

PLACE AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 18 SEPTEMBER 2025

Present: Cllrs Ray Bryan (Vice-Chair), Louie O'Leary, Craig Monks and Alex Fuhrmann

Present remotely: Cllrs Sarah Williams and Alex Brenton

Apologies: Cllrs Nocturin Lacey-Clarke, David Tooke and Jack Jeanes

Also present: Cllr Gill Taylor, Cllr Jon Andrews, Cllr Shane Bartlett and Cllr Simon Gibson

Also present remotely: Cllr Barry Goringe, Cllr Andrew Parry, Cllr Jane Somper, Cllr Andy Todd, Cllr Tomes, Cllr Ryan Hope, Cllr Belinda Bawden and Cllr Sherry Jespersen

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

Lisa Cotton (Corporate Director for Customer and Cultural Services), Jessica Maskrey (Head of Service – Assets & Property), Jack Wiltshire (Corporate Director for Highways and Engineering), Christopher Whitehouse (Projects Team Manager) and Michael Westwood (Service Manager for Parking Services)

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

22. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting on 24 July 2025 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the chair.

23. Declarations of interest

Cllr Shane Bartlett and Cllr Louie O'Leary provided an initial declaration around their roles in relation to the Dorset Innovation Park.

24. Public Participation

There was no public participation.

25. Questions from Councillors

There were no questions from Councillors.

26. Empty Properties Update

The Head of Head of Service - Assets & Property introduced the report and dashboard that was provided following work to consolidate the wide range of information provided. The discussion covered the following areas.

- The issues that create delays shown in the report and the rolling picture in housing that influences vacant properties.
- The rolling review process and operating model of assets and properties
- Assets usage and its consideration in reviews and the prioritisation of properties for review
- The measures of the transfers and disposals with a transfer and KPI of number of asset reviews completed.
- Housing usage especially around temporary accommodation and its role in the system ahead of getting people into settled longer term accommodation.
- Housing association's role in housing of residents in Dorset.
- The importance of early engagement with services in homelessness prevention.
- The cost of holding vacant properties and how that cost is attributed.

The committee identified an opportunity of using councillors and ward specific lists to validate assets held to support the shortening the review cycle.

The Committee requested further details for asset reference 0072's disposal.

27. Electric Vehicle Charging Performance

The Projects Team Manager introduced the report and outlined the current picture in terms of electric vehicle usage and the growing demand for charging facilities. They emphasised the role of Local Authorities in utilising public facilities to meet future need. Following the introduction the discussion covered the following areas;

- Car parking usage and patterns and the impact of chargers on car parking capacity.
- The cost of EV charging in public spaces relative to home charging.
- The ability to charge at home and the restrictions that prohibit home charging such as, planning considerations and access to power in urban areas.
- The spatial requirements of electric vehicle charging points on parking facilities.
- The transparency of EV charging charges at the point of purchase.
- The funding sources and the opportunity to meet the future demands.
- The role of EV charging infrastructure on tourism and general economic growth.
- Barriers to finding more sites for EV charging facilities especially in smaller settlements.
- The process taken to find sites, alternatives and to implement the charging points.
- The metrics that quantify demand vs provision and the council's provision of EV charging.
- The grid infrastructure requirements of the future provision charging for electric vehicles.

Recommendations-

That consideration be given to making the prices for charging Electric Vehicles in Dorset Council car parks physically visible to inform customer choice.

28. **Place and Resources Scrutiny Committee Work Programme**

The Committee reviewed the work programme.

29. **Executive Arrangements Forward Plans**

The Committee reviewed the forward plans.

30. **Urgent items**

There were no urgent items

31. **Exempt Business**

There was no exempt business.

Duration of meeting: 6.30 - 9.05 pm

Chairman

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