



# Place and Resources Scrutiny Committee

**Date:** Tuesday, 30 July 2024  
**Time:** 10.00 am  
**Venue:** Council Chamber, County Hall, Dorchester, DT1 1XJ

**Members (Quorum: 3)**

Nocturin Lacey-Clarke (Chair), Ray Bryan (Vice-Chair), Alex Brenton, Neil Eysenck, Scott Florek, Rory Major, Emma Parker, Andy Skeats, David Tooke and Sarah Williams

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

For more information about this agenda please contact Democratic Services Meeting Contact 01305 252209 / [lindsey.watson@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:lindsey.watson@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk)

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

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## Agenda

Item		Pages
1.	<b>APOLOGIES</b>	
	To receive any apologies for absence.	
2.	<b>MINUTES</b>	5 - 8
	To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 28 March 2024.	
3.	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b>	
	To disclose any pecuniary, other registrable or non-registrable interests as set out in the adopted Code of Conduct. In making their disclosure councillors are asked to state the agenda item, the nature of the interest and any action they propose to take as part of their declaration.	
	If required, further advice should be sought from the Monitoring Officer in advance of the meeting.	

#### 4. CHAIR'S UPDATE

To receive any updates from the Chair of the Place and Resources Scrutiny Committee.

#### 5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Representatives of town or parish councils and members of the public who live, work, or represent an organisation within the Dorset Council area are welcome to submit either 1 question or 1 statement for each meeting. You are welcome to attend the meeting in person or via MS Teams to read out your question and to receive the response. If you submit a statement for the committee this will be circulated to all members of the committee in advance of the meeting as a supplement to the agenda and appended to the minutes for the formal record but will not be read out at the meeting. **The first 8 questions and the first 8 statements received from members of the public or organisations for each meeting will be accepted on a first come first served basis in accordance with the deadline set out below.** Further information read [Public Participation - Dorset Council](#)

All submissions must be emailed in full to [lindsey.watson@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:lindsey.watson@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk) by 8.30am on 25 July 2024.

When submitting your question or statement please note that:

- You can submit 1 question or 1 statement.
- a question may include a short pre-ambule to set the context.
- It must be a single question and any sub-divided questions will not be permitted.
- Each question will consist of no more than 450 words, and you will be given up to 3 minutes to present your question.
- when submitting a question please indicate who the question is for (e.g., the name of the committee or Portfolio Holder)
- Include your name, address, and contact details. Only your name will be published but we may need your other details to contact you about your question or statement in advance of the meeting.
- questions and statements received in line with the council's rules for public participation will be published as a supplement to the agenda.
- all questions, statements and responses will be published in full within the minutes of the meeting.

#### 6. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

To receive questions submitted by councillors.

Councillors can submit up to two valid questions at each meeting and sub divided questions count towards this total. Questions and statements received will be published as a supplement to the agenda

and all questions, statements and responses will be published in full within the minutes of the meeting.

The submissions must be emailed in full to [lindsey.watson@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:lindsey.watson@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk) by 8.30am on 25 July 2024.

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

**7. TRIAL REDUCTION IN CAR PARK CHARGES** 9 - 16

To consider a report of the Corporate Director Economic Growth and Infrastructure.

**8. NATURAL ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE AND ECOLOGY: PROGRESS REPORT - SUMMER 2024** 17 - 44

To consider a report of the Climate and Ecology Policy Officer.

**9. PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY**

A review of the relevant Dorset Council performance dashboard to inform the scrutiny committee's work programme and identify items for further review.

The following link is the dashboard for the committee:

[Place and Resources Scrutiny Committee dashboard](#)

**10. PLACE AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME** 45 - 50

To review the draft Place and Resources Scrutiny Committee Work Programme.

**11. EXECUTIVE ARRANGEMENTS FORWARD PLANS** 51 - 70

To review the Executive arrangement forward plans.

*Forward Plans are provided to members of the Place and Resources Scrutiny Committee to review and identify any potential post decision scrutiny to be undertaken, by scheduling items into the work programme to review after a period of implementation.*

**12. 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.

**13. EXEMPT BUSINESS**

To move the exclusion of the press and the public for the following item in view of the likely disclosure of exempt information within the meaning of paragraph x of schedule 12 A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended). The public and the press will be asked to leave the meeting whilst the item of business is considered.

**There are no exempt items scheduled for this meeting.**

**To follow formal meeting - Discussion on timing of future meetings**

After the close of the formal part of the meeting, councillors to discuss the timing of future meetings of the committee.



## PLACE AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

### MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 28 MARCH 2024

**Present:** Cllrs Shane Bartlett (Chairman), Andy Canning (Vice-Chairman), Jon Andrews, Piers Brown, Brian Heatley and David Tooke

**Apologies:** Cllrs Rod Adkins, Barry Goringe, David Shortell and Bill Trite

**Also present:** Cllr Ray Bryan and Cllr Spencer Flower

**Also present remotely:** Cllr Cherry Brooks and Cllr Jane Somper

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

Jan Britton (Executive Lead for the Place Directorate), Neil Turner (Service Manager for Network Operations), Mike Garrity (Head of Planning), Sarah Dackham (Digital Business Partner), Alison Turnock (Service Manager for Conservation), Anna Lee (Service Manager for Development Management and Enforcement), Darren Hobson (Enforcement Manager), Naomi Macklin (Business Manager for Place), David Bonner (Service Manager for Business Intelligence and Performance), Chris Swain (Risk Management and Reporting Officer), Lindsey Watson (Senior Democratic Services Officer) and Chris Harrod (Senior Democratic Services Officer)

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

Jonathan Mair (Director of Legal and Democratic and Monitoring Officer)

67. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 February 2024 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

68. **Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

69. **Chairman's Update**

At the request of the Chairman, the committee received an update in respect of 'Road/Streetworks, Traffic Management and Reinstatement', provided by the Traffic Team Leader.

Councillors noted the issues arising from the briefing note and during discussion, points were considered in the following areas:

- Repairs to grassed/verge areas after works and the need to raise awareness amongst councillors of the role of highways inspectors in this area

- There was regular communication between the Council and Hampshire County Council on highways issues including damage to verges by lorries
- Regular public communications were undertaken in respect of road works
- Work undertaken with partner organisations e.g. utility companies, with regard to their works on the highway
- Further information requested on financial penalties associated with the permit scheme
- How issues and complaints about road works could be raised
- Inspections undertaken to ensure the quality of reinstatements following works
- There was a role for ward councillors to report any issues in their area
- Further information would be provided to all councillors in the new Council term.

#### **70. Public Participation**

There were no questions or statements from members of the public or local organisations.

#### **71. Questions from Councillors**

There were no questions from councillors.

#### **72. Planning Convergence and Transformation**

The committee received and considered a report of the Head of Planning, which provided an overview of the 5-year planning convergence and transformation programme, designed to help shape and support the restructure of planning following the transitional arrangements put in place as part of Local Government Reorganisation.

For openness and for the public record, a number of councillors stated that they were members of planning committees as follows; Cllr S Bartlett – Strategic and Technical Planning Committee, Eastern Area Planning Committee and Local Plan Executive Advisory Panel; Cllr J Andrews - Northern Area Planning Committee; Cllr B Heatley - Northern Area Planning Committee; Cllr D Tooke – Strategic and Technical Planning Committee, Eastern Area Planning Committee and involvement with planning at parish council level.

Councillors considered the issues arising from the report and during discussion the following areas were covered:

- The importance of appropriate communications with residents, councillors and town and parish councils relating to enforcement activities
- Opportunities for improvements to reporting from bringing together systems
- A discussion on progress with the emerging Local Plan, the status of former councils' legacy plans and awaited Government guidance. It was noted that there was a need to progress at pace whilst taking into account consultation responses and new legislation and guidance

- Resourcing issues including reducing the dependency on use of agency staff and opportunities for apprenticeships. Resilience had been built across teams and this was supported by the new systems in place
- Detail of the service-wide change group put in place to build a one-team approach and wider engagement taking place, including with external partners
- Further information could be provided on the uptake of pre-application advice. This could be monitored through the performance dashboard
- Timescales for the audit work related to planning enforcement and the potential role for the committee for review in this area
- Budget available for the convergence and transformation programme.

At the conclusion of the discussion, a summary of key points arising was provided and further action points noted as follows:

- It was noted that there were opportunities for improved reporting from bringing planning systems together
- There was a need to continue to improve key communications around enforcement for residents, councillors and town and parish councils
- Further information to be provided to committee members on uptake of pre-application advice. The committee could continue to monitor uptake through the performance dashboard
- There was a future role for councillors in the work towards the review of the enforcement policy and a request for a regular report to the scrutiny committee in relation to enforcement issues
- Information to be provided to all councillors as part of the post-election induction programme on progress with the emerging local plan and status of legacy plans and the alignment with the national planning policy framework. In addition, a briefing note to be provided to the committee.

The Chairman thanked the planning team for their work undertaken in this area.

### 73. **Performance Scrutiny**

The committee considered the performance dashboard and highlighted some areas of interest. These included:

- Staff sickness levels were being monitored and work undertaken with HR Business Partners on the metrics being used. Some trends were improving and it was noted that target levels may require review
- There was a request for a future report to the committee on benchmarking data associated with staff turnover levels
- There was a need to review targets set in some areas to allow for more flexibility. The committee asked for Legal to reconsider the current target associated with land charges – this would be picked up by the Service Manager for Business Intelligence and Performance
- The format and display of the dashboard was currently being reviewed.

### 74. **Place and Resources Scrutiny Committee Work Programme**

Councillors noted the draft work programme for the committee for 2024/25.

**75. Executive Arrangements Forward Plans**

Councillors considered the Cabinet Forward Plan, which the committee could use to identify potential areas for post decision review.

In addition, the committee noted the forward plan for the Shareholder Committee for Care Dorset Ltd and the Shareholder Committee for the Dorset Centre of Excellence.

**76. Urgent items**

There were no urgent items.

**77. Exempt Business**

There was no exempt business.

**CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING REMARKS**

In closing the meeting, the Chairman thanked the committee for their participation and input into the committee during the Council term and in addition, thanked all officers who had attended and supported the committee.

**Duration of meeting:** 10.00 am - 12.17 pm

**Chairman**

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## Place and Resources Scrutiny Committee

30 July 2024

### Trial reduction in car park charges

#### For Review and Consultation

**Cabinet Member and Portfolio:**

Cllr J Andrews, Place Commissioned Services

**Local Councillor(s):**

All councillors

**Executive Director:**

Jan Britton, Executive Lead for Place

Report Author: Matthew Piles

Job Title: Corporate Director Economic Growth and Infrastructure

Tel: 01305 221336

Email: matthew.piles@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

**Report Status:** Public

**Brief Summary:** On 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024, a trial of reduced car park tariffs was commenced in three level 3 car parks. The process for undertaking this change has been requested to scrutiny for review by the Scrutiny Chair and Vice-Chair.

**Recommendation:** The committee are asked to review the information as shown in this report to give clarity to the decision process to trial a tariff reduction.

**Reason for Recommendation:** By request of Scrutiny Chair and Vice-Chair.

## 1. Report

### 1.1 Background

- i. From April 28<sup>th</sup> 2023, the parking tariffs for level 3 locations<sup>1</sup> were increased as part of our annual budgetary process.
- ii. At Full Council on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2023, a petition was submitted by Mr Sims-Duff asking to reduce the new charges to match those of other Dorset Council towns. Full Council agreed refer the debate about parking charges to Cabinet.
- iii. At Cabinet on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2023, the decision was made to review the charges at Scrutiny Committee at a later date in the 2023/2024 financial year.
- iv. On 3rd May 2024, following local elections, the new Council Leader Cllr Nick Ireland requested a review of the parking tariffs with an aim to support Dorset residents and businesses.
- v. An operational review paper was written, with options for change and the cost of each included.
- vi. From this review paper, the decision was made to implement a trial reduction of tariffs in three level 3 car parks: West Bay Road in West Bay, Charmouth Road in Lyme Regis and Swannery in Weymouth.
- vii. Legal advice was sought to ensure that the process for implementing the trial did not contravene Dorset Council Rules of Procedure.
- viii. On 18th June 2024 an Executive Decision notice detailing the trial was signed by Cllr Jon Andrews, Cabinet Member for Place Services.
- ix. On 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024, a trial of a reduced car park tariff was commenced in the three level 3 car parks as listed above.

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<sup>1</sup> Charmouth (level 3 in summer only), Lyme Regis, Portland, West Bay, West Bexington (level 3 in summer only) and Weymouth.

## 1.2 Trial Review

The trial in 3 car parks will be evaluated using data from the parking machines and from customer surveys (advertised in the car parks). The machine data and customer feedback will be used to inform a complete review of parking charges following the trial.

## 2. **Legal**

- 2.1 The trial change to the tariff in three car parks was advised not to be a key decision and accordingly could be made by the relevant Cabinet member acting individually, without the need for a collective decision at a Cabinet meeting.

## 3. **Financial Implications**

- 3.1 If car park usage levels remain the same as 2023, then the budget impact is estimated to be an income reduction of £276k. This is based on the average customer spend in each of the three reduced car parks being deducted from the income received for the same period in 2023.
- 3.2 The reality is that price isn't the only factor that determines car park income. Car parking usage is also variable from one year to the next due to seasonal and weather patterns. An early spring and good summer can significantly increase income. Consequently the actual budget impact will be monitored throughout the year, and if necessary any income shortfall will be mitigated by a budget transfer of lead member allowances combined with other operational efficiencies from within the £104M Place Directorate budget.

## 4. **Natural Environment, Climate & Ecology Implications**

- 4.1 The overall vision of the Local Transport Plan 3 (LTP3) includes creating sustainable travel patterns which involves providing a greater choice of realistic alternatives to the car. There is also a focus on setting parking policies in town centres that consider the impact on local economies, and which encourage long stay commuters to use public transport alternatives.

- 4.2 The aim is to promote sustainable access to visitor attractions and developing transport facilities, such as the Park & Ride in Weymouth and Purbeck (park & train) in Corfe Castle.

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

The trial parking charges will help improve health and wellbeing by supporting the reduction of cost pressures for Dorset residents and businesses.

6. **Other Implications**

None

7. **Risk Assessment**

- 7.1 The risk that needs to be assessed is whether a reduction in parking charges will affect Parking Service's ability to cover the Highways costs that have been budgeted for this financial year.

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**

Not applicable

9. **Appendices**

Appendix One: Executive Decision Notice

10. **Background Papers**

None

## Appendix One

### Executive Decision Notice

<b>Date of Decision</b>	18 June 2024
<b>Decision Maker</b>	Cabinet Member for Place Services
<b>Designation</b>	Place commissioned services
<b>Decision:</b>	<p>To trial the reduction of charges in three car parks, one in each of the main coastal towns that have tier three charges. The charges will reduce from peak rates to off peak rates, from 1 July through to the 31 October 2024.</p> <p>1st April to 31st October (peak)</p> <p>Up to 30 minutes £1.50 Up to 1 hour £3 Up to 2 hours £4.50 Up to 3 hours £6 Up to 4 hours £7.50 Up to 10 hours £15</p> <p>1st November to 31st March (off peak)</p> <p>Up to 30 minutes £0.80 Up to 1 hour £1.50 Up to 2 hours £2.30 Up to 3 hours £3.30 Up to 4 hours £5.30 Up to 10 hours £9</p> <p>The car park affected are:- Swannery – Weymouth West Bay Road – West Bay Charmouth Road – Lyme Regis</p>

	<p>To extend the short stay permit in Dorset Council car parks from 2 to 3 hrs. Existing terms and conditions apply.</p>
<p><b>Reasons for the decision</b></p>	<p>The Council is trialling a reduction in charges following the concerns raised by local communities and businesses. It will help us to understand the impact that the increase in charges in 2023 has made to occupancy and length of stay in car parks. This increase was introduced during the 2023 budget setting process and implemented on 28 April 2023 as part of the fees and charges increases. It will also help make a case for using charging to drive behaviour, moving users from the town centre car parks to ones further out.</p> <p>This decision is taken in accordance with the delegated authority for Cabinet Members set out in Article 6 (and its Annex) within Dorset Council's constitution.</p> <p>The reason for this not being a key decision is that the financial impact is less than £500k for this financial year and it does not have a significant effect on multiple wards.</p>
<p><b>Alternative options considered and rejected</b></p>	<p>Reducing all tier three car parks to off peak prices – the financial implications of this would be beyond what could be covered in the financial year.</p> <p>Reducing all or some tier three car parks to tier two prices – this would mean a larger change to signs, orders and systems and would not be possible in a timely manner to make an impact on this summer.</p> <p>Reducing tier three car parks to 2022 prices - this would mean a larger change to signs, orders and systems and would not be possible in a timely manner to make an impact on this summer.</p>

	The rationale for the trial is to understand the impact through evidence of occupancy, impact on the highway network in addition to the financial impact set out in the budget implications.										
<b>Consultees</b>	<p>Matthew Piles, Corporate Director Economic Growth and Infrastructure</p> <p>Michael Westwood, Service Manager for Parking Services</p> <p>Local ward members for Melcombe Regis, Bridport, Lyme Regis and Charmouth.</p>										
<b>Budget Implications</b>	<p>Decrease in budget estimated to be £276,259.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="662 758 1102 1039"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>From 1st July Change</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Swannery</td> <td>144,133</td> </tr> <tr> <td>West Bay Road</td> <td>61,007</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Charmouth Road</td> <td>71,118</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>276,259</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The budgetary impact will be mitigated by savings identified elsewhere (£100k lead member allowances) and with the balance made up from income and operational efficiencies across the Place Directorate.</p> <p>This is an operational decision and is not a fundamental change to budget framework. The overall council budget will not be impacted. The decision is for a 'pilot' rather than a permanent change.</p>		From 1st July Change	Swannery	144,133	West Bay Road	61,007	Charmouth Road	71,118		276,259
	From 1st July Change										
Swannery	144,133										
West Bay Road	61,007										
Charmouth Road	71,118										
	276,259										
<b>Legal Implications</b>	N/A										
<b>Any Conflict of Interest?</b>	N/A										
<b>Reference Documents</b>	N/A										

Publication date: 18/06/2024

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## Place and Resources Scrutiny Committee

30 July 2024

### Natural Environment, Climate and Ecology: Progress Report – Summer 2024

#### For Review and Consultation

**Cabinet Member and Portfolio:**

Cllr Nick Ireland, Leader, Cabinet Member for Governance, Performance, Communications, Environment, Climate Change and Safeguarding

**Local Councillor(s):**

County Wide

**Executive Director:**

A Dunn, Executive Director, Corporate Development

Report Author: Carl Warom

Title: Climate & Ecology Policy Officer

Tel: 01305 225853

Email: carl.warom@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

**Report Status:** Public

**1. Brief Summary:**

- 1.1 Since refreshing our strategy in early 2023, delivery of our programme has continued to demonstrate our commitment to a net zero, nature positive and resilient Dorset. Record temperatures in 2023 and 2024 have again underscored the imperative for us to proceed at pace as a council and a county to deliver a cleaner, greener Dorset. This report is the first of our biannual reports for 2024. It provides a qualitative narrative of our own delivery on our strategy's core missions.

**Recommendation:**

To review progress made in delivering the natural environment, climate and ecology strategy during 2023/24.

## Reason for Recommendation:

In line with the recommendation of the Scrutiny Committee on 12 May 2021 that the Committee would provide oversight against progress and delivery of the strategy and action plan via six monthly progress reports. The Committee's views will be used to inform the shape of the next phase of the delivery programme.

## 2. Background and context

2.1. Since refreshing our strategy in early 2023, delivery of our programme has continued to demonstrate our commitment to a net zero, nature positive and resilient Dorset. Record temperatures in 2023 and 2024 have again underscored the imperative for us to proceed at pace as a council and a county to deliver a cleaner, greener Dorset. Spurred on by the 2023 release of the IPCC's 6<sup>th</sup> Assessment Report, the latest UK State of Nature report, and the launch of the third National Adaptation Programme, the strengthened case for action catalysed further delivery across the year.<sup>1</sup>

2.2. To maintain transparency, we report biannually in two ways:

- Spring/Summer reporting: qualitative narrative on delivery within our operational and facilitation programmes – i.e. our interventions.
- Autumn/Winter reporting: quantitative reporting on the consequent changes to our council and county emissions trajectory – i.e. on the outcomes.

This report is the first of our biannual reports for 2024. It provides a qualitative narrative of our own delivery on our strategy's missions, but does not provide an updated quantitative description of emissions or biodiversity outcomes – which will be provided in the subsequent Autumn/Winter reporting.<sup>2</sup>

2.3. Our last (Autumn/Winter 2023) quantitative report<sup>3</sup> noted that:

- Compared to our reported baseline emissions (2017 data) *Dorset (county) emissions* reduced by around 10% by 2021. The three most significant sources of greenhouse gas emissions in Dorset are transport (29%), agriculture (33%) and domestic sources (22%). Total emissions were up by 6% on the year to 2021 however, which mirrors the 6% increase in national emissions due to a post-Covid rebound.

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<sup>1</sup> [AR6 Synthesis Report: Climate Change 2023 \(ipcc.ch\)](#); [State of Nature 2023 - report on the UK's current biodiversity](#); [Third National Adaptation Programme \(NAP3\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

<sup>2</sup> Previous progress reports are available here: [What's happened so far - Dorset Council](#). The latest reports on national progress can be found from the Climate Change Committee/Office for Environmental Protection on [net zero](#), [natural environment](#), and [climate adaptation](#).

<sup>3</sup> [2023 Autumn/Winter Progress Report](#)

Consequently, Dorset is now off target for the county's decarbonisation trajectory.

- Compared to our baseline year (2019) *Dorset Council emissions* have reduced by approximately 27%. By far the largest contributors to Dorset Council emissions are the energy use in our buildings, and fuel used for our fleet of vehicles. We have therefore managed to remain on our target trajectory.
- Around 22% of Dorset's land falls within our ecological network, but only around a third of the network is known to be in good condition – with a fifth known to be in poor condition.

### **3. 2023/24 progress**

- 3.1. 2023/24 has seen considerable further delivery across a vast programme of work, including:
  - Further retrofit works through our extended Low Carbon Dorset programme, to support the decarbonisation of non-residential buildings locally.
  - Enhanced domestic retrofit activity through Healthy Homes Dorset, supported by receipt of Homes Upgrade Grant funding.
  - Publication of our Planning for Climate Change guidance.
  - An in-depth examination into grid constraints, led by our Places and Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee.
  - Significant progress in developing major strategies, such as our Local Transport Plan and Local Nature Recovery Strategy.
  - Commencement of the next phase of our public EV charger programme.
  - Major active travel infrastructure projects.
  - Enhanced development mitigation through implementation of Biodiversity Net Gain, and the award of major funding for nutrient mitigation.
  - Our becoming the #1 unitary for recycling.
  - Allocation of all remaining funds within Dorset National Landscape's £2.4m Farming in Protected Landscapes programme.
  - The launch of our Community Tree Programme.
  - Kickstarting new work on adaptation, procurement and partnership working.
- 3.2. This work has been enabled in part thanks to our generous capital programme, and thanks to our successfully winning many external grants, including from the Shared Prosperity Fund, Rural England Prosperity Fund, SW Net Zero Hub Local Net Zero Fund, Homes Upgrade Grant, Green Light Fund, BSIP+ Fund, Nutrient Mitigation Fund, Natural Flood Management fund, and Innovate UK Net Zero Living Fund.
- 3.3. We were also pleased to be recognised through awards this year for our programmes. Significantly, we won Regen's Public and Local Sector Net

Zero Transformation Award, thanks to our building decarbonisation programme (incorporating our public sector programme, Low Carbon Dorset, and Healthy Homes Dorset). Additionally, our solar-powered 'hotbox' at Charminster Depot also received global recognition at the International Green Apple Environment Awards.

- 3.4. Further detail on this progress is described by mission in the appended report.
- 3.5. We have achieved much over the year, however as we proceed our trajectory will likely get more difficult – and it will take significant effort to reach our next interim operational target and to get our county-wide trajectory back on target. Achieving this will require (a) increasing the pace and scale of our activity; (b) delivering 'smarter' by giving greater definition to our pathways and targets; and (c) strengthening our facilitation work by working more closely with our communities.
- 3.6. Previous scrutiny meetings have noted that whilst narrative commentary is welcome, there is difficulty in appraising whether work is at an adequate pace or scale without quantitative targets. We are therefore working towards meeting that in two ways:
  - a) In collaboration with Regen, we are aiming to develop a more comprehensive dashboard of quantitative indicators in addition to our high-level emission and biodiversity metrics, which will describe a wider range of indicators of progress. This will inevitably be constrained by data availability, but there are several significant data sources which could enable a richer picture than we have previously provided. We aim to prepare a prototype dashboard for our next (Autumn/Winter) quantitative progress report.
  - b) Fully responding to this really requires specifying detailed targets or mission-specific trajectories. Over the course of the last few months, we have undertaken several operational deep dives with internal teams to develop a more detailed programme to meet our interim operational targets. Additionally, several of our emerging new strategies and plans will be critical to defining these, and therefore giving us a smarter path forward. For this reason, the next few years of the programme will benefit considerably from the development of our Strategic Asset Management Plan, council Travel Plan, new Local Plan, Local Transport Plan, Local Nature Recovery Strategy, and Local Area Energy Plan.

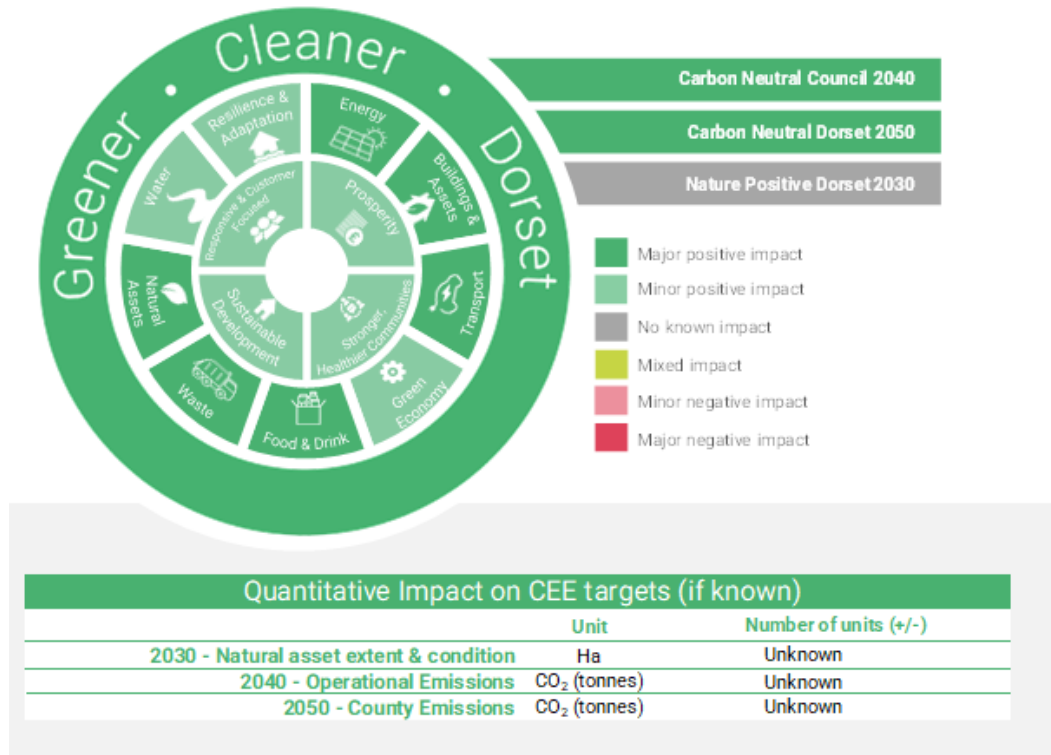
3.7. To support the development of further progress, we have recently recruited four new members of staff to our sustainability team and are aiming to recruit a further two. This is strengthening our capacity to expedite our operational programme, develop funding bids, strengthen our partnerships, develop new programmes on adaptation and procurement, and to develop a Local Area Energy Plan.

### 3. Financial Implications

3.1 This report itself has no financial implications. A costed action plan for the programme was presented to Cabinet on 6 October 2020, highlighting what could be achieved with existing resources, but stressing that significant additional revenue and capital would be required to deliver over its lifetime at the pace and scale required. Dorset Council made significant commitments in the 2022/23 Dorset Council budget.

3.2 We will need to continue our success in accessing additional resources from a variety of external sources through competitive grant funding and partnership working – and will need to ensure we are opportunity ready with the right evidence and resources to win funding competitions.

### 4. Natural Environment, Climate & Ecology Implications



<b>Natural Environment, Climate &amp; Ecology Strategy Commitments</b>	<b>Impact</b>
Energy	Major positive impact
Buildings & Assets	Major positive impact
Transport	Major positive impact
Green Economy	Minor positive impact
Food & Drink	Major positive impact
Waste	Major positive impact
Natural Assets & Ecology	Major positive impact
Water	Minor positive impact
Resilience and Adaptation	Minor positive impact
<b>Corporate Plan Aims</b>	<b>Impact</b>
Prosperity	minor positive impact
Stronger healthier communities	minor positive impact
Sustainable Development & Housing	minor positive impact
Responsive & Customer Focused	minor positive impact

Quantitative impacts will be detailed within the programmes Autumn/Winter progress report.

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

- 5.1 There are no specific health and wellbeing implications of this report. However, from a strategic perspective, implementation of the strategy and action plan has significant co-benefits for health and wellbeing, and climate change impacts include significant socio-economic and health and wellbeing risks. Our emerging work on adaptation is considering how to mitigate the impacts of now unavoidable warming.

## 6. **Other implications**

- 6.1 There are no other specific implications contained in this report. As previously noted, the strategy and action plan itself has wide ranging implications, opportunities, and benefits for the way the council delivers services and works with others across the county.

## 7. **Risk Assessment**

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

Current Risk: High

Residual Risk: Medium

- 7.2 Due to the known high level of public interest in the climate change agenda and the previous commitment to provide the public with a bi-annual progress report, to not do should be considered a high reputational risk to Dorset Council.
- 7.3 The publication of this report is in line with commitments made and shows a significant level of progress; but notes that there remains a need for increased urgency and further progress.
- 7.4 In addition, the impacts of climate change pose a significant risk to council services and budgets and the wider Dorset area in the medium and long-term. Failure to effectively address the climate and ecological emergency and resilience will increase the risks associated with climate change.

## 8. **Equalities Impact Assessment**

- 8.1 A scoping exercise is currently being undertaken to highlight any specific impacts that need to be considered through the delivery of the strategy and action plan.

## 9. **Appendices**

- Appendix A - Natural Environment, Climate and Ecology: Progress Report – Summer 2024

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# Natural Environment, Climate and Ecology

Progress Report – Summer 2024

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# 1. Introduction

- 1.1. Since refreshing our strategy in early 2023, delivery of our programme has continued to demonstrate our commitment to a net zero, nature positive and resilient Dorset. Record temperatures in 2023 and 2024 have again underscored the imperative for us to proceed at pace as a council and a county to deliver a cleaner, greener Dorset. Spurred on by the 2023 release of the IPCC's 6<sup>th</sup> Assessment Report, the latest UK State of Nature report, and the launch of the third National Adaptation Programme, the strengthened case for action catalysed further delivery across the year.<sup>1</sup>
- 1.2. There is now evidence that the world has experienced 12 consecutive months of temperatures over 1.5°C above the pre-industrial average. Whilst this doesn't yet mean that the world has failed to meet the targets of the Paris Agreement (which would require exceeding the 1.5°C over a decade rather than just a single year), it is a worrying sign. The impacts are already being felt, and not just globally. For example, the UK saw greater frequency and intensity of downpours in late 2023 and early 2024, with significant knock-on impacts on agricultural productivity.<sup>2</sup> Moreover this threatens to further aggravate the continuing decline facing nature in the UK, with the latest evaluation finding again that one in six species are at risk of extinction.
- 1.3. It remains the case that taking action to decarbonise, support nature recovery, and adapt to now unavoidable change is an unprecedented opportunity: it will help us to be more efficient in how we use energy, materials, land and other key resources. And doing so gives us a big chance to make our food and energy systems more secure, our homes and transport healthier and cheaper to run, and to create new skilled jobs.
- 1.4. The council therefore maintains that it is not a priority to weigh against our socio-economic ambitions, but a lever to achieve them. Cleaner, greener systems for how we power, heat, feed and transport ourselves will enable us to nurture prosperous, stronger, healthier communities. And, importantly, the council will play an important role in ensuring a fair transition, so that measures are affordable and that everyone in our communities is protected and benefits.
- 1.5. To maintain transparency, we report biannually in two ways:
  - Spring/Summer reporting: qualitative narrative on delivery within our operational and facilitation programmes – i.e. our interventions.
  - Autumn/Winter reporting: quantitative reporting on the consequent changes to our council and county emissions trajectory – i.e. on the outcomes.This report is the first of our biannual reports for 2024. It provides a qualitative narrative of our own delivery on our strategy's missions, but does not provide an updated quantitative description of emissions or biodiversity outcomes – which will be provided in the subsequent Autumn/Winter reporting.<sup>3</sup>

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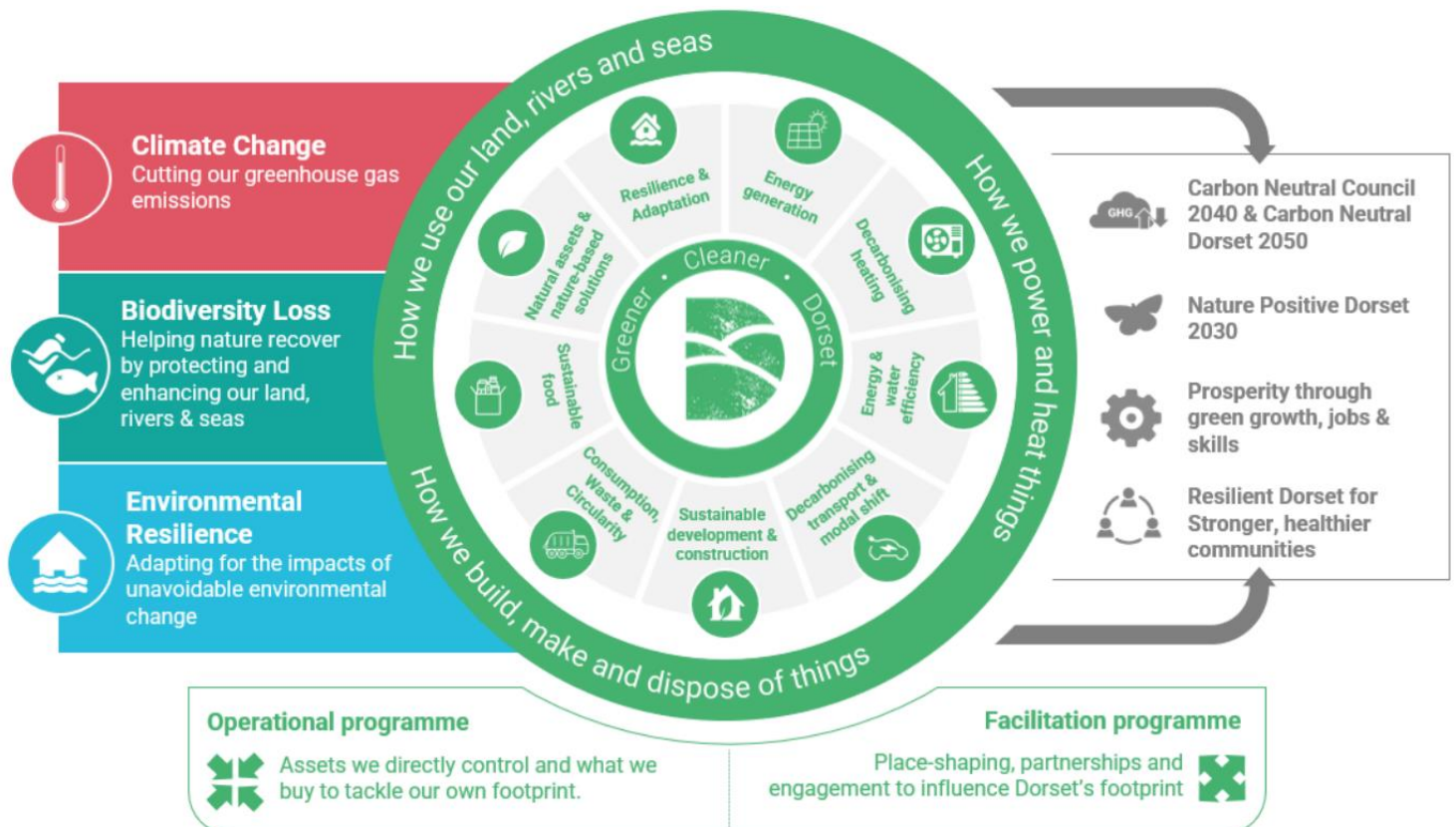
<sup>1</sup> [AR6 Synthesis Report: Climate Change 2023 \(ipcc.ch\)](#); [State of Nature 2023 - report on the UK's current biodiversity](#); [Third National Adaptation Programme \(NAP3\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Climate change drives increase in storm rainfall - Met Office](#); [Disastrous fruit and vegetable crops must be 'wake-up call' for UK, say farmers | Farming | The Guardian](#)

<sup>3</sup> Previous progress reports are available here: [What's happened so far - Dorset Council](#). The latest reports on national progress can be found from the Climate Change Committee/Office for Environmental Protection on [net zero](#), [natural environment](#), and [climate adaptation](#).

## 2. Context and strategy

- 2.1. Dorset Council’s first climate and ecology strategy and action plan were adopted by Full Council on 15 July 2021, setting clear targets towards a carbon neutral council by 2040 and a carbon neutral county by 2050. Our refreshed strategy was adopted in March 2023, and ‘Protecting our natural environment, climate and ecology’ was also a priority in the 2022-24 council plan.
- 2.2. Our refreshed strategy is centred 3 core challenges or ‘pillars’:
- Climate Change (cutting greenhouse gas emissions)
  - Biodiversity Loss (nature recovery)
  - Environmental resilience (adaptation)
- Each of these is important and they are each interdependent in the sense that failure to achieve any one of them will frustrate the achievement of the others.
- 2.3. The strategy accordingly responds to those challenges with 9 core missions. These are delivered through our operational programme (focusing on our own organisational impacts as a council) and our facilitation programme (focusing on work to support change in Dorset beyond the council).




- 2.4. Our last (Autumn/Winter 2023) quantitative report<sup>4</sup> noted that:
- Compared to our reported baseline emissions (2017 data) *Dorset (county) emissions* reduced by around 10% by 2021. The three most significant sources of greenhouse gas emissions in Dorset are transport (29%), agriculture (33%) and domestic sources (22%). Total emissions were up by 6% on the year to 2021 however, which mirrors the 6% increase in national emissions due to a post-Covid rebound. Consequently, Dorset is now off target for the county’s decarbonisation trajectory.

<sup>4</sup> [2023 Autumn/Winter Progress Report](#)

- Compared to our baseline year (2019) *Dorset Council emissions* have reduced by approximately 27%. By far the largest contributors to Dorset Council emissions are the energy use in our buildings, and fuel used for our fleet of vehicles. We have therefore managed to remain on our target trajectory.
- Around 22% of Dorset’s land falls within our ecological network, but only around a third of the network is known to be in good condition – with a fifth known to be in poor condition.

### 3. 2023/24 progress

- 3.1. 2023/24 has seen considerable further delivery across a vast programme of work, including:
- Further retrofit works through our extended Low Carbon Dorset programme, to support the decarbonisation of non-residential buildings locally.
  - Enhanced domestic retrofit activity through Healthy Homes Dorset, supported by receipt of Homes Upgrade Grant funding.
  - Publication of our Planning for Climate Change guidance.
  - An in-depth examination into grid constraints, led by our Places and Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee.
  - Significant progress in developing major strategies, such as our Local Transport Plan and Local Nature Recovery Strategy.
  - Commencement of the next phase of our public EV charger programme.
  - Major active travel infrastructure projects.
  - Enhanced development mitigation through implementation of Biodiversity Net Gain, and the award of major funding for nutrient mitigation.
  - Our becoming the #1 unitary for recycling.
  - Allocation of all remaining funds within Dorset National Landscape’s £2.4m Farming in Protected Landscapes programme.
  - The launch of our Community Tree Programme.
  - Kickstarting new work on adaptation, procurement and partnership working.
- 3.2. This work has been enabled in part thanks to our generous capital programme, and thanks to our successfully winning many external grants, including from the Shared Prosperity Fund, Rural England Prosperity Fund, SW Net Zero Hub Local Net Zero Fund, Homes Upgrade Grant, Green Light Fund, BSIP+ Fund, Nutrient Mitigation Fund, Natural Flood Management fund, and Innovate UK Net Zero Living Fund.
- 3.3. We were also pleased to be recognised through awards this year for our programmes. Significantly, we won Regen’s Public and Local Sector Net Zero Transformation Award, thanks to our building decarbonisation programme (incorporating our public sector programme, Low Carbon Dorset, and Healthy Homes Dorset). Additionally, our solar-powered ‘hotbox’ at Charminster Depot also received global recognition at the International Green Apple Environment Awards.
- 3.4. Further detail on this progress is described by mission in the following:



### Mission 1: Power

Operational: Estate renewable energy generation, council energy contract  
Facilitation: Large-scale installations, Small-scale & community installations, Local energy/flex markets, Biofuels & CCS, Energy planning & the grid, Planning policy & guidance

**1. Operational (Council)**

**Estate generation:** The first phase of our £18.2m grant-funded programme is nearing completion, having upgraded over 200 buildings (council, schools, libraries, and leisure centres) with over 350 measures. This included a £7m investment in solar PV, enabling another 5MW of (~13,000 panels) to bring total capacity on our assets to 6MW. Combined with the programme's wider measures, this is helping to save ~1,500 tCO<sub>2</sub>e/yr, ~£1.2m/yr on bills – and helped cut building emissions by a fifth.<sup>5</sup> A decarbonisation plan for our depots was also completed this year, which found potential for the installation of further solar PV on 14 depot buildings, to supplement that already in place at sites like Charminster, Crookhill, Ferndown, Swanage and Poundbury. The next phase of work will facilitate another 1-3MW, with outline designs now being undertaken for 49 sites towards likely procurement of works between October 2024 and January 2025.<sup>6</sup> Grant funding has also been secured for further feasibility work for Charminster Depot specifically, which has potential for a further 51kWp of solar PV.

## **2. Facilitation (Wider Dorset)**

**Large-scale installations:** Five new applications for major projects have been submitted locally in the year to May (two solar farms (30MW and 19MW) and three battery storage facilities (31MW, 47.5MW and 400MW), and two major projects refused (a 12MW solar farm and a 60MW battery facility). Voltalia's South Farm Solar Park near Spetisbury became operational, whilst Centrica's 16MW solar farm near Winterborne is expected to do so in 2025. Significantly, four wind turbines at Alaska Wind Farm have now been installed near Wareham – our county's first major wind farm installation. Early engagement has been undertaken with Source Gallileo on its proposed 2GW offshore wind development.

**Small-scale and community installations:** Healthy Homes Dorset facilitated 31 solar PV installations in homes across the first contract period (2021-24), with 12 enabled in 2023-24 through new HUG2 funding.<sup>7</sup> For non-domestic buildings, our Low Carbon Dorset programme has, since April 2023, supported another 130 organisations, allocated 42 grants, and facilitated the install of a further 2.4MW of renewable capacity – bringing the total facilitated to 13.34MW. It has completed or contracted almost 140 solar PV projects so far, with around another 20 now being processed. The programme has now supported over 700 organisations, and has a strong pipeline of future projects – and is funded until March 2025.<sup>8</sup> Work is ongoing to promote the opportunities of new community energy funding. The addition of a new funding officer to the sustainability team is enabling us to offer better support to potential applicants.

**Energy planning and the grid:** In late 2023 and early 2024 a cross-party, 8-member task & finish group of the Place & Resources Scrutiny Committee undertook a deep dive into grid constraints. Through a series of in-depth workshops the participants heard from local stakeholders and experts on the challenges, and the opportunities for strategic energy planning. The recommendations of the group – including developing a Local Area Energy

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<sup>5</sup> Considerable work was also undertaken over this year to support the undertaking of technical, financial and closedown audits by the funder Salix.

<sup>6</sup> There are practical as well as resource constraints on delivery, including building roof structure and condition, and grid constraints.

<sup>7</sup> Healthy Homes Dorset is a partnership project with Public Health Dorset and BCP Council; and delivered by Ridgewater Energy since April 2021. It provides free advice, home visits, and the installation of insulation and other energy saving measures across homes within wider Dorset. Its total partner funding for this period was £363,745.20, and it further acquired £1,723,296.10 from other grant funding sources (HUG2, ECO, LEAP, SPF, COMF etc.).

<sup>8</sup> Low Carbon Dorset gives free advice and grant funding to local business and community organisations of all sizes. Since its creation it has supported over 1,000 local organisations and given £6.2m in grants to >220 organisations towards projects worth £17m – saving over 16kt CO<sub>2</sub>e as a result. Initially funded through EU (ERDF) funding, the project has been extended until March 2025 thanks to £856k from government's Shared Prosperity Fund and Rural England Prosperity Fund.

Plan, seizing the opportunity of Regional Energy System Planners, and strengthening relationships with network operators – were endorsed by Scrutiny and Cabinet in early 2024.<sup>9</sup> Work is now underway to recruit an energy officer to take forward the recommendations. Work has also commenced with neighbouring authorities and the SW Net Zero Hub to jointly commission early stage work for a Local Area Energy Plan.

Development Planning: In December the council published three guidance documents on planning for climate change: an Interim guidance and position statement (to guide decision-makers), a Sustainability checklist (a requirement for applicants), and specific guidance for listed buildings. This includes, for instance, clarity on current local plan policies renewable development, and guidance on solar panel installation on listed buildings and in conservation areas. The position statement and sustainability checklist are interim documents prior to the forthcoming new Dorset Local Plan. It is hoped that the aforementioned Local Area Energy Plan can be developed in time to help inform the new Local Plan, building on the existing evidence commissioned for the strategic identification of wind farm sites.<sup>10</sup>



## Mission 2: Heat

Operational: Estate heat decarbonisation planning and delivery

Facilitation: Residential and non-residential heating retrofit, heat networks

### 1. Operational (Council)

Building heat delivery: As noted above, the initial phase of our £18.2m grant-funded public sector decarbonisation scheme is nearing completion, having upgraded 200 buildings. This has included the installation of 17 heat pumps, and a passive-air cooling system at County Hall. The programme has achieved significant heat innovations, both through exemplifying the possibilities for listed buildings through the heat pump installation at Durlston Castle; and through two bespoke installations at leisure centres which will enable smart optimisation performance controls and ventilation improvements to significantly cut energy consumption. There are three further heat projects to complete within the programme, owing to factors like grid constraints.

Estate heat planning: Heat decarbonisation plans for another 125 sites are about to be commissioned (45 corporate sites, 80 schools), and a grant funding bid has been made to undertake a further 29. A Heat Decarbonisation Plan for the 21 sites in our depot estate was also completed this year, involving detailed site surveys and initial feasibility and cost benefit analysis for each site that included options to decarbonise heating, ventilation, and cooling systems. It identifies potential reduction of baseline energy consumption of almost 64%, and a cut in emissions of 209tCO<sub>2</sub>e. Grant funding has been secured for further feasibility work at Charminster Depot as an exemplar site, which is due at the end of 2024.

Road surfacing heat: Our solar-powered 'hotbox' at Charminster Depot also received special recognition at the International Green Apple Environment Awards, competing against 800 nominations. We are the first council nationally to install one, enabling us to decarbonise the heating of asphalt for pothole and patching work. Manufactured by Proteus Equipment, it cost the same as the equivalent gas-powered unit but enables cuts to bills and emissions by over 80,000kg/yr. We've subsequently been invited to receive Green World Ambassador status as a result of this innovation. We are also investigating new materials being developed by our strategic partner, Heidelberg Materials, that can be produced at even lower temperatures to enable further heat efficiencies in the manufacturing process.

<sup>9</sup> See the enquiries [final report](#). The work has also been developed as a case study by Regen ([Case study: Dorset Council's grid enquiry - Regen](#)), and the method and templates have been shared with other local authorities through an APSE Energy webinar.

<sup>10</sup> [Dorset Council Local Plan evidence and background papers](#)

## 2. Facilitation (Wider Dorset)

**Building heating retrofit:** Our Low Carbon Dorset programme has, since April 2023, supported a further 130 organisations and allocated 42 grants – thanks to an extension of the programme to March 2025. Amongst other low carbon measures, it has now facilitated over 20 heat pump projects for non-domestic buildings, with another 5 contracted or being processed – alongside other heating interventions like biomass boiler installations. This includes, amongst others, heat pumps at St Mary’s Church in Beaminster, Sherborne Abbey, a Christchurch garden centre, Kingston Maurward College, Charlton Marshall Village Hall, and Dorchester Cricket Pavilion – and a biomass boiler at Dorchester Corn Exchange. Healthy Homes Dorset has now facilitated the installation of 9 air source heat pumps over the first contracted period (2021-24). There has been an uptick over the last year, with 8 of these enabled by the new Homes Upgrade Grant 2 (HUG2) programme.<sup>11</sup>

**Planning guidance:** The December publication of an interim guidance and position statement, sustainability checklist, and listed buildings guidance included signposting to the existing local plan policies on low carbon heat, as well as many helpful case studies on low carbon heating retrofitting in sensitive buildings – including at Durlston Castle and Athelhampton House. The position statement and sustainability checklist are interim documents prior to the forthcoming new Dorset Local Plan.

**Heat networks:** Two heat networks were granted planning permission this year, both within Weymouth (one district ground-source network for 260 customer connections, and one communal air-source network for 37). The council also supported Dorset County Hospital’s successful bid for Heat Network Delivery Unit funding for feasibility analysis on a Dorchester heat network, which could potentially serve our own estate. It could also provide lessons on the potential for heat networks in the county more broadly.



### Mission 3: Energy & water efficiency

**Operational:** Building, equipment, and street asset efficiency

**Facilitation:** Residential and non-residential retrofit

#### 1. Operational (Council)

**Estate efficiency:** As noted above, the initial phase of our £18.2m grant-funded public sector decarbonisation scheme is nearing completion, having upgraded 200 buildings. This has included significant energy efficiency improvements, including 45 LED lighting upgrade projects and 185 heating control upgrades. The now finalised Heat Decarbonisation Plan for depots used a whole building approach that considered technological and behavioural energy efficiency opportunities – including a mix of LED upgrades, energy control systems and fabric upgrades. The fabric upgrades alone could help cut energy consumption by almost 253.5kWh/yr and save 46.7tCO<sub>2</sub>e. As noted above, plans for another 125 sites are about to be commissioned (45 corporate sites, 80 schools), and a grant funding bid has been made to undertake a further 29.

**Street assets:** Dorset’s ~50,000 streetlights and ~4,600 lit signs and bollards have a carbon footprint of 1.8 ktCO<sub>2</sub>e (around 8% of our operational footprint, but which still includes lights in the Christchurch area of BCP until 2032). Our street lighting is provided by Enerveo Ltd under a Private Finance Initiative (PFI) contract, with the service being governed by the council’s street lighting policy. Part night lighting was introduced by that policy to all areas with the lowest levels of highway use in 2011. Currently our £2.5m LED upgrades programme from the climate fund is running until 2026, with a further £500k investment in 23/24 and 40% of our streetlights have now been upgraded to LED. This

<sup>11</sup> The HUG2 programme is funded by a £4.3M government grant awarded in 2023. The other heat pump was funded through ECO2 grant funding in the preceding period (2022-23). HUG2 specifically targets homes which are off-gas, have low EPC ratings (D-G) and where residents are on a low income, receive benefits or live in a decile 1-3 Lower Super Output Area.

programme, along with part night lighting and other investment measures, has helped to reduce the service overall energy consumption by 58% since 2008.

## 2. Facilitation (Wider Dorset)

**Building retrofit:** Our Low Carbon Dorset programme has supported a further 130 organisations and allocated 42 grants since April, thanks to an extension of the programme to March 2025. It has now facilitated over one hundred energy efficiency projects for non-domestic buildings, with another 20 contracted or being processed – including works such as LED and equipment upgrades. Healthy Homes Dorset is also continuing to facilitate household energy efficiency upgrades. In 23/24, initial customer engagements grew by over a third. It undertook 454 initial home visits and upgraded 309 properties with 354 energy efficiency measures (116 cavity wall insulations and 238 loft insulations). Its activity has been boosted thanks to winning £4.3m of HUG2 funding in 2023, for programme of works until March 2025. Including measures provided through this and other external grant-funded sources, in 23/24 it helped to save £363,343/yr on bills and 48,200tCO<sub>2</sub>e over the lifetime of installed measures. Across the 2021-24 contracted period, the programme has now upgraded a total of 1,128 properties with 1,381 insulation measures, 7,919 energy saving bulbs, 4,467 radiator reflectors, and 751 door/window draught-proofing measures amongst others. The scheme has also been complemented by the council's MEES Enforcement Project, which helped improve over 200 privately rented homes rated EPC F-G – and which developed an innovative online 'Energy Rating Improver' tool to inform landlords on options and costs. Wider facilitation is also being enabled through our participation in the Lendology scheme (which offers low-cost loans to households for energy efficiency upgrades), and we are also engaged with the SW Net Zero Hub on supporting potential further consortium bids for Wave 3 Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund bids (expected to open Summer 2024).<sup>12</sup>

**Planning checklist:** The December publication of an Interim guidance and position statement, Sustainability checklist, and listed buildings guidance included guidance on energy and water efficiency. The position statement and sustainability checklist are interim documents prior to the forthcoming new Dorset Local Plan.



## Mission 4: Transport

**Operational:** Fleet, Charging Infrastructure, Business travel and Commuting

**Facilitation:** Local Transport Plan, Charging infrastructure and alternative fuels, Active Travel, Public Transport, Digital infrastructure

### Operational (Council)

**Fleet and charging infrastructure:** Our fleet contains 587 vehicles, of which around a fifth (121) are small cars/vans, and the rest larger vehicles. They make up around a quarter of our operational emissions, which have been rising since 2020. There are 20 small EVs in the fleet to date<sup>13</sup>, and another 7 are due for delivery imminently – with 7 further vans due to be ordered soon. There is also potential to purchase a further 13 vans this year, depending upon factors such as infrastructure. The remaining 147 small vehicles are planned to be electrified by 2030. Supporting this there are 22 charge points at 3 council sites currently – with 14 further due to be completed at 7 sites imminently, and a further 20 planned at 15 new sites. Options to decarbonise the larger fleet are being explored, with opportunity in the near term for HVO as technologies for alternative fuels develop in the longer-term.

<sup>12</sup> Lacking our own social housing stock, our role in social housing decarbonisation is to support facilitation of consortia bids, which are typically led on a regional basis by the Net Zero Hub. We previously supported the successful bid to Wave 2.1, for which the Hub was awarded £37.7m for 'fabric first' upgrades.

<sup>13</sup> Comprising 12 in the pool car fleet, 1 Heath Partnership vehicle, 2 leased vans in Highways, 2 small vans and 1 sweeper in Waste, and 2 All-terrain vehicles in Coast and Greenspace



Business travel and commuting: Travel constitutes around a third of our operational emissions, and business travel emissions are rising. A council Travel Plan is now in development to facilitate more sustainable modes of business travel and commuting. It will introduce a travel hierarchy and support teams to improve with a travel efficiency rating to ground targets for improvement.

Waste collection route optimisation: The waste team are currently working on a project to create a model of the household collection rounds, called the 'as is model' – developed using route optimisation software Fleetroute. The model will be used to review the efficiency of the rounds, balance the rounds, model improvements and establish where we can create capacity to accommodate new property growth, additional materials, etc.

### **Facilitation (Wider Dorset)**

Local Transport Plan 4: Work is continuing to develop a new vision-led and outcome-focused Local Transport Plan, co-produced with BCP to cover wider Dorset. The plan will set a carbon baseline and carbon reduction pathway for transport. Residents were invited in early 2024 to share views on the future of travel and transport, enabling us to understand the needs of the diverse communities which live and work in Dorset. Consultation on a draft is due to take place in spring 2025. Additionally, on a regional scale, over the last year Western Gateway (our regional Sub-national Transport Body) has launched several key strategies, including its long-term 2050 Strategic Transport Plan (which has decarbonisation as one of its five priorities); an Electric Vehicle Charging Study that forecasts regional EV uptake; and an Alternative Fuels for Road Freight Strategy.

Public EV chargers: The number of public chargers has now grown to 244 (around a third of which are council sponsored) – nearly a fourfold increase from 63 in 2019. Phase 2 of our public charger programme was successfully completed in 2023, which saw the installation of 33 charge-points (27x fast, 2x rapid, 4x ultra-rapid) – bringing the total number of council-sponsored charge-points from phases 1 & 2 to 59. Installations over this year include a new rapid 50kW charge-point at Howards Lane Car Park in Wareham, installed with support from Wareham Town Council and in partnership with Joju and Mer. Phase 3 (2023-26) has now launched, with the aim of getting 80% of local households within a 10-minute walk of a public EV charge-point by 2030 (with an anticipated 2,500 needed by then). This phase is focusing more on rural areas and households unable to charge at home, with ambitions for 'a charge-point in every village' – with the prior two phases having focused more on main towns. Co-funded by government's LEVI scheme, charging company Mer, and the council, the programme could see as many as 200 charge-points installed, 3 charging hubs, and enhancements to the existing network. Phase 5 (2025-27) will focus on on-street residential chargers in main towns with a low-density of off-street parking. A decision from the Office of Zero Emission Vehicles on the award of our £2.49 allocation of LEVI funding is expected in August.

Active travel: The council's Active Travel Infrastructure Plan is being developed for publication later this year, which will provide a long-term strategy identifying prioritised routes.<sup>14</sup> Infrastructure improvements along Wimborne Road East and West in Ferndown were completed (funded by government's Transforming Cities Fund); as have improvements at Fairfield Road in Dorchester (funded by government's Active Travel Fund). We were further awarded £576k through government's Green Light Fund to upgrade junction signalling in Dorchester, which will further enable safer active travel and bus priority. The Bike Share Scheme was extended into Corfe Mullen and Upton in

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<sup>14</sup> It follows a community consultation exercise in December where residents expressed views on which active travel routes are important to them and the barriers to walking, cycling or wheeling.

November, adding 80 bikes including e-bikes.<sup>15</sup> A new Bike Share Scheme will be launched by the autumn in the Dorchester, Weymouth, and Portland area and include 121 e-bikes and around 30 collection/drop off bays. The Bike it Plus project has supported 36 schools over the last year – with >65% of surveyed schools finding a rise in active travel by pupils as a result, which if sustained over the year could save 20tCO2e.

**Public transport:** The council was awarded £884k of BSIP+ funding in 2023/24 to support delivery of the Bus Service Improvement Plan, to help protect services and maintain essential connectivity. Work has commenced on a refreshed BSIP to set out new programmes for delivery and ambitions/priorities for 2025 and beyond (subject to funding). Ferndown and Wimborne has benefited from increased services and a new route in Wimborne (along Leigh Road), thanks to further government BSIP funding secured by BCP. Working with Go South Coast, we also submitted a £2.5m bid to government's ZEBRA scheme for a £6.4m project of 10 electric buses and an electric depot in Swanage – but this was sadly unsuccessful, with only 25 of 45 applicants receiving funding.

**Digital infrastructure:** In September the council adopted our new Digital Infrastructure and Inclusion Strategy. It incorporates net zero as one of its five themes, highlighting the importance of digital infrastructure for enabling reductions in transport emissions, as well as its importance for environmental monitoring for climate mitigation and adaptation. It commits to better understand and measure the contribution of digital infrastructure and inclusion for net zero, and to support programmes that facilitate its delivery.



## Mission 5: Development

**Operational:** Estate new builds standards

**Facilitation:** Local Plan, Neighbourhood Plans, Development Management & Mitigation

### Operational (Council)

**Estate new builds:** No activity on developing a sustainable new builds policy/standards for council buildings has been undertaken this year owing to capacity constraints.

### Facilitation (Wider Dorset)

**Local Plan:** Work is ongoing to develop a new Local Plan, which includes the preparation and review of background evidence. Strengthening the planning framework to encourage sustainable designs, layouts and construction methods will be achieved through the development of the new Local Plan, which is scheduled for mid-2027.<sup>16</sup> There is a significant opportunity to align it to other forthcoming plans for the benefit of sustainability, including the Local Transport Plan and (if timely) a Local Area Energy Plan.<sup>17</sup> Until it is adopted, the existing adopted local plans of the former district and borough councils will provide the main part of the development plan for their respective areas.<sup>18</sup> Consequently, we published three climate change guidance documents in December 2023:

<sup>15</sup> It extends the scheme beyond Wimborne, Ferndown, Poole, Bournemouth, Christchurch, Wool, and Studland – which since its 2022 launch has generated 11,000+ sustainable journeys and 34% mode shift.

<sup>16</sup> [Guide to the new planning system \(dorsetcouncil.gov.uk\)](https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk)

<sup>17</sup> Some relevant evidence has already been commissioned for the earlier draft plan, such as for the strategic identification of wind farm sites: [Dorset Council Local Plan evidence and background papers](#)

<sup>18</sup> Planning Inspectors issued their final report on examination of the Purbeck Local Plan in May 2024, and a report recommending its adoption due at council in mid-2024.

- An interim guidance and position statement – which provides guidance to decision makers on weighing up the benefits of addressing climate change with other material considerations. It addresses sustainable design and construction and renewable energy schemes.
- A sustainability checklist – to be completed by applicants for certain application types to check their schemes’ sustainable design and construction. The checklist covers energy efficiency, water efficiency, sustainable materials, waste, green infrastructure, sustainable drainage, adaptation and sustainable travel. The requirement to submit a sustainability checklist came into effect on 15 January 2024.
- Listed buildings guidance – providing guidance to householders on increasing energy efficiency in listed buildings and what measures would require consent.

The position statement and checklist are intended to be in place until the adoption of the Dorset Local Plan, encouraging best practice in the interim.

**Neighbourhood Plans:** Two new neighbourhood plans have been adopted over the course of this year for Blandford and for Chesil Bank, each of which contain valuable policies on sustainability. Three other plans now are at examination or referendum stages or pending formal adoption by Cabinet (Alderholt; Buckhorn Weston and Kington Magna; and Sturminster Marshall), whilst six others are under review.<sup>19</sup>

**Mitigation:** The council successfully bid for £4.63m of funding from the Nutrient Mitigation Fund to deliver mitigation for qualifying development in Poole Harbour catchment.<sup>20</sup> Governance and a high-level programme summary were agreed by Cabinet in March, alongside a proposed transition to a new approach to nitrogen neutrality to replace the existing SPD.<sup>21</sup> Our ecologists continue to advise and operate the Biodiversity Appraisal Protocol<sup>22</sup>, which was updated this year to align to the requirements to Biodiversity Net Gain. Additionally, CIL and s106 funds continue to facilitate mitigation for important habitats such as Poole Harbour, Dorset Heaths and Chesil and the Fleet. It also supports flood resilience in Weymouth Town Centre, and during 2023 helped to facilitate the installation of solar PV and battery storage at Milborne St Andrew Village Hall.<sup>23</sup> Considerable work continued this year to implement Biodiversity Net Gain, which became mandatory in February and was extended to small developments in April. This work has included, *inter alia*, updates to our templates, guidance and webpages; provision of training; application to become a Responsible Body for conservation covenants; development of a s106 template to enable third party local landowners to supply biodiversity units; and work towards developing a business case for a habitat bank on our estate.



## Mission 6: Waste & materials

**Operational:** Operational waste, Highways materials

**Facilitation:** Waste Strategy, waste reduction, reuse & recycling, organic waste and WfE, campaigns

**Operational (Council)**

<sup>19</sup> See [Neighbourhood plans in Dorset - Dorset Council](#)

<sup>20</sup> Nutrient loading is primarily from agriculture but there is also a significant proportion from urban wastewater. Further development risks exacerbating this, so necessitates a reduction in overall nutrient loading to bring the harbour back into a favourable condition. Natural England’s suggested approach is for developments to demonstrate nutrient loading offsetting through the approach of Nutrient Neutrality.

<sup>21</sup> [Agenda for Cabinet on Tuesday, 12th March, 2024, 10.00 am - Dorset Council](#)

<sup>22</sup> The Protocol enables an audit and review of ecological information submitted with applications. It is designed to meet the requirement of Natural England’s Protected Species Standing Advice and to address the mitigation hierarchy set out in the National Planning Policy Framework.

<sup>23</sup> The full Infrastructure Funding Statement for 2022/2023 was published in December: [Infrastructure Funding Statement \(dorsetcouncil.gov.uk\)](#)

Operational waste: By 31 March 2025, businesses and non-household premises, including Dorset Council, will be required to recycle all their recyclable waste (excluding garden waste and plastic film) under the new 'Simpler Recycling' reforms introduced by the Government in October 2023. This includes paper, cardboard, metal (drinks cans, food tins and aluminium foil), plastic (bottles, pots, tubs and trays), drink cartons, glass bottles and jars, and food waste including tea bags, coffee grounds, leftovers or waste generated by food preparation. Due to the timeframe, work is already ongoing to start expanding the current Dorset Council recycling service across all our buildings as soon as possible to make sure we are fully compliant by March 2025.

Highways materials: A new, locally manufactured, sustainable surfacing material was introduced in August. It is manufactured from our own recycled planings and uses a cold bitumen process as a binder – considerably reducing emissions compared to hot manufacturing processes. We also continue to use cement bound granular material, which again recycles our own highway maintenance waste into a sustainable surfacing solution. The amount of low energy asphalt used in 2023-24 rose by 2%p to 44.11% of our total material laid; whilst inclusion of recycled materials in the mix for primary surfacing remains around 30%.

### **Facilitation (Wider Dorset)**

Waste strategy: Work is ongoing to produce a new Dorset Council Waste Strategy which will replace the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Dorset 2008 and the updated version published in 2017. The document sets the strategic vision and framework for how we will deal with waste in Dorset in the longer term, but it has a focus on the actions that will be undertaken over the next 5 years, due to the significant legislative changes that is anticipated in that timeframe. The strategy will detail how we will continue to minimise waste and maximise recycling within Dorset and will identify the policy framework required for future decisions regarding service delivery, infrastructure developments and treatment options/facilities.

Simpler recycling reforms: For household waste, we already adhere to the majority of the 'Simpler Recycling' reforms through our 'Recycle For Dorset' kerbside collection scheme which includes paper, card, plastics, glass, metal, food and garden. However, by March 2026, we have to also collect drink cartons and aluminium foil. We are being proactive in our approach to meet this requirement, and have put the necessary arrangements in place to start collecting these additional materials in the autumn. By March 2027, local authorities are legally required to collect plastic films and flexibles. Work is ongoing to determine how we could potentially collect these materials but it will be heavily reliant on sufficient sorting infrastructure and end markets being available.<sup>24</sup>

Waste reduction: Dorset Council now has one of the lowest quantities of residual waste per household in the country at 377.92 kilograms in 2022/23. Residual waste sent to landfill has been reduced to just 2%. The majority of our residual waste is now sent to the New Earth Mechanical Biological Treatment plant in Poole where organic and recyclable materials are extracted and leftover material is turned into fuel.

Reuse and Recycling: Dorset is now the #1 unitary council<sup>25</sup> in the country for recycling, with us now recycling 59.1% of collected waste, compared to a (declining) 43.4% national average. The team also facilitate a range of reuse activities, including maintaining the online 'zero waste' map, swish and give & take days, financial incentives and discounts for reusable nappies and feminine hygiene products, and subsidised home composters.

<sup>24</sup> Please see [Simpler Recycling - Dorset Council](#) for more details.

<sup>25</sup> Higher performing non-unitary councils are collection-only (i.e. they provide a kerbside service but not household recycling centres), which is why the 'unitary' aspect is significant.

**Campaigns and engagement:** We continue to maximise community engagement through social media, roadshows, local talks, fetes, agricultural shows, schools, site visits, library events, parish and town council liaison, our website, livery on vehicles, direct mail, container messaging (stickers and hangers on bins) and newsletters. Over the year we undertook 680 social media posts, 22 roadshows (reaching 1200 residents), and delivered recycling guides to 60,000 households. Campaigns include partnering with the Litter Lotto app to counter littering through a monthly prize scheme, and a roadside littering campaign (including introducing an online reporting and fining system). Our Litter Free Dorset programme also continues to support change on the ground with communities – with 23/24 campaigns including working with retailers to reduce single-use materials waste ('Bring Your Own'); improving and promoting Refill points; and a 'Bin Your Butt' campaign to tackle cigarette butt pollution. Significantly, it also launched the Sustainable Business Network in 2023, which now has 100 members; launched a Community Fund to support local projects; and trialled 'whole school approaches' to litter reduction with schools.

**Route optimisation work:** The waste team is also currently using an ICT system to enhance waste collection efficiency through a route optimisation project. This initiative utilises data from in-cab devices to redesign household waste collection routes, aiming to improve service delivery and accommodate future growth. The project also seeks to evenly balance the collection rounds and provide options for additional recyclable materials to be collected at the kerbside. This strategic approach is crucial for maintaining high service standards and adapting to upcoming changes.



## Mission 7: Food

**Operational:** County farms (Soils and crops, Livestock, Machinery, Fertiliser & manure, Productivity and land use efficiency)

**Facilitation:** Dorset-wide agriculture (Soils and crops, Livestock, Machinery, Fertiliser & manure, Productivity and land use efficiency), Fisheries/mariculture, consumers & food waste

### Operational (Council)

**County farms:** A county farms strategic options paper has been commissioned and is due to be finalised imminently to inform our future strategic approach to the county farms estate. Considered alongside a broad range of non-environmental opportunities, it will clarify opportunities for climate and nature including, *inter alia*, low-carbon farming practices, productivity enhancements, vehicle and machinery decarbonisation, sequestration measures, biodiversity enhancements, and renewable energy generation. Additionally, grant funding has been awarded to work with tenants to help better understand the existing and potential biodiversity of 16 county farms (827ha). Funding for some tenant projects has been provided through the Farming in Protected Landscapes programme.

### Facilitation (Wider Dorset)

**Dorset-wide agriculture:** Dorset National Landscape's £2.4m Farming in Protected Landscapes programme is ongoing until March 2025. It provides support to farmers and landowners for one-off projects that support the National Landscape, including for climate and nature projects – alongside the ongoing support provided through Government's agri-environment schemes. As of May, all remaining funds have been awarded and the programme has closed for new applications. 127 projects have been funded, including projects on soil carbon, afforestation, the development of Farm Resilience Plans, wildflower seed harvesting, support for regenerative practices, work with farm clusters on nature recovery, and work to grow awareness of carbon and biodiversity offset markets. Key outcomes so far include an additional 8.2km of hedgerows, 3153 trees planted, 21

farm clusters supported, 116 educational visits delivered, and 25,057ha of land supported.<sup>26</sup>

**Fisheries/mariculture:** Dorset Coast Forum<sup>27</sup> continues to bring together stakeholders relevant to our coast and seas, co-producing projects and facilitating discussion. This year it launched a refreshed Dorset Coast Strategy, incorporating deliverables on promoting and enhancing sustainable fishing practices. The Forum also has a long history of working with commercial aquaculture (including for development of the Dorset Mariculture Strategy), and also maintains the Dorset aquaculture website.<sup>28</sup> November saw the award this year of £186,000 of MMO funding to Studland Bay Marine Partnership, to support the conservation of its marine ecosystems (including those of significant commercial value such as seabream, bass and flat fish), with 87 eco-moorings now successfully installed.

**Food waste:** Food waste makes up the largest component of our household black bag rubbish (19%). The waste team therefore undertake various targeted activities to increase participation and use of the kerbside food waste collection service by targeting low participation areas (as identified by crews), doorstepping in those areas and handing out food containers. Other activities include the ‘bonster monster’ school programme, food waste animations on social media and banners promoting the food waste service on waste collection vehicles and buses. As noted above (Mission 6 – Residual waste), all food waste collected continues to be treated in-county using anaerobic digestion which produces biogas used to generate electricity, and biofertilizer sold as a soil improver for plants and crops. The waste team also places a large focus on the successful ‘Love Food, Hate Waste’ campaign, which encourages people to reduce the amount of food that they produce, whilst saving money at the same time. It also highlights the close links between waste food and climate change (i.e. waste food accounts for more greenhouse gases than flying).



## Mission 8: Nature

**Operational:** Greenspace management, Wider estate biodiversity & nature-based solutions

**Facilitation:** Local Nature Recovery Strategy, Nature recovery facilitation

### Operational (Council)

**Designated site, greenspace and verge management:** Work continues to manage and protect our hundreds of hectares of designated site and greenspace assets, including our four country parks. In 2023 the council received 5 Green Flag Awards – an international quality mark for parks and green spaces – for our Avon Heath, Stour Meadows, Milldown, Durlston, and Thorncombe Woods, Black Heath and Hardy’s Birthplace sites. Our enhanced approaches to verge management (using cut and collect mowing to reduce soil fertility, slow growth rates and thereby create a better environment for wildflowers, and reducing cutting where it’s safe to do so) are continuing to significantly support biodiversity. The Wildlife Trust now designate a number of our verges as Sites of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI), recognising their substantive conservation value, and we aim to establish more SNCIs this year. A farm near Blandford has also been trialling using arisings to incorporate into its compost mix, which we hope may be the first of a network of farms to do so that may thereby help facilitate wider adoption of cut-and-collect. Litter Free Dorset launched a ‘Love Your Verge’ campaign in collaboration with our greenspace team in response to the challenge to wildlife that roadside littering poses, and the costliness of cleanups.

<sup>26</sup> The FiPL programme ends in March 2025, presenting a risk given present unclarity about long-term facilitation beyond that point. There is therefore likely an advocacy opportunity to the new government regarding an extension to the programme at least for the duration of the Agricultural Transition (currently ending March 2027).

<sup>27</sup> Dorset Coast Forum is an independent and neutral partnership of almost 500 members, and which facilitates collaboration and discussion between a diverse set of local stakeholders. It is hosted by Dorset Council and co-funded in partnership with BCP, the Environment Agency, Wessex Water and Dorset Wildlife Trust.

<sup>28</sup> [Dorset & Devon Aquaculture \(dorsetaquaculture.co.uk\)](https://dorsetaquaculture.co.uk)

County farms estate: As noted above in Mission 7, a county farms strategic options paper has been commissioned to inform our future strategic approach to the county farms estate; and Farming in Protected Landscapes Funding has been provided to tenants to support improved practices, as well as to facilitate analysis of the existing and potential biodiversity of 16 county farms (827ha). Additionally, a separately commissioned strategic study identified potential theoretical biodiversity uplift on the estate that could help to facilitate biodiversity units to enable local delivery of Biodiversity Net Gain.

Biodiversity Duty: In line with the council's strengthened Biodiversity Duty under the Environment Act 2021, which requires us to consider what we can do to conserve *and enhance* biodiversity, work has been undertaken across the year to scope relevant action and policies.

### **Facilitation (Wider Dorset)**

Local Nature Recovery Strategy: The council is continuing to progress work with BCP Council and Natural England to create a Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Dorset that will help us help grow, improve, and connect nature locally. It will provide the framework and mechanism to facilitate nature recovery by detailing the priorities for Dorset and mapping opportunities for nature – setting a blueprint for how we can fulfil our 30 by 30 target. Steering and advisory groups have been formed, and engagement is ongoing with partners, landowners, farmers, businesses, environmental organisations, and the public to inform the strategy – with significant progress on areas such as risk and opportunity scoping and mapping. Engagement to date has included Dorset COP, Dorset Coast Forum conference, and Dorset Association of Town & Parish Councils networking event – plus almost 250 people attended the Local Nature Partnerships Annual Forum, and an event for landowners and farmers. Wider engagement is due to commence imminently, towards production of a draft and consultation on a draft in late 2024 – and eventual adoption planned for Spring/Summer 2025.<sup>29</sup>

Community Tree Fund: The Dorset Community Tree Fund was launched this year to support our communities to plant and care for trees locally across the county. Funded by the council and managed by the Dorset National Landscape team, the fund also offers support for the planning and design phases of planting projects, to support communities to plant the right trees in the right place.<sup>30</sup>

Partnerships: The council continues to work closely with the Dorset Heaths Partnership, Litter Free Dorset, Dorset Coast Forum, Dorset & Cranborne Chase National Landscape Partnerships, Local Nature Partnership, and Stour Valley Partnership. The Dorset National Landscapes continues to support extensive work to support action within its designated areas – facilitating delivery by farmers (as described above), communities (through its Dorset National Landscape Fund<sup>31</sup>), and by convening the Purbeck Heaths National Nature Reserve and a forthcoming Purbeck Coast National Nature Reserve (seeking to improve a combined >3700ha). It has also secured almost £250k of Lottery funding to create a Nature Buddies Network in Dorset, to support community engagement with nature through a network of trained volunteers. Litter Free Dorset's Reconnecting with Nature Spaces is similarly aiming to enable inclusive access to nature, with phase one of its work in Weymouth and Portland complete, and Phase two in Shaftesbury and Ferndown now underway. In September the council also endorsed the Stour Valley Park Strategy and partnership model (of Dorset Council, BCP Council and the National Trust), to help facilitate the restoration of its river landscape – which could enable significant benefits for nature recovery, climate mitigation and adaptation.

<sup>29</sup> [Nature Recovery Dorset - Dorset Council](#)

<sup>30</sup> [Dorset Community Tree Fund | Dorset National Landscape \(dorset-nl.org.uk\)](#)

<sup>31</sup> [Dorset National Landscape Fund | Dorset National Landscape \(dorset-nl.org.uk\)](#)

Relevant work on development mitigation (including Biodiversity Net Gain) is outlined in the update for Mission 5 above.



## Mission 9: Adaptation and resilience

Operational: Council asset, staff and operational resilience

Facilitation: County adaptation approach, Flood and coastal resilience

### Operational (Council)

Risk assessment: Work commenced in 2023 to gather input across council services on their vulnerability to climate-related risks in the medium and long term. This work paused due to staff capacity; but has now resumed following the recent recruitment of a climate resilience officer. Work to produce a council-wide climate risk assessment is now proceeding, with an initial assessment due in late 2024 following further internal engagement. Work will simultaneously explore an effective means to mainstreaming identified risks within our established corporate risk management approach.

### Facilitation (Wider Dorset)

County adaptation programme: A new climate resilience officer has recently been recruited to kick-start work to develop a county-wide climate adaptation programme. Initial scoping of a programme with public sector partners has commenced, and work to prepare an initial risk assessment and action mapping has begun – with the intent to broaden this to a much wider set of stakeholders once trialled with public sector partners.

Flood and Coastal Resilience: This year saw the publication of the Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, which will help to inform the future planning framework and planning decision-making.<sup>32</sup> Dorset National Landscape Partnership has been awarded £624k of funding from the Environment Agency for a natural flood management project within the Brit Catchment, aiming to reduce flood risk and flood defence maintenance costs through natural interventions that slow the flow of water. Our FCERM teams and Dorset Coast Forum also continues to facilitate work with communities on flood and coastal resilience measures. Projects over the last year include works to repair West Bay Harbour<sup>33</sup> and Weymouth Esplanade<sup>34</sup>, the creation of a long-term Future Studland plan, the Charmouth and Swanage Coastal Transition Accelerator Programmes, the Portland Underhill to Wyke Regis Flood and Coastal Risk Management Project, the Lyme Regis Cobb Stabilisation Scheme, the Swanage Town Coastal Protection Scheme, the Weymouth FCERM Strategy, the Weymouth Harbour and Esplanade FCERM Scheme, Weymouth Quay regeneration<sup>35</sup>, and the Swanage Coastal Management Scheme.



## Cross-cutting enablers

Operational: Comms & engagement, Partnerships, Procurement, Decision-making, Training, Monitoring, Policy & Strategy embedding, Funding, Green skills and economy, lobbying

### Operational (Council)

Comms and engagement: The council has published almost 40 press releases related to sustainability over the year, alongside accompanying social media. Successful campaigns have included the continuation of our 'Love Food, Hate Waste', 'Love Your Verge', and 'Let Grass Grow' campaigns – as well as the launch of Litter Free Dorset's 'Bring Your Own' campaign. A communications and engagement plan and 'Nature Recovery Dorset' brand has been developed, to support development of the strategy and its ongoing delivery beyond adoption. Consultative exercises have been undertaken for the Local

<sup>32</sup> [Dorset Council Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment - Dorset Council](#)

<sup>33</sup> [Updated: West Bay Harbour wall repair works - Dorset Council](#)

<sup>34</sup> [Maintenance works set to start at Greenhill on Weymouth seafront - Dorset Council](#)

<sup>35</sup> [Weymouth Quay Regeneration work to start - Dorset Council news](#)



Transport Plan<sup>36</sup>, Active Travel Infrastructure Plan<sup>37</sup>, Purbeck Local Plan<sup>38</sup>, and Housing Strategy<sup>39</sup> - with another due later this year on the emerging Local Nature Recovery Strategy. A new Climate and Nature bulletin reporting on council climate related news was launched in February and sent to over 6k subscribers. Considerable community engagement was undertaken throughout the year, as described throughout this document, as well as a roadshow of air quality events<sup>40</sup> and Dorset's first COP – a community-led day of discussion and debate.<sup>41</sup> Most recently, we have now launched the 'Our journey to net zero' exhibition, showcasing local businesses and organisations that have been supported by the Low Carbon Dorset programme to reduce their carbon footprints. The exhibition is touring the county until October or is viewable through the online virtual exhibition.<sup>42</sup>

**Partnerships:** Partnerships work has continued through Dorset Heaths Partnership, Litter Free Dorset and its Sustainable Business Network, Dorset Coast Forum, Dorset & Cranborne Chase National Landscape Partnerships, our Local Nature Partnership, Stour Valley Partnership, the Local Enterprise Partnership, Great South West, and our regional Sub-national Transport Body (Western Gateway). Our Public Sector Decarbonisation and Ecology Group with Dorset public sector partners has continued to meet on a regular basis to share best practice and develop collaborative opportunities – including kickstarting work for two priority collaborative programmes on procurement and adaptation. Additionally, a new partnerships officer has been recruited to support greater collaboration with communities, town & parish councils, schools and other external stakeholders.

**Procurement:** The council secured grant funding from Innovate UK to undertake a collaborative year-long project with public sector partners on sustainable procurement. The project aims to co-develop a joint local vision, carbon baseline and toolkit for public sector sustainable procurement in the county. Currently in its early stages and running until Aug/Sep 2025, the project will also imminently recruit a dedicated sustainable procurement officer to support the work.

**Decision-making:** The council's decision-making tool continues to be used for committee reports. No modifications have been made in the year, but a review of the wheel is planned for later in 2024 alongside accompanying training.

**Training and briefings:** A series of workshops was held with our reconstituted Executive Advisory Panel, providing interested members with a deep-dive into workstreams for particular missions. Additionally, a similar summary briefing was provided for all members on 7 March. Another All Member Briefing is scheduled to take place on 10 July.

**Policy & Strategy embedding:** Dorset's new Housing Strategy was finalised and adopted, recognising the importance of both new build standards and retrofit of existing homes to ensure a net zero, nature positive and climate resilient housing stock. In September the council adopted our new Digital Infrastructure and Inclusion Strategy. It incorporates net zero as one of its five themes, highlighting the importance of digital infrastructure for enabling reductions in transport emissions, as well as its importance for environmental monitoring for climate mitigation and adaptation. A sustainability service plan was also produced for Dorset Music Service. Work is either underway or due to commence on the

<sup>36</sup> [Local Transport Plan Opportunities and Issues - Dorset Council - Citizen Space](#)

<sup>37</sup> [Active Travel Infrastructure Plan - Dorset Council - Citizen Space](#)

<sup>38</sup> [Purbeck Local Plan supplementary proposed main modifications - Dorset Council - Citizen Space](#)

<sup>39</sup> [Housing Strategy - Dorset Council - Citizen Space](#)

<sup>40</sup> [Air quality community events - Dorset Council](#)

<sup>41</sup> [Dorset COP 2023 | DCAN \(dorsetcan.org\)](#)

<sup>42</sup> ['Our journey to net zero' exhibition](#)

new Council Plan, Council Travel Plan, Strategic Asset Management Plan, Local Transport Plan, Local Plan and Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

**Funding:** The council has continued to be successful in attracting funding from a range of grant-funds during this year, including the Shared Prosperity Fund, Rural England Prosperity Fund, SW Net Zero Hub Local Net Zero Fund, Homes Upgrade Grant, Green Light Fund, BSIP+ Fund, Nutrient Mitigation Fund, Natural Flood Management fund, and Innovate UK Net Zero Living Fund. Further funds were also secured by our hosted partnerships, as mentioned throughout, such as the Dorset National Landscape Partnership's Natural Flood Management grant. We are also currently awaiting a response to a recent bid to the latest round of the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme Funding. The sustainability team has also recently recruited a dedicated funding officer, to maximise our capability and preparedness for future funding, and they are actively developing a pipeline of potential grant funded projects to ensure our readiness for opportunities as they arise.

**Green skills & economy:** An Investment Plan for our Shared Prosperity Fund and Rural England Prosperity Fund allocations was adopted in November, with a combined value of £6.4m. The Plan was developed in consultation with local stakeholders, and includes £395,000 for supporting decarbonisation (SPF), £155,000 for green skills courses (SPF), £206,918 for community sustainable energy (REPF) and £115,000 for active travel enhancements (REPF). Our teams have also input into ongoing work to refresh the Great South West Energy Prospectus, highlighting key energy system investment opportunities within the region.<sup>43</sup>

## 4. Looking ahead:

- 4.1. We have achieved much so far, as outlined above. However, as we proceed our trajectory will likely get more difficult, and it will take significant effort to reach our next interim operational target and to get our county-wide trajectory back on target. Achieving this will require (a) increasing the pace and scale of our activity; (b) delivering 'smarter' by giving greater definition to our pathways and targets; and (c) strengthening our facilitation work by working more closely with our communities.
- 4.2. Previous scrutiny meetings have noted that whilst narrative commentary is welcome, there is difficulty in appraising whether work is at an adequate pace or scale without quantitative targets. We are therefore working towards meeting that in two ways:
  - a) In collaboration with Regen, we are aiming to develop a more comprehensive dashboard of quantitative indicators in addition to our high-level emission and biodiversity metrics, which will describe a wider range of indicators of progress. This will inevitably be constrained by data availability, but there are several significant data sources which could enable a richer picture than we have previously provided. We aim to prepare a prototype dashboard for our next (Autumn/Winter) quantitative progress report.
  - b) Fully responding to this really requires specifying detailed targets or mission-specific trajectories. Over the course of the last few months we have undertaken several operational deep dives with internal teams to develop a more detailed programme to meet our interim operational targets. Additionally, several of our emerging new strategies and plans will be critical to defining these, and therefore

<sup>43</sup> The previous 2023 version is available here: [Clean Energy Prospectus - The Great South West](#)

giving us a smarter path forward. For this reason, the next few years of the programme will benefit considerably from the development of our Strategic Asset Management Plan, council Travel Plan, new Local Plan, Local Transport Plan, Local Nature Recovery Strategy, and Local Area Energy Plan.

- 4.3. To support the development of further progress, we have recently recruited four new members of staff to our sustainability team and are aiming to recruit a further two. This is strengthening our capacity to expedite our operational programme, develop funding bids, strengthen our partnerships, develop new programmes on adaptation and procurement, and to develop a Local Area Energy Plan.

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## Place and Resources Scrutiny Committee Draft Work Programme

**Meeting Date: 26 September 2024**

Report Title	Aims and Objectives	Lead Officers / Members	Other Information
Property Strategy & Asset Management Plan update	Review and comment upon progress in achieving the actions identified in the Property & Asset Management Strategy Action Plan and areas needing to be given priority	<p>Tim Hulme (Corporate Director – Assets &amp; Property)</p> <p>Councillor Richard Biggs (Deputy Leader, Cabinet member for Property &amp; Assets, Economic Growth &amp; Levelling Up)</p>	Need to review timing for this item due to new Strategic Asset Management Plan going through Place & Resources Overview Committee in September and Cabinet in October 2024
Dog Related Public Spaces Protection Order – Review of the changes to Lyme Regis Front Beach	To consider the findings from the light touch review undertaken at Lyme Regis Front Beach during the period 1 January to 30 April 2024	<p>Janet Moore (Service Manager Environmental Protection)</p> <p>Councillor Gill Taylor (Cabinet Member for Public Health, Environmental Health, Housing, Community Safety &amp; Regulatory Service)</p>	Cabinet request for review (Cabinet November 2023)

Continued over...

**Meeting Date: 12 November 2024**

Report Title	Aims and Objectives	Lead Officers / Members	Other Information
Natural Environment, Climate and Ecology Strategy – progress report	To review the bi-annual progress report on the Dorset Council Natural Environment, Climate and Ecology Strategy	<p>Carl Warom (Climate &amp; Ecology Policy Officer)</p> <p>Cllr Nick Ireland (Leader, Cabinet member for Governance, Performance &amp; Communications, Environment, Climate Change &amp; Safeguarding)</p>	
Corporate Complaints Team Annual Report Page 46	An overview of the volume and impacts of Dorset Council’s complaints through the Corporate Complaints Team 2022/23	<p>Antony Bygrave (Senior Assurance Officer – Complaints)</p> <p>Councillor Ryan Hope (Cabinet member for Customer, Culture &amp; Community Engagement)</p>	
Performance Scrutiny	To review the most recent performance information and use this to agree items to add to the committee work programme for further analysis	<p>David Bonner (Service Manager – Business Intelligence &amp; Performance)</p> <p>Cllr Nick Ireland (Leader, Cabinet member for Governance, Performance &amp; Communications, Environment, Climate Change &amp; Safeguarding)</p>	

**Meeting Date: 17 January 2025 – Budget scrutiny (Single item meeting)**

Report Title	Aims and Objectives	Lead Officers / Members	Other Information
Budget Scrutiny	Consideration of the budget proposals before proceeding to produce the final budget paper for recommendation to Cabinet on 28 January 2024	Sean Cremer (Corporate Director – Finance & Commercial)  Councillor Simon Clifford (Cabinet member for Finance & Capital Strategy)	

**Meeting Date: 6 March 2025**

Report Title	Aims and Objectives	Lead Officers / Members	Other Information
Performance Scrutiny	To review the most recent performance information and use this to agree items to add to the committee work programme for further analysis	David Bonner (Service Manager – BI & Performance)  Cllr Nick Ireland (Leader, Cabinet member for Governance, Performance & Communications, Environment, Climate Change & Safeguarding)	

Continued over...

**Meeting Date: 24 April 2025**

Report Title	Aims and Objectives	Lead Officers / Members	Other Information

**Annual items:**

- Property Strategy & Asset Management Plan update – September
- Corporate Complaints Team – Annual Report - November

**Bi-annual items:**

- Natural Environment, Climate & Ecology – progress report – July and November

**Alternate meeting items:**

- Performance Scrutiny – informal session held before each committee occurrence - July, November, March

**Informal Work of the Committee:**

Date	Topic	Format	Members	Lead Officers	Other Information
Quarterly	Review of the committee's performance and risk dashboards	Informal meeting	All committee members	David Bonner – Service Manager Business Intelligence & Performance Chris Swain – Risk Management & Reporting Officer	Review of the dashboards to identify potential future areas for review by the committee



## Place and Resources Scrutiny Committee – legacy items from committee pre-May 2024

- Link with schools and colleges on promoting and signposting young people into local government careers
- Dorset Council Commercial Strategy
- Agile working
- Community Asset Transfer Policy (post Cabinet decision review)
- Status of Local Plans
- Planning issues – enforcement and pre-application advice
- Staff sickness and turnover
- Water quality – release of sewage and pollutants into rivers and water courses
- SEND transport – transformation programme
- Revenues and Benefits Service
- Review of car parking charges
- Review of Consultation and Engagement Policy and Protocol (post Cabinet decision review)
- Housing delivery targets (link with People & Health Scrutiny Committee)
- Coombe House – finance and original business case (link with People & Health Scrutiny Committee)

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**The Cabinet Forward Plan - September to December 2024  
For the period 1 JULY 2024 to 31 OCTOBER 2024  
(Publication date – 9 AUGUST 2024)**

**Explanatory Note:**

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

**Definition of Key Decisions**

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

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

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

**Cabinet Members and Portfolios 2024/25**

<b>Nick Ireland</b>	Leader and Cabinet Member for Climate, Performance and Safeguarding
<b>Richard Biggs</b>	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Property & Assets and Economic Growth
<b>Jon Andrews</b>	Place Services
<b>Shane Bartlett</b>	Planning and Emergency Planning
<b>Simon Clifford</b>	Finance & Capital Strategy
<b>Ryan Holloway</b>	Corporate Development and Transformation
<b>Ryan Hope</b>	Customer, Culture and Community Engagement
<b>Steve Robinson</b>	Adult Social Care
<b>Clare Sutton</b>	Children's Services, Education & Skills
<b>Gill Taylor</b>	Health and Housing.

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
September					
<p><b>Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Strategy</b></p> <p><b>Key Decision - Yes</b> <b>Public Access - Open</b></p> <p>To approve the EDI Strategy and Action Plan.</p> <p>Page 52</p>	<p><b>Decision Maker Cabinet</b></p>	<p><b>Decision Date 10 Sep 2024</b></p>	<p>People and Health Overview Committee 23 Jul 2024</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Corporate Development and Transformation</p>	<p><i>Jennifer Lewis, Head of Strategic Communications and Engagement jennifer.lewis@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, James Palfreman-Kay, Equality, Diversity &amp; Inclusion Officer james.palfreman-kay@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, Corporate Development - Section 151 Officer (Aidan Dunn)</i></p>
<p><b>Quarter 1 Financial Monitoring 2024/25</b></p> <p><b>Key Decision - No</b> <b>Public Access - Open</b></p> <p>To consider the Quarter 1 Financial Monitoring Report 2024/25</p>	<p><b>Decision Maker Cabinet</b></p>	<p><b>Decision Date 10 Sep 2024</b></p>		<p>Cabinet Member for Finance &amp; Capital Strategy</p>	<p><i>Sean Cremer, Corporate Director for Finance and Commercial sean.cremer@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, Corporate Development - Section 151 Officer (Aidan Dunn)</i></p>

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
<p><b>Additional Procurement Forward Plan Report - £500k (2024 - 2025) and Modern Slavery Transparency Statement 2023- 2024</b></p> <p><b>Key Decision - Yes</b> <b>Public Access - Open</b></p> <p>The Council define key decision as those with a financial consequence of £500k or more. A procurement forward plan report was approved by Cabinet 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024. This report is additional activity that has since been identified. The Modern Slavery statement is an annual update in respect of financial year 2023/24.</p>	<p><b>Decision Maker Cabinet</b></p>	<p><b>Decision Date 10 Sep 2024</b></p>		<p>Cabinet Member for Corporate Development and Transformation, Cabinet Member for Finance &amp; Capital Strategy</p>	<p><i>Sean Cremer, Corporate Director for Finance and Commercial</i> <i>sean.cremer@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, Corporate Development - Section 151 Officer (Aidan Dunn)</i></p>
<p><b>Commissioning for better life, Day Opportunities in Dorset</b></p> <p><b>Key Decision - Yes</b> <b>Public Access - Open</b></p> <p>Report on the current Day Opportunities including research to date, supporting data and recommendations develop a model that delivers a bespoke and range of options for future reinvestment.</p>	<p><b>Decision Maker Cabinet</b></p>	<p><b>Decision Date 10 Sep 2024</b></p>	<p>People and Health Overview Committee 23 Jul 2024</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care</p>	<p><i>Mark Tyson, Corporate Director for Adult Commissioning &amp; Improvement</i> <i>mark.tyson@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Corporate Director of Commissioning, People - Adults</i></p>

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
<p><b>Designing out severe hardship and improving social mobility in Dorset</b></p> <p><b>Key Decision - Yes</b> <b>Public Access - Open</b></p> <p>To establish a cross-directorate and multi-agency taskforce with the purpose of improving social mobility, reducing poverty, and ensuring cohesive responses across the Council and with wider partners.</p>	<p><b>Decision Maker Cabinet</b></p>	<p><b>Decision Date 10 Sep 2024</b></p>	<p>Health and Wellbeing Board 26 Jun 2024</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills</p>	<p><i>Alice Deacon, Corporate Director for Commissioning and Partnerships alice.deacon@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, People - Children (Theresa Leavy)</i></p>
<p><b>Aspire Adoption Service</b></p> <p><b>Key Decision - Yes</b> <b>Public Access - Open</b></p> <p>To consider the annual report from the Aspire Adoption Service.</p>	<p><b>Decision Maker Cabinet</b></p>	<p><b>Decision Date 10 Sep 2024</b></p>		<p>Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills</p>	<p><i>Paul Dempsey, Corporate Director - Care &amp; Protection Tel: 01305 224513 paul.dempsey@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, People - Children (Theresa Leavy)</i></p>
<p><b>Community Safety Plan 2023-26 (2024-25 refresh) and Pan-Dorset Reducing Reoffending Strategy 2024-2027 and Serious Violence Strategy 2024-25</b></p> <p><b>Key Decision - Yes</b> <b>Public Access - Open</b></p> <p>The Dorset Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is required to produce three-year Community Safety Plans that are revised annually and Reducing Reoffending.</p>	<p><b>Decision Maker Dorset Council</b></p>	<p><b>Decision Date 10 Oct 2024</b></p>	<p>Cabinet People and Health Overview Committee 10 Sep 2024 23 Jul 2024</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Health and Housing</p>	<p><i>Andy Frost, Service Manager for Community Safety andy.frost@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, People - Adults</i></p>

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
<p><b>Nitrogen Reduction in Poole Harbour Supplementary Planning Document withdrawal</b></p> <p><b>Key Decision - Yes</b> <b>Public Access - Open</b></p> <p>Withdrawal of the Nitrogen Reduction in Poole Harbour Supplementary Planning Document for mitigation delivery.</p>	<p><b>Decision Maker Cabinet</b></p>	<p><b>Decision Date 10 Sep 2024</b></p>		<p>Cabinet Member for Planning and Emergency Planning</p>	<p><i>Mike Garrity, Head of Planning mike.garrity@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Terry Sneller, Strategic Planning Manager terry.sneller@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Lead for Place Directorate (Jan Britton)</i></p>

October

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<p><b>Waste Strategy for Dorset 2024</b></p> <p><b>Key Decision - Yes</b> <b>Public Access - Open</b></p> <p>To consider and approve the Waste Strategy for Dorset.</p>	<p><b>Decision Maker Cabinet</b></p>	<p><b>Decision Date 15 Oct 2024</b></p>	<p>Place and Resources Overview Committee 12 Sep 2024</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Place Services</p>	<p><i>Gemma Clinton, Head of Commercial Waste and Strategy gemma.clinton@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Lisa Mouny, Service Development Manager lisa.mouny@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Lead for Place Directorate (Jan Britton)</i></p>
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Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
<p><b>Growth &amp; Economic Regeneration Strategy</b></p> <p><b>Key Decision</b> - Yes <b>Public Access</b> - Open</p> <p>To consider and agree a refresh of the Council's strategy for economic growth. This will encompass the functions to be taken over by the Council from Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership in accordance with devolution and promote the needs and actions required to drive forward the economy in the Dorset Council Area.</p>	<p><b>Decision Maker Cabinet</b></p>	<p><b>Decision Date 15 Oct 2024</b></p>	<p>Place and Resources Overview Committee 12 Sep 2024</p>	<p>Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Property &amp; Assets and Economic Growth</p>	<p><i>Jon Bird, Service Manager for Growth and Economic Regeneration jon.bird@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Nick Webster, Head of Growth and Economic Regeneration nicholas.webster@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Lead for Place Directorate (Jan Britton)</i></p>
<p><b>Strategic Asset Management Plan 2024 - 2030</b></p> <p><b>Key Decision</b> - Yes <b>Public Access</b> - Open</p> <p>To present the Strategic Asset Management Plan 2024-2030 and seek endorsement.</p>	<p><b>Decision Maker Cabinet</b></p>	<p><b>Decision Date 15 Oct 2024</b></p>	<p>Place and Resources Overview Committee 12 Sep 2024</p>	<p>Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Property &amp; Assets and Economic Growth</p>	<p><i>Tim Hulme, Corporate Director of Assets and Regeneration tim.hulme@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Julian Wain, Strategic Property Advisor Julian.wain@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Lead for Place Directorate (Jan Britton)</i></p>
<p><b>Allocation S106 Funding for community facilities at Mampitts Green Shaftesbury</b></p> <p><b>Key Decision</b> - Yes <b>Public Access</b> - Open</p> <p>To determine the award of the s106 developer contribution funding for the delivery of community facilities at Mampitts Green, Shaftesbury.</p>	<p><b>Decision Maker Cabinet</b></p>	<p><b>Decision Date 15 Oct 2024</b></p>		<p>Cabinet Member for Planning and Emergency Planning</p>	<p><i>Andrew Galpin, Infrastructure &amp; Delivery Planning Manager andrew.galpin@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Mike Garrity, Head of Planning mike.garrity@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Lead for Place Directorate (Jan Britton)</i></p>



Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
<p><b>Planning Service Local Enforcement Plan</b></p> <p><b>Key Decision - Yes</b> <b>Public Access - Open</b></p> <p>To seek adoption of an updated local Enforcement Plan for the Planning Service, setting out service aims, how to deal with breaches of planning control and how case are investigated</p>	<p><b>Decision Maker Cabinet</b></p>	<p><b>Decision Date 15 Oct 2024</b></p>	<p>Place and Resources Overview Committee 12 Sep 2024</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Planning and Emergency Planning</p>	<p><i>Anna Lee, Service Manager for Development Management and Enforcement anna.lee@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Lead for Place Directorate (Jan Britton)</i></p>
<p><b>BCP Council unmet need request response</b></p> <p><b>Key Decision - Yes</b> <b>Public Access - Open</b></p> <p>Response to BCP Council on their request.</p>	<p><b>Decision Maker Cabinet</b></p>	<p><b>Decision Date 15 Oct 2024</b></p>		<p>Cabinet Member for Planning and Emergency Planning</p>	<p><i>Mike Garrity, Head of Planning mike.garrity@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Terry Sneller, Strategic Planning Manager terry.sneller@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Lead for Place Directorate (Jan Britton)</i></p>
<p><b>November</b></p>					
<p><b>Quarter 2 Financial Monitoring Report 2024/25</b></p> <p><b>Key Decision - Yes</b> <b>Public Access - Open</b></p> <p>To consider the Quarter 2 Financial Monitoring Report 2024/25</p>	<p><b>Decision Maker Cabinet</b></p>	<p><b>Decision Date 19 Nov 2024</b></p>		<p>Cabinet Member for Finance &amp; Capital Strategy</p>	<p><i>Sean Cremer, Corporate Director for Finance and Commercial sean.cremer@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, Corporate Development - Section 151 Officer (Aidan Dunn)</i></p>

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
<p><b>Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) and budget strategy - update</b></p> <p><b>Key Decision - Yes</b> <b>Public Access - Open</b></p> <p>To receive a budget update for 2025/26.</p>	<p><b>Decision Maker Cabinet</b></p>	<p><b>Decision Date 19 Nov 2024</b></p>		<p>Cabinet Member for Finance &amp; Capital Strategy</p>	<p><i>Sean Cremer, Corporate Director for Finance and Commercial</i> <i>sean.cremer@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, Corporate Development - Section 151 Officer (Aidan Dunn)</i></p>
<p><b>Draft Contaminated Land Strategy</b></p> <p><b>Key Decision - Yes</b> <b>Public Access - Open</b></p> <p>Draft Contaminated Land Strategy and report of consultation findings on the draft strategy.</p>	<p><b>Decision Maker Cabinet</b></p>	<p><b>Decision Date 19 Nov 2024</b></p>	<p>Place and Resources Overview Committee 12 Sep 2024</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Customer, Culture and Community Engagement</p>	<p><i>Steven Horsler, Environmental Health Officer</i> <i>steven.horsler@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Janet Moore, Service Manager for Environmental Protection</i> <i>Janet.Moore@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Lead for Place Directorate (Jan Britton)</i></p>
<p><b>December</b></p>					

<p><b>Draft Council Plan 2024-2029</b></p> <p><b>Key Decision - Yes</b> <b>Public Access - Open</b></p> <p>A draft of the new Council Plan for discussion and approval, setting out the council's strategic priorities for the next 5 years.</p>	<p><b>Decision Maker Dorset Council</b></p>	<p><b>Decision Date 5 Dec 2024</b></p>	<p>Cabinet 19 Nov 2024</p> <p>People and Health Overview Committee TBC</p>	<p>Leader and Cabinet Member for Climate, Performance and Safeguarding</p>	<p><i>Jennifer Lewis, Head of Strategic Communications and Engagement</i> <i>jennifer.lewis@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Chief Executive (Matt Prosser)</i></p>
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Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
<b>January 2025</b>					
<p><b>Quarter 3 Financial Monitoring 2024/25</b></p> <p><b>Key Decision - No</b> <b>Public Access - Open</b></p> <p>To consider the Quarter 3 financial Monitoring Report 2024/25</p>	<p><b>Decision Maker</b> <b>Cabinet</b></p>	<p><b>Decision Date</b> <b>28 Jan 2025</b></p>		<p>Cabinet Member for Finance &amp; Capital Strategy</p>	<p><i>Sean Cremer, Corporate Director for Finance and Commercial</i> <i>sean.cremer@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, Corporate Development - Section 151 Officer (Aidan Dunn)</i></p>
<p><b>Budget strategy and medium-term financial plan (MTFP)</b></p> <p><b>Key Decision - Yes</b> <b>Public Access - Open</b></p> <p>To consider a report and recommendation of the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Commercial and Capital Assets.</p>	<p><b>Decision Maker</b> <b>Dorset Council</b></p>	<p><b>Decision Date</b> <b>11 Feb 2025</b></p>	<p>People and Health Scrutiny Committee 16 Jan 2025</p> <p>Place and Resources Scrutiny Committee 17 Jan 2025</p> <p>Cabinet 28 Jan 2025</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Finance &amp; Capital Strategy</p>	<p><i>Sean Cremer, Corporate Director for Finance and Commercial</i> <i>sean.cremer@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, Corporate Development - Section 151 Officer (Aidan Dunn)</i></p>

**Private/Exempt Items for Decision**

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

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



**Shareholder Committee for Care Dorset Holdings Ltd**  
**Forward Plan**  
**For the period 1 SEPTEMBER 2024 to 31 DECEMBER 2024**  
**(Publication date – 19 JULY 2024)**

**Explanatory Note:**

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

**Definition of Key Decisions**

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

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

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

**Committee Membership 2023/24**

Cllr Nick Ireland – Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Governance, Performance, Communications, Environment, Climate Change and Safeguarding

Cllr Richard Biggs – Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Property & Assets, Economic Growth & Levelling Up

Cllr Ryan Holloway - Portfolio Holder for Corporate Development, Transformation, Digital & Change

Cllr Steve Robinson – Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care

Cllr Gill Taylor - Portfolio Holder for Public Health, Environmental Health, Housing, Community Safety and Regulatory Service

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
<b>October</b>				
<b>Dorset Council Delegated Decisions (as required)</b>  <b>Key Decision</b> - No <b>Public Access</b> - Part exempt	<b>Decision Maker</b> <b>Shareholder Committee for Care Dorset Holdings Ltd</b>	<b>Decision Date</b> <b>7 Oct 2024</b>	Councillor Steve Robinson	<i>Jonathan Price, Executive Director of People - Adults and Housing  jonathan.price@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk  Corporate Director of Commissioning, People - Adults</i>
<b>Dorset Council Organisational Update</b>  <b>Key Decision</b> - No <b>Public Access</b> - Part exempt	<b>Decision Maker</b> <b>Shareholder Committee for Care Dorset Holdings Ltd</b>	<b>Decision Date</b> <b>7 Oct 2024</b>	Councillor Steve Robinson	<i>Jonathan Price, Executive Director of People - Adults and Housing  jonathan.price@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk  Executive Director, People - Adults</i>
<b>Care Dorset Update</b>  <b>Key Decision</b> - No <b>Public Access</b> - Part exempt	<b>Decision Maker</b> <b>Shareholder Committee for Care Dorset Holdings Ltd</b>	<b>Decision Date</b> <b>7 Oct 2024</b>	Councillor Steve Robinson	<i>Jonathan Price, Executive Director of People - Adults and Housing  jonathan.price@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk,  Chris Best, Interim Managing Director  chris.best@caredorset.co.uk  Executive Director, People - Adults</i>
<b>Care Dorset Five Year Business Plan</b>  <b>Key Decision</b> - Yes <b>Public Access</b> - Fully exempt	<b>Decision Maker</b> <b>Shareholder Committee for Care Dorset Holdings Ltd</b>	<b>Decision Date</b> <b>7 Oct 2024</b>	Councillor Steve Robinson	<i>Jonathan Price, Executive Director of People - Adults and Housing  jonathan.price@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk  Executive Director, People - Adults</i>
<b>December</b>				

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
<b>Dorset Council Delegated Decisions (as required)</b>  <b>Key Decision - No Public Access - Open</b>	<b>Decision Maker Shareholder Committee for Care Dorset Holdings Ltd</b>	<b>Decision Date 2 Dec 2024</b>	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care	<i>Mark Tyson, Corporate Director for Adult Commissioning &amp; Improvement  mark.tyson@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk  Executive Director, People - Adults</i>
<b>Dorset Council Organisational Update</b>  <b>Key Decision - No Public Access - Part exempt</b>	<b>Decision Maker Shareholder Committee for Care Dorset Holdings Ltd</b>	<b>Decision Date 2 Dec 2024</b>	Councillor Steve Robinson	<i>Mark Tyson, Corporate Director for Adult Commissioning &amp; Improvement  mark.tyson@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk  Executive Director, People - Adults</i>
<b>Care Dorset Update</b>  <b>Key Decision - No Public Access - Part exempt</b>	<b>Decision Maker Shareholder Committee for Care Dorset Holdings Ltd</b>	<b>Decision Date 2 Dec 2024</b>	Councillor Steve Robinson	<i>Executive Director, People - Adults</i>
<b>Annual Performance Update for Council</b>  <b>Key Decision - No Public Access - Open</b>	<b>Decision Maker Shareholder Committee for Care Dorset Holdings Ltd</b>	<b>Decision Date</b>	Councillor Steve Robinson	<i>Executive Director, People - Adults</i>
<b>Annual Reports</b>				

Care Dorset Business Plan - 6

Decision Maker

Decision Date

Councillor Steve

Jonathan Price, Executive Director of

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
<p><b>month review and update</b></p> <p><b>Key Decision - No Public Access - Open</b></p> <p>For the Shareholder Committee to consider progress in delivering the 5 year business plan, and any review of the plan as necessary.</p>	<p><b>Shareholder Committee for Care Dorset Holdings Ltd</b></p>		<p>Robinson</p>	<p><i>People - Adults and Housing jonathan.price@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Mark Tyson, Corporate Director for Adult Commissioning &amp; Improvement mark.tyson@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, People - Adults</i></p>



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5. Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.
6. Information which reveals that the shadow council proposes:-
  - (a) to give under any enactment a notice under or by virtue of which requirements are imposed on a person; or
  - (b) to make an order or direction under any enactment.
7. Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime.

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## The Shareholder Committee for the Dorset Centre of Excellence (DCOE) Forward Plan For the period 1 SEPTEMBER 2024 to 31 DECEMBER 2024 (Publication date – 19 JULY 2024)

### Explanatory Note:

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

### Definition of Key Decisions

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

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

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

### Committee Membership 2024/25

Cllr Nick Ireland – Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Governance, Performance, Communications, Environment, Climate Change and Safeguarding

Cllr Richard Biggs – Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Property & Assets, Economic Growth & Levelling Up

Cllr Ryan Hope - Portfolio Holder for Customer, Culture and Community Engagement

Cllr Clare Sutton - Children's Services, Education & Skills

Cllr Gill Taylor - Portfolio Holder for Public Health, Environmental Health, Housing, Community Safety and Regulatory Service

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
<b>Standing items for consideration</b>				
<b>September</b>				
<b>Dorset Council Delegated Decisions</b>  <b>Key Decision - No Public Access - Open</b>	<b>Decision Maker</b> <b>The Shareholder Committee for the Dorset Centre of Excellence (DCOE)</b>	<b>Decision Date</b> <b>16 Sep 2024</b>	Councillor Clare Sutton	<i>Executive Director, People - Children (Theresa Leavy)</i>
<b>Dorset Council Commissioning Report</b>  <b>Key Decision - No Public Access - Part exempt</b>	<b>Decision Maker</b> <b>The Shareholder Committee for the Dorset Centre of Excellence (DCOE)</b>	<b>Decision Date</b> <b>16 Sep 2024</b>	Councillor Clare Sutton	<i>Executive Director, People - Children (Theresa Leavy)</i>
<b>DCoE - Report of the Chair of the Board</b>  <b>Key Decision - No Public Access - Part exempt</b>	<b>Decision Maker</b> <b>The Shareholder Committee for the Dorset Centre of Excellence (DCOE)</b>	<b>Decision Date</b> <b>16 Sep 2024</b>	Councillor Clare Sutton	<i>Executive Director, People - Children (Theresa Leavy)</i>
<b>December</b>				

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
<b>Dorset Council Delegated Decisions</b>  <b>Key Decision</b> - Yes <b>Public Access</b> - Open	<b>Decision Maker</b> <b>The Shareholder Committee for the Dorset Centre of Excellence (DCOE)</b>	<b>Decision Date</b> <b>9 Dec 2024</b>	Councillor Clare Sutton	<i>Executive Director, People - Children (Theresa Leavy)</i>
<b>Dorset Council Commissioning Report</b>  <b>Key Decision</b> - Yes <b>Public Access</b> - Part exempt	<b>Decision Maker</b> <b>The Shareholder Committee for the Dorset Centre of Excellence (DCOE)</b>	<b>Decision Date</b> <b>9 Dec 2024</b>	Councillor Clare Sutton	<i>Executive Director, People - Children (Theresa Leavy)</i>
<b>DCoE - Report of the Chair of the Board</b>  <b>Key Decision</b> - Yes <b>Public Access</b> - Part exempt	<b>Decision Maker</b> <b>The Shareholder Committee for the Dorset Centre of Excellence (DCOE)</b>	<b>Decision Date</b> <b>9 Dec 2024</b>	Councillor Clare Sutton	<i>Executive Director, People - Children (Theresa Leavy)</i>
<b>Performance of the Traded Activities of the Company</b>  <b>Key Decision</b> - Yes <b>Public Access</b> - Open	<b>Decision Maker</b> <b>The Shareholder Committee for the Dorset Centre of Excellence (DCOE)</b>	<b>Decision Date</b> <b>9 Dec 2024</b>	Councillor Clare Sutton	<i>Executive Director, People - Children (Theresa Leavy)</i>
<b>Annual Reports</b>				

**Private/Exempt Items for Decision**

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

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