are coterminous, they can choose to bring the bodies and functions together for efficiency (although they remain separate identifies legally). In the Dorset system, this could mean the ICP effectively becomes the two HWBs working closely together to drive health and wellbeing improvements.

- 2.3 In the discussion that followed, Members made several common points:
- That both boards would play an important role in developing a strong vision for place-based health and wellbeing improvement, with ongoing potential to work together;
 - The Boards should work collaboratively with the community and voluntary sector, focusing on non-medical approaches to support people's wellbeing;
 - Work with people to better understand how best to meet their priorities, not service priorities, and be creative in thinking differently about supporting people;
 - Understanding partner perspectives – health, Council and voluntary and community sector – would be vital to moving forward on more action focused plans to improve health and wellbeing in each place.
- 2.4 The full notes from the session have been circulated to Members of both Boards, along with Sarah Pickup's presentation on the future role for Boards in relation to ICSs.
- 2.5 In summary, both HWBs Members' recognised the potential for the Boards to be the strategic leadership forum in each place, taking advantage of the change in legislation to set clear direction on priorities for improving health and wellbeing through Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategies.
- 2.6 However, Members also recognised the challenge in getting the governance and decision making right, and avoiding unnecessary duplication and confusion arising from the new bodies created by the legislation.

3. **Financial Implications**

None.

4. **Climate Implications**

None – although effective place-based partnership working should consider how best to ensure all future actions consider climate impacts.

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

Having a strong place-based partnership in place, led by each Health and Wellbeing Board, is essential for improving health and wellbeing by taking

full advantage of the ICS changes, joint leadership for health, including working with people and communities.

6. Other Implications

None.

7. Risk Assessment

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

Current Risk: LOW

Residual Risk: LOW

8. Equalities Impact Assessment

None.

9. Appendices

None.

10. Background Papers

Notes from the joint development session

Sarah Pickup's presentation from the LGA

[Health and Wellbeing Boards: Draft guidance for engagement](#)

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Full Council

20 October 2022

Harbours Governance and Functions

For Recommendation to Council

Portfolio Holder: Cllr S Flower, Leader of the Council

Local Councillor(s): All

Executive Director: J Sellgren, Executive Director of Place

Report Author: Ken Buchan and Jonathan Mair

Title: Head of Environment and Wellbeing and Director Legal and Democratic

Tel: 01305 225132, 01305 838074

Email: ken.buchan@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Jonathan.Mair@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Report Status: Public

Brief Summary:

In a council that operates the Leader and Cabinet model of executive decision making the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000 require that some functions are matters for the executive only, other functions (such as deciding planning applications) are not to be discharged by the executive and are Council functions which can be delegated to a Committee and a third group of functions are described as “local choice functions” whereby the Council decide locally how they are to be discharged.

Management of Dorset Council harbours is a local choice function. A Harbours Committee which is made up of both councillors and co-opted members chosen for their background and expertise in Harbours matters exercise all functions in matters relating to administration and harbour operations. Functions with regard to income are limited to those set out by Full Council and expenditure is limited to the budget allocated to the Committee. The Harbours Committee also act collectively and individually as duty holders. Currently decisions made by the Harbours Committee are reported to Full Council (which meets only six times a year) for approval.

Going forward, it is proposed that Harbour Management becomes an executive function of Dorset Council, with the Portfolio Holder undertaking the responsibility of duty holder, and the existing Harbours Committee becoming an advisory committee making recommendations to the Executive. Whilst still benefiting from the advice and expertise provided by the Harbours Committee, this change will streamline and accelerate the decision-making process, and enable closer working and collaboration across other council services. It will remove harbours business from Full Council meetings where there is insufficient time to scrutinise and question recommendations. Instead, harbours business will be publicised in the Cabinet forward plan, ensuring visibility for both the Place and Resources Overview Committee and the Scrutiny Committee.

The proposed change will also support improved financial resilience and governance, with Cabinet having the ability to make timely decisions about funding and with access to levels of funds which are beyond the ability of the Harbours Committee, should it be necessary.

The Harbour Budgets are significant, with the three Harbours generating income of over £2M per year, with combined reserves of approximately £2.5M. The existing and forthcoming Harbour Revision Orders are clear that this funding can only be spent on Harbour related activities. The financial accountability will be strengthened as a consequence of the proposed change. This is particularly pertinent when considering future liabilities for the repair, maintenance, and renewal of the harbour walls at each of Dorset's harbours and the cost to all Dorset residents. For Weymouth this amounts to £60m of which Dorset Council's contribution will be in excess of £20m.

Part of the proposed governance changes includes the agreement that the responsibility for historic harbour wall repair loan repayments at Weymouth Harbour which amount to £260k annually should be permanently transferred to Dorset Council allowing the Harbour to build reserves to deliver its asset management plan and to make continued improvements to facilities and customer services.

It is recommended that:

1. The harbour function becomes an Executive function with the Portfolio Holder for Highways, Travel and Environment assuming the responsibility of Duty Holder.
2. The existing Harbours Committee becomes an advisory committee under Section 102(4) of the Local Government Act 1972.

3. That consequential changes are made to the Constitution in order to reflect recommendations 1 & 2.

Reason for Recommendation:

A change to an Executive function will streamline the decision-making process, allow closer synergy between council services and strategic plans and provide the ability to make significant levels of finances available at short notice should they be required. The proposed use of an advisory committee made up of both Council and independent expert members will continue to meet the department for Transport Good Ports Governance Guidance.

1. Report

- 1.1 The Council is the Statutory Harbour Authority (SHA) with responsibility for the Weymouth, Lyme Regis and Bridport Harbours. As the SHA the Council must act in accordance with the statutory provisions governing it which come from local acts, national legislation, and orders. A Harbour Revision Order (HRO) was obtained for Weymouth Harbour in 2021, which modernised and consolidated the relevant statutory powers. A similar HRO is being sought for Bridport and Lyme Regis Harbours.
- 1.2 Amongst other duties the SHA is required to keep the harbour open for the shipping and unshipping of goods, to exercise its functions with regard to nature conservation and to conserve the harbour so it is reasonably fit for use as a port with a duty of reasonable care to see that the harbour is in a fit condition for a vessel to utilise it safely. The SHA must comply with the Port Marine Safety Code (the Code) and has responsibilities for providing the facilities for safe navigation such as lighting and marker buoys.
- 1.3 The harbour function is a 'local choice' function. Currently the Harbours Committee has responsibility for the discharge of any function by the Council acting as the Statutory Harbour Authority. The Harbours Committee is comprised of Councillors and co-opted members who have particular skills or expertise relevant to the harbour operation, in line with the recommendations in the DfT Good Ports Governance Guidance. Input from harbour stakeholders is provided to the Harbours Committee through the Harbour Consultative Group for each harbour. The Harbours

Committee is also the Duty Holder, and its members are individually and collectively accountable for compliance with the Code, and their performance in ensuring safe marine operations in the harbour and its approaches. A 'designated person' provides independent assurance to the Duty Holder about the operation of the marine safety management system.

1.4 Currently the Harbours Committee is delegated '*to exercise all functions of the Council as a harbour authority that relate to any matter concerning issues of administration, harbour operations and/or the management of Lyme Regis, Bridport and Weymouth harbours and associated harbour land (the terms "harbour authority" and "harbour land" all being as defined in section 57 Harbours Act 1964). This power includes power to determine income and expenditure matters relating to the harbours and harbour land in respect of which the Harbours Committee has functions. However: (a) in the case of income, only in relation to such matters as Full Council has expressly resolved may be determined by the Harbours Committee; and (b) in the case of expenditure, only to the extent that such expenditure is within such budget as may be allocated to the Harbours Committee.*'

1.5 The Port Marine Safety Code recognises that the Duty Holder should be 'ultimately accountable for marine safety' and in this instance responsible for ensuring that Dorset Council complies with the Code. In order to effectively undertake this the role of Duty Holder should:

- be aware of the Dorset Council's powers and duties related to marine safety;
- ensure that a suitable Marine Safety Management System (MSMS), which employs formal safety assessment techniques, is in place;
- appoint a suitable 'designated person' to monitor and report the effectiveness of the MSMS and provide independent advice on matters of marine safety;
- appoint competent people to manage marine safety;
- ensure that the management of marine safety continuously improves by publishing a marine safety plan and reporting performance against the objectives and targets set; and
- report compliance with the Code to the MCA every 3 years

The Duty Holder 'should also ensure that appropriate resources are made available for discharging their marine safety obligations.' Given the lead responsibility that each member of the Cabinet exercises in relation to their portfolio it is sensible that the Portfolio Holder for Highways Travel

and Environment should take on the duty holder responsibility. Each portfolio holder is able to make spending commitments up to the key decision threshold of £500,000. This is considered sufficient spending power to enable the Portfolio Holder to act swiftly in a situation of urgency to discharge the duty holder responsibility. Proposals for spending above the key decision threshold would be decided by Cabinet and subject to scrutiny through the forward plan.

- 1.6 The external co-opted members of the Harbours Committee are not elected councillors. Although the terms of reference for the Harbours Committee require that elected members should always be in the majority in order for the Committee to be quorate, it is nonetheless unusual in local government that unelected co-optees should play a part in formal decision making, including in relation to the harbours budget. The proposed changes would retain the expertise of the co-optees but in an advisory capacity.
- 1.7 Currently, the Harbours Committee make recommendations to Full Council for final decision/approval. There is often a time delay between the Harbours Committee meeting and Full Council approval. Under the proposed changes recommendations would be made either to the Portfolio Holder or to a meeting of the Cabinet.
- 1.8 Harbour operations are closely linked with other council services such as flood and coastal erosion risk, highways, parking, economic regeneration and property and assets and would potentially benefit from Executive oversight where a more holistic approach could be taken to future development.
- 1.9 It is proposed that the harbour authority function should rest with the Executive within the Council's constitutional arrangements. Under these arrangements the Harbours Committee would be constituted as an advisory Committee under s102(4) of the Local Government Act 1972:

(4) A local authority may appoint a committee to advise the appointing authority or authorities, or, where the appointing authority ... operate executive arrangements, any executive ... on any matter relating to the discharge of their functions, and any such committee—

(a) may consist of such persons (whether members of the appointing authority or authorities or not) appointed for such term as may be determined by the appointing authority or authorities; and

(b) may appoint one or more sub-committees to advise the committee with respect to any such matter.

- 1.10 The Harbours Committee would be 'advisory' in nature. So, although it would continue to have external co-opted members on it, the Committee itself would only be able to make 'recommendations' in respect of the harbours. Councillors serving on the committee would be appointed on a politically proportionate basis in accordance with section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. Key decisions would then be recommended to the Cabinet and decisions short of key decisions would be recommended to the portfolio holder.
- 1.11 This would mean that the portfolio holder and the Cabinet would have regular interaction with the Harbours Committee which will strengthen the links between the two and the understanding of 'harbours' within the Cabinet. It will also make the approval of recommendations of the Harbours Committee more streamlined (for example approval of the annual Budget and Schedule of Charges the Committee recommends) than if the function were to remain with Full Council. Furthermore, it would align harbour operations with other statutory functions and services across Dorset Council and improve financial resilience where Cabinet has the ability to make significant levels of finance available to any of the harbours at short notice should it be required.
- 1.12 Recent external legal advice is that it is not appropriate for the Harbours Committee to be duty holder under the Port Marine Safety Code (PMSC) as if it has limited financial authority and as such does not have sufficient resources to ensure compliance with the PMSC.
- 1.13 The Harbours will have significant future liabilities relating to harbour wall, repair, maintenance and replacement. For example, the recent Weymouth Flood and Coastal Erosion Management Scheme Strategic Outline Case estimated a cost of approximately £113 million over the next 100 years, for the Harbour this amounts to £60 million. The expectation is that Dorset Council's contribution should be at least equal or exceed the capital construction cost of these assets in addition to the routine maintenance costs that are usually incurred directly. Up to 2040 this will amount to approximately £8 - £10 million.
- 1.14 Weymouth Harbour carried some historic loan liabilities from the predecessor Weymouth and Portland Borough Council. This amounted to an annual cost of £260k.

The proposed governance changes will enable the liability to be permanently transferred to Dorset Council to assist the harbour in building reserves and improving facilities.

- 1.15 It is important that the harbours maintain a close working relationship with harbour users. The proposed change in governance does not alter the existing model in this regard. Going forward the existing stakeholder consultative groups will remain in place across the harbours providing harbour user group scrutiny and input into harbour management and development.

2 Financial Implications

The proposed change will support improved financial resilience, with the Portfolio Holder having the ability to make timely decisions about funding up to the key decision threshold. Through the wider Cabinet there will also be the ability to access funds which are beyond the authority of the current Harbours Committee should it be required.

3 Climate Implications

The recently adopted Harbours Strategy aims to meet the targets of the Dorset Council Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy. Harbours have an important role in helping to deliver some of the goals set out within the Climate Strategy and will aim to reduce their carbon footprint in line with that of other council services. In addition, harbours will be linked directly to the Portfolio Holder responsible for delivery of the Dorset Council Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy and the ongoing initiatives across other council services which may present opportunities to collaborate on strategy delivery.

4 Well-being and Health Implications

It is recognised that our harbours play an important role in supporting leisure and recreation which promotes the health and well-being of our communities and visitors. The proposals in this report will not impact negatively upon this, indeed closer working across executive functions may present additional opportunities for improvement.

5 Other Implications

None

6 Risk Assessment

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

Current Risk: LOW

Residual Risk: LOW

7 Equalities Impact Assessment

There are no equalities implications arising from subject of this report.

8 Appendices

None

9 Background Papers

None

Full Council

20 October 2022

Dispensation Under Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972

For Decision

Portfolio Holder: Cllr S Flower, Leader of the Council

Local Councillor(s): N/a

Executive Director: J Mair, Director of Legal & Democratic

Report Author: Susan Dallison

Title: Democratic Services Team Leader

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Report Status: Public

Brief Summary:

Under Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972, if a member of a local authority fails to attend a meeting throughout a period of 6 consecutive months, from the date of the last attendance, they shall cease to be a member of the local authority, unless the failure to attend was due to some reason approved by the Full Council before the expiry of that period.

Recommendation:

To approve a dispensation for Cllr J Dover from attending meetings of the Council for a period of 6 months commencing on 12th November 2022, by reason of ill health.

Reason for Recommendation:

To comply with the requirements of the Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 and to enable Cllr Dover time to recuperate without the risk of losing her seat as a Dorset Councillor.

1. **Report**

- 1.1 Due to Coronavirus all councillors were granted a dispensation for non-attendance at meetings for the period up to 14th April 2022. After the end of this dispensation period Cllr Dover's first opportunity to attend a meeting was the Annual Meeting of Council on 12th May 2022 for which she sent her apologies. Due to ill health Cllr Dover has not been able to attend meetings since May and may not be able to attend committee and Full Council meetings over the coming months; without a dispensation from Full Council Cllr Dover would cease to be a member of Dorset Council if she is not well enough to attend Full Council in December. Full Council is therefore requested to grant this request for a dispensation, for non-attendance, in advance of the end of the 6-month period which will be 12th November 2022.
- 1.2 The Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group has been consulted about this process and agrees the recommendation contained within this report. Arrangements have been put in place for Cllr M Roe to deal with Cllr Dover's ward work.

2. **Financial Implications**

None

3. **Climate Implications**

None

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

None

Other Implications

None

Risk Assessment

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

Current Risk: low

Residual Risk: low

Equalities Impact Assessment

N/a

Appendices

None

Background Papers

None

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