



Cabinet

Date: Tuesday, 29 July 2025
Time: 6.30 pm
Venue: Council Chamber, County Hall, Dorchester, DT1 1XJ

Membership: (Quorum 3)

Nick Ireland (Chair), Richard Biggs (Vice-Chair), Jon Andrews, Shane Bartlett, Simon Clifford, Ryan Hope, Steve Robinson, Clare Sutton, Gill Taylor and Ben Wilson

Interim Chief Executive: Sam Crowe

For more information about this agenda please contact Democratic Services
Meeting Contact 01305 252234 - kate.critchell@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. If you would like to attend this meeting and have any specific requirements please contact the Democratic Services Officer named above.

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Agenda

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1. APOLOGIES

To receive any apologies for absence.

2. MINUTES

5 - 12

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 24 June 2025.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To disclose any pecuniary, other registrable or non-registrable interest as set out in the adopted Code of Conduct. In making their disclosure councillors are asked to state the agenda item, the nature of the interest and any action they propose to take as part of their declaration.

If required, further advice should be sought from the Monitoring Officer in advance of the meeting.

4. 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 Kate.Critchell@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk by 8.30am on Thursday 24 July 2025.

When submitting your question or statement please note that:

- You can submit 1 question or 1 statement.
- a question may include a short pre-amble 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.

5. 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
kate.critchell@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk 8.30am on Thursday 24 July
2025.

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

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|------------|--|---------|
| 6. | FORWARD PLAN | 13 - 22 |
| | To consider the draft Cabinet Forward Plan. | |
| 7. | PROCUREMENT OF RECOVERY AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE CONTRACTS | 23 - 30 |
| | To consider a report of the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care. | |
| 8. | 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. | |
| 9. | EXEMPT BUSINESS | |
| | To consider passing the following recommendation: | |
| | Recommendation | |
| | That in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 to exclude the public from the meeting for the business specified in item(s) No 10 & 11 because it is likely that if members of the public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of schedule 12A to the Act and the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information to the public. | |
| | The public and the press will be asked to leave the meeting whilst the item of business is considered. (Any live streaming will end at this juncture). | |
| | Reason for taking the item in private | |
| | Paragraph 3 - Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). | |
| 10. | DISPOSALS UPDATE | 31 - 48 |
| | <i>Para 3</i> | |
| | To consider a report of the Cabinet Member for Property & Assets and Economic. | |

**11. ENTERPRISE RESOURCE PLANNING (ERP) SYSTEM
REPLACEMENT PROGRAMME**

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Para 3

To consider a report of the Cabinet Member for Corporate Development and Transformation.



CABINET

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 24 JUNE 2025

Present: Cllrs Nick Ireland (Chair), Richard Biggs (Vice-Chair), Jon Andrews, Shane Bartlett, Simon Clifford, Ryan Hope, Steve Robinson, Clare Sutton, Gill Taylor and Ben Wilson

Also present: Cllr Laura Beddow, Cllr Piers Brown, Cllr Les Fry, Mike Garrity, Cllr Simon Gibson, Cllr Hannah Hobbs-Chell, Cllr Sherry Jespersen, Cllr Craig Monks, Cllr Louie O'Leary, Cllr Andrew Parry and Cllr Jane Somper

Also present remotely: Cllr David Tooke, Cllr Mike Baker, Cllr Barry Goringe, Cllr Jack Jeanes, Cllr Carole Jones, Cllr Chris Kippax, Cllr David Morgan, Cllr David Northam, Cllr Mike Parkes, Cllr Val Potheary and Cllr Andy Skeats

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

Jan Britton (Executive Director for Places Services), Kate Critchel (Senior Democratic Services Officer), Lindsey Watson (Senior Democratic Services Officer), Alice Deacon (Corporate Director for Commissioning and Partnerships), Sam Crowe (Interim Chief Executive), Paul Dempsey (Executive Director of People - Children), Matthew Piles (Corporate Director - Strategic Director - Weymouth 2040), Beth Whittaker (Interim Corporate Director for Education and Learning), Aidan Dunn (Executive Director - Corporate Development S151), Jonathan Mair (Director of Legal and Democratic and Monitoring Officer), Nick Webster (Head of Growth and Regeneration), Laura Cornette (Business Partner - Communities and Partnerships) and Terry Sneller (Strategic Planning Manager)

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

Richard Freed (Service Manager for Commercial and Procurement)

10. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 May 2025 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

11. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest to report.

12. Public Participation

There were no questions or statements from the public.

13. Questions from Councillors

There were no questions from Councillors.

14. Forward Plan

The draft Cabinet Forward Plan for July 2025 was received and noted.

15. Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services 2025

The Cabinet member for Children's Services, Education & Skills reported the findings of a recent Ofsted inspection of the Council's Children's Services. Ofsted awarded an outcome judgement of overall effectiveness as outstanding. She indicated that the judgement was set out in full within the report along with the post inspection action plan.

Cabinet took this opportunity to congratulate all those involved in the inspection process and the recommendations were unanimously supported.

Decision

- (a) That the report be noted and that the positive judgements awarded to the Service by Ofsted, be celebrated.
- (b) That the post inspection action plan be supported and
- (c) That the test of assurance document, as set out in appendix 3 of the report, be received.

Reason for the decision

Dorset Council had a legal statutory duty to deliver effective safeguarding services and improve outcomes for children in care and care experienced young people. The impact of an effective Children's Services contributed to delivering improving communities for all, a priority in the Council Plan.

16. Commissioned Grants for Direct Community Benefit Policy

The Cabinet member for Finance & Capital Strategy set out the report with the draft commissioned grants for direct community benefit policy and guidance which offered an auditable and transparent commissioning process.

It was proposed by Cllr S Clifford seconded by Cllr N Ireland

Decision

That the Commissioned Grants Policy be approved.

Reason for the decision

The Commissioned Grants Policy was an alternative model for direct community benefit that would streamline the process of commissioning for our Voluntary

Community Sector whilst still ensuring Dorset Council maintained essential checks and balances, and that Dorset Council got value for money.

17. **Dorset Council Local Plan Consultation**

The Cabinet member for Planning and Emergency Planning advised Cabinet that it was a statutory requirement to have an up-to-date Local Plan, to meet the growth needs of the community. Consultation for a draft local plan took place in January 2021. However, since this consultation there had been significant changes to national policy and an amended standard approach to calculating housing needs. As a result of these changes there was a need to conduct a further consultation. A new Minerals and Waste Plan was also necessary, and a separate consultation process on this would run alongside the local plan consultation.

The Cabinet member took the opportunity to highlight the four strategic priorities that were relevant to the local plan and the uplift in housing numbers from central government meant that a further consultation on new development sites was necessary.

The Cabinet member confirmed that it was important to demonstrate throughout the creation of the local plan that the Council has consulted and considered all development site options. He proposed the recommendations as set out in the report.

The recommendation was seconded by Cllr N Ireland, who advised that the Local Plan EAP members would have an opportunity to road test the consultation before launched.

In response to questions around the housing numbers set by central government, the Cabinet member for Planning and Emergency Planning advised that the Council needed to carry out the consultation, research and due diligence by presenting a plan to the examiner, that would show that the Council had tested all the development sites and set out the number of houses that the Council could actually deliver within the plan.

Responding to questions around the consultation timeline, the Cabinet member advised that the Council could be flexible with the first consultation period and responses received past 13 October 2025 will be included, however the second consultation end date, in August 2026 was a more rigorous period. There would also be an all-Councillor Briefing held on a date in August 2025.

Decision

- (a) That officers be authorised to prepare for the Dorset Council Local Plan options consultation; and approve the commencement of the consultation in mid-August 2025, to run for a period of eight weeks.
- (b) That officers be authorised to prepare for the Minerals and Waste Local Plan consultation and approve the commencement of the consultation in mid-August for a period of eight weeks.

- (c) That authority be delegated to the Service Manager for Spatial Planning, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Emergency Planning, to agree the consultation material prior to the start of the consultation.

Reason for the decision

It was important that the Local Plan was prepared in a positive manner that actively explored realistic opportunities for meeting growth needs within Dorset. Following the correct process would enable a robust Local Plan to be prepared.

The consultation material would include a strategy for meeting housing, employment and other needs. It would need to explore the reasonable deliverable development opportunities for meeting these needs.

Once the consultation was complete, the site opportunities would be reviewed and where no insurmountable deliverability issues including significant negative impacts had been identified, the sites were likely to be taken forward for allocation. The final set of site opportunities for the next stage of plan making would need to be deliverable.

18. **Economic Growth Strategy**

The Cabinet member for Property & Assets and Economic Growth presented the Economic Growth Strategy for approval following key member sessions, including a cross-party EAP and consideration at Place and Resources Committee on 22 May 2025.

The Cabinet member confirmed that all councillors had a role to hold the strategy to account and acknowledged that it was a living document. Dorset had significant economic challenges including low productivity, a lack of available skilled labour, social mobility challenges in some of its largest population centres, and housing affordability concerns. The strategy aimed to identify opportunities that would help mitigate these challenges.

In response to a question, the Cabinet member emphasised that tourism was a vital component of the County's Strategic priorities and discussions regarding hotel rental rates in Weymouth were ongoing. The Head of Growth and Economic Regeneration highlighted that the key ambitions for tourism in the county included increasing visitor spend, extending the visitor season and enhancing the productivity of tourism businesses. This would be achieved through innovation in business processes enabling these enterprises to become highly productive and contribute more significantly to the county's overall economic growth.

Non-executive members welcomed the ambitions for the market town framework but asked for more detail on the timeframe for that part of the strategy. Responding, the Executive Director for Place advised that there was an active work stream ongoing with town and parish councils around working more closely as partners and Dorset Council's support for market towns had been an important part of that discussion. The route forward would be to drive the market town framework into that existing workstream so that this process was a key part of that work programme.

The Interim Chief Executive indicated that the timescale for the work with town and parish councils would be presented to overview committee in approximately 6 months.

Cabinet members welcomed and fully supported the strategy and its key performance indicators.

It was proposed by Cllr R Biggs and seconded by Cllr S Clifford

Decision

- (a) That the Economic Growth Strategy be approved
- (b) That authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Place Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Property & Assets and Economic Growth, to approve final document design and minor textual changes.
- (c) That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Property & Assets and Economic Growth, in consultation with the Executive Director for Place Services and the Director of Legal and Democratic, to finalise the terms of reference and any other required governance for the Dorset Growth Board.
- (d) That the roles that several Dorset Council services need to play in supporting improved economic growth, be noted.
- (e) Cabinet endorsed the allocation of the £0.62m Dorset Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) FY2026 extension funds, on a 50/50 basis, to two interventions previously funded by REPF, that complement the Shared Prosperity Fund extension interventions approved by Cabinet on 25 January 2025:
 - a. Advice and support to business (productivity grants) and
 - b. Zero Carbon Business Support (DC Zero Carbon Dorset grants)

Reason for the decision

The Economic Growth Strategy was a significant document which was being produced at a critical time. World economics were currently very fluid, and the council was aware of a wide range of economic challenges and opportunities as it sought to create a more prosperous and more sustainable Dorset for current and future generations.

19. **Draft outturn report 2024/25**

Cabinet received the draft outturn report for 2024/25. The Cabinet member for Finance & Capital Strategy advised that at the financial year 2024/25 concluded with an overspend of £6.714m. This was an improvement of £4.1 million since Q3. He further advised that the report would be considered by Audit and Governance Committee at their next meeting on 30 June 2025.

In respect of a question that Continuing Healthcare Funding (CHC) should be subject to a scrutiny request, the Leader of the Council advised that this matter would be taken outside of the meeting and discussed further with the Chair of the appropriate Scrutiny Committee.

It was proposed by Cllr S Clifford seconded by Cllr R Biggs

Decision

- (a) That the draft revenue and capital outturn and the financial performance for the year ended 31 March 2025, be noted
- (b) That the use of un-ringfenced reserves to support the 2024/25 final outturn as set out in section 12, of the report to Cabinet of 24 June 2025, be approved
- (c) That the reallocation of the additional funding sources and budgets to the Weymouth Harbour Walls Project as set out in section 14 of the report, be approved
- (d) That authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Place, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Place Services to approve spend decisions, including procurement, contract award, and payment of invoices, within the Total Scheme Budget for the Weymouth Harbour Walls Project as set out in section 14 of the report.

Reason for the decision

To report the financial performance for the year and the financial position at 31 March 2025. To give Cabinet the opportunity to review the risks the organisation faced and consider areas where it may wish to make strategic investments and/or to repurpose and prioritise its reserves to facilitate these aims.

20. Youth Justice Plan 2025 - 26 - Recommendation from People & Health Overview Committee

The Cabinet member for Children's Services, Education and Skills presented the recommendation from People and Health Overview Committee to recommend approval of the Plan to Full Council.

It was proposed by Cllr C Sutton and seconded by Cllr S Bartlett

Recommendation to Full Council

That the Youth Justice Plan be approved.

Reason for the decision

Youth Justice Services were required to publish an annual Youth Justice Plan which should be approved by the Local Authority for that Youth Justice Service. Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service works across both Dorset Council and

Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council. Approval is therefore sought from both Dorset Council and from Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council.

21. Consultation Report for Anti-social Behaviour Related Public Spaces Protection Orders - recommendation from Place & Resources Committee

The Cabinet member for Health & Housing presented the recommendation from Place and Resources Overview Committee of 22 May 2025.

Members were advised that existing Anti-social Behaviour Related Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO's) were due to expire on 30 June 2025. As allowed for in the legislation and following consultation with key stakeholders, the recommendation sought support to continue these Orders for a further three years. There were also two new Orders proposed, and a public consultation process had been undertaken.

In response to questions, the Cabinet member agreed that she would investigate if sites could be extended to nearby and neighbouring areas where Public Space Protection Orders were already in place.

It was proposed by Cllr G Taylor seconded by Cllr S Robinson

Decision

- (a) That the Anti-social Behaviour Related Public Spaces Protection Orders due to expire on 30 June 2025 be extended for a period of three years.
- (b) That the two new proposed Anti-social Behaviour Related Public Spaces Protection Orders relating to fires on open land and unauthorised camping on Studland Beach be approved.

Reason for the decision

To comply with legislative requirements for the making of Public Spaces Protection Orders

To ensure openness and transparency in the Council's decision making by taking appropriate account of the results of the consultation.

To ensure that residents and businesses affected by anti-social behaviour be afforded the protection provided by such Orders.

22. Urgent items

There were no urgent items considered at the meeting.

23. Exempt Business

There was no exempt business to report.

Duration of meeting: 6.30 - 7.37 pm

Chairman

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The Cabinet Forward Plan - September to December 2025 (Publication date – 11 AUGUST 2025)

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

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

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
September					

Street Lighting Policy Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open Improvements in lighting technology mean more options are available for our LED replacement of streetlights. The new paper will seek agreement on the type of lighting to be used within our policy.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 9 Sep 2025	Place and Resources Overview Committee 13 Mar 2025	Cabinet Member for Place Services	<i>Jack Wiltshire, Corporate Director for Highways and Engineering</i> <i>jack.wiltshire@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, Place (Jan Britton)</i>
Period 4 financial management report Key Decision - No Public Access - Open To consider the Period 4 financial management report.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 9 Sep 2025		Cabinet Member for Finance & Capital Strategy	<i>Sean Cremer, Corporate Director for Finance and Commercial</i> <i>sean.cremer@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> , <i>Heather Lappin, Head of Strategic Finance</i> <i>heather.lappin@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, Corporate Development - Section 151 Officer (Aidan Dunn)</i>

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
Dorset Safeguarding Children's Partnership (DSCP) Annual Report April 2024 - March 2025 Key Decision - No Public Access - Open This is the annual report for the activity completed by the Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership April 2024 to March 2025.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 9 Sep 2025		Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills	<i>Megan Cameron-Brown, Head of Quality Assurance and Partnerships</i> <i>megan.cameron-brown@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, People - Children (Paul Dempsey)</i>
Knightsford Neighbourhood Plan Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open Report relating to the making (adoption) of the neighbourhood plan following examination and referendum.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 9 Sep 2025		Cabinet Member for Planning and Emergency Planning	<i>Ed Gerry, Community Planning Manager</i> <i>ed.gerry@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, Place (Jan Britton)</i>
October 2025					

Parking Review Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Part exempt To review the parking provision across Dorset both on and off street, this will include review of car parks, resident parking, parking enforcement, avail permits and changing structures for the purpose of improving the parking operation.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 9 Oct 2025		Cabinet Member for Place Services	<i>Michael Westwood, Service Manager for Parking Services</i> <i>michael.westwood@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, Place (Jan Britton)</i>
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Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
Financial Provision for the Voluntary Community Sector TBC Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open The current 5-year financial agreement for the VCS will be coming to an end in October 2026. This paper will propose the new support for them.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 9 Oct 2025		Cabinet Member for Customer, Culture and Community Engagement	<i>Laura Cornette, Business Partner - Communities and Partnerships</i> <i>Laura.cornette@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Jennifer Lowis, Head of Strategic Communications and Engagement</i> <i>jennifer.louis@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, Corporate Development - Section 151 Officer (Aidan Dunn)</i>
Dorset Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2028 Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open Dorset Council has a legal requirement to create a Domestic Abuse Strategy as set out in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. This was the second Strategy the Council had written such legislation came into place. The Strategy requires sign-off from the Council.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 9 Oct 2025	People and Health Overview Committee 15 Sep 2025	Cabinet Member for Health and Housing	<i>Andy Frost, Service Manager for Community Safety</i> <i>andy.frost@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Ian Grant, Programme Coordinator</i> <i>ian.grant@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, People - Adults (Jonathan Price)</i>
Age Friendly Communities Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open To provide an update on the Age Friendly Communities Programme.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 9 Oct 2025	Health and Wellbeing Board 24 Sep 2025	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care	<i>Sam Poole, Interim Corporate Director for Commissioning & Improvement</i> <i>samuel.poole@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, People - Adults (Jonathan Price)</i>

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
Council Plan Progress Report Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open A bi-annual report to Cabinet on Council Plan delivery.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 9 Oct 2025		Leader and Cabinet Member for Climate, Performance and Safeguarding	<i>Liz Crocker, Head of Strategy</i> <i>liz.crocker@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Chief Executive</i>
Empty Homes Strategy Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open Part of the wider Housing Strategy, this report will introduce a strategy which sets out how the Council intends to bring long term empty properties back into use.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 9 Oct 2025	People and Health Overview Committee 15 Sep 2025	Cabinet Member for Health and Housing	<i>Steven March, Team Leader Standards East</i> <i>steven.march@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, People - Adults (Jonathan Price)</i>
November 17					

Quarter 2 financial management report Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open To consider the Quarter 2 Financial Monitoring Report 2024/25.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 11 Nov 2025		Cabinet Member for Finance & Capital Strategy	<i>Sean Cremer, Corporate Director for Finance and Commercial</i> <i>sean.cremer@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> , <i>Heather Lappin, Head of Strategic Finance</i> <i>heather.lappin@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, Corporate Development - Section 151 Officer (Aidan Dunn)</i>
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Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) and budget strategy Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open To consider the Medium Term Financial (MTFP) and budget strategy.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 11 Nov 2025		Cabinet Member for Finance & Capital Strategy	<i>Sean Cremer, Corporate Director for Finance and Commercial</i> <i>sean.cremer@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Heather Lappin, Head of Strategic Finance</i> <i>heather.lappin@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, Corporate Development - Section 151 Officer (Aidan Dunn)</i>

December

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Dorset Tenancy Strategy Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open A tenancy strategy to set out the kinds and circumstances for different types of tenancies that should be provided to social rented housing tenants, including arrangements for fixed term tenancies, for registered providers which hold stock in the Dorset local authority area, to pay attention to when formulating their tenancy policies.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 9 Dec 2025	People and Health Overview Committee 3 Nov 2025	Cabinet Member for Health and Housing	<i>Sharon Attwater, Service Manager for Housing Strategy and Performance</i> <i>sharon.attwater@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Andrew Billany, Corporate Director for Housing</i> <i>andrew.billany@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, People - Adults (Jonathan Price)</i>
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Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
Towards a new model of day opportunities transformation Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open To consider the results of the consultation on the future of day services in Dorset and use this information to shape a way forward for these services. The consultation was launched on a set of proposals across Dorset arising from Cabinet's agreement in principle to the new model for these services at its meeting on 10 September 2024.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 9 Dec 2025	People and Health Overview Committee 3 Nov 2025	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care	<i>Sarah Perrett, Commissioning Manager - Micro Provider & Voluntary Sector Development sarah.perrett@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Mark Tyson, Corporate Director for Adult Commissioning & Improvement mark.tyson@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, People - Adults (Jonathan Price)</i>
Partnership Principles and Statement of Reasonable Expectations Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open To approve a set of Partnership Principles with Community Partners and To approve a Statement of Reasonable Expectations with Town Councils	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 9 Dec 2025	People and Health Overview Committee Date TBC Place and Resources Overview Committee Date TBC	Leader and Cabinet Member for Climate, Performance and Safeguarding	<i>Steven Ford, Corporate Director for Strategy, Performance and Sustainability steven.ford@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Jennifer Lewis, Head of Strategic Communications and Engagement jennifer.lewis@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Chief Executive</i>
February					

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
Dorset Council Housing Allocation Policy Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open Proposed revisions to the councils Housing Allocations Policy, which governs how social housing is allocated to applicants on the housing register. The revised policy update aims to ensure fairness, transparency and compliance with legal requirements while addressing local housing need. Key changes may include amendments to priority criteria, eligibility requirements, changes to relevant legislation and operational procedures.	Decision Maker Dorset Council	Decision Date 17 Feb 2026	People and Health Overview Committee 3 Nov 2025 Cabinet 9 Dec 2025	Cabinet Member for Health and Housing	<i>Sarah How, Service Manager for Housing Solutions</i> sarah.how@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk <i>Executive Director, People - Adults (Jonathan Price)</i>
Quarter 3 financial management report Key Decision - No Public Access - Open Quarter 3 financial management report.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 3 Feb 2026		Cabinet Member for Finance & Capital Strategy	<i>Sean Cremer, Corporate Director for Finance and Commercial</i> sean.cremer@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, <i>Heather Lappin, Head of Strategic Finance</i> heather.lappin@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk <i>Executive Director, Corporate Development - Section 151 Officer (Aidan Dunn)</i>

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
Medium Term Financial Plan and Budget Strategy report Key Decision - No Public Access - Open	Decision Maker Dorset Council	Decision Date 17 Feb 2026	Cabinet 3 Feb 2026 Place and Resources Scrutiny Committee 22 Jan 2026 People and Health Scrutiny Committee 23 Jan 2026	Cabinet Member for Finance & Capital Strategy	<i>Sean Cremer, Corporate Director for Finance and Commercial sean.cremer@dorsetcouncil .gov.uk, Heather Lappin, Head of Strategic Finance heather.lappin@dorsetcoun cil.gov.uk Executive Director, Corporate Development - Section 151 Officer (Aidan Dunn)</i>

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.

Cabinet

29 July 2025

Procurement of Recovery and Community Resilience Contracts For Decision

Cabinet Member:

Cllr S Robinson, Adult Social Care

Local Councillor(s): All

Executive Director:

J Price, Executive Director of People - Adults

Report author and job title:

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Statutory Authority:

Care Act 2014
Procurement Act 2023
The Health Care Services (Provider Selection
Regime) Regulations 2023

Report status: Public (the exemption paragraph is N/A)

Executive summary

Recovery and Community Resilience services are commissioned homecare services that provide tailored support to people as they leave hospital or as they recover from crisis. They are mostly provided to older people. They are a critical part of the out-of-hospital support arrangements in place currently. They are funded through the NHS contribution to the Better Care Fund joint programme.

The FutureCare programme is currently reviewing how these services operate. However, the contracts are due to expire with no further options for extension. It is critical, both for individuals and the overall functioning of the hospital discharge system, that the services are maintained whilst the longer term plans are finalised. This paper requests permission for a direct award of a further contract to existing providers, pending the outcome of longer-term transformation planning.

1. Recommendation(s)

1.1 Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Note current performance and the importance of the Recovery & Community Resilience contracts in the operation of the local urgent and emergency care system;
2. Approve the use of the direct award process C under The Health Care Services (Provider Selection Regime) Regulations 2023 (PSR23), to award five contracts to the existing providers in order to continue the existing Recovery and Community Resilience (RCR) service; and
3. To delegate to the Executive Director of Adults & Housing, in consultation with the Section 151 Officer and the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, to make all necessary arrangements to give effect to the direct award to the existing providers.

2. Reason for the recommendation(s)

- 2.1 Dorset Council is the Lead Commissioner, on behalf of the Dorset Integrated Care System, for the Recovery and Community Resilience (RCR) contracts, which are funded in the main from NHS Contributions via the Better Care Fund. This is a critical service to avoid bed blocking with knock-on effects for the ICB and the Council. There is an essential requirement to have established contract provision in place.
- 2.2 The service is a key offer within the existing Urgent and Emergency Care (UEC) Discharge Pathways. Its purpose is to support individuals home from hospital with enhanced home care that focuses on recovery and regaining of independence. The service also supports individuals to remain at home, avoiding admission to hospital.

3. Report and decisions required

Background and current operating context

- 3.1 The RCR scheme was previously procured as a call-off from DCF2 - Lot 1 (care and support at home). The current contract has been extended to 31 August 2025 via Regulation 72 of the Public Contract Regulations 2015, but now must be re-tendered to comply with regulations as a further extension would not be legally compliant. Due to limited timescales, there would not be enough time to run a competitive tender process. Therefore, without a direct award option, the contracts would expire on 31 August without an alternative to replace them.
- 3.2 The Future Care Programme will transform Dorset's UEC approach, which is anticipated to alter what is required across discharge pathways in future. It is not therefore possible or advisable to conduct a full tendering exercise

until this transformation work is further progressed and the exact commissioning requirement is clearer.

- 3.3 Additionally, the agreement of the allocations within the 2025/26 Better Care Fund were delayed into the earlier part of this current year. The plan now has full sign-off, with allocations agreed. However, that delay meant that there was not a confirmed budget against which to initiate an earlier full tendering process under the Dorset Care Framework.

Current service performance

- 3.4 The RCR service supports on average 120-160 people at any one time, with only approx. 26% requiring long term care and support. Therefore, removal of the contracts, without an alternative provision, will have a significant impact on performance across the system. Most importantly, it will increase risk of poorer outcomes and experience for individuals, who would reside in hospital for longer than needed, as well as for those in crisis in the community.
- 3.5 The scheme currently provides 2,465 hours per week of enhanced care and support, reduced from 3,570 hours a week from 1 June 2024. There will be a small further reduction from 1 September 2025 to reflect reduced resources available from the Better Care Fund.
- 3.6 The scheme has supported almost 4000 individuals since its inception in November 2022. Outcomes for RCR remain good, with only 26% of individuals going on to need a long-term commissioned care package.
- 3.7 Three providers currently operate under five separate contracts to ensure balanced geographical coverage. The current providers have worked in partnership with Dorset Council since November 2022, to develop their staff by accessing training the council has put on for them. Together, we have developed the trusted review model to make best use of our collective resources, which has improved flow through Dorset's acute hospitals. There are no current significant quality or performance concerns about current provision.

Direct award proposal

- 3.8 A direct award is required due to the limited time available to retender the contracts due to uncertainty with the Future Care Programme development and health funding. A period of time is still required to allow for the partnership consultancy work (Future Care Programme) to be completed. This consultancy work will inform the specification for the new service so that it is fit for purpose on retender. A direct award will also relieve pressure on the system during the critical winter period.

- 3.9 The option to direct award is provided for in the Health Care Services (Provider Selection Regime) Regulations 2023. For a service to fall under these regulations, it must sit under one of the relevant health care services 'CPV codes'. The project team agreed that the RCR service would fall under the following CPV Codes:
- 85141000-9 (Services provided by medical personnel);
 - 85141210-4 (Home medical treatment services); and
 - 85312500-4 (Rehabilitation services, but only insofar as such services are provided to individuals to tackle substance misuse or for the rehabilitation of the mental or physical health of individuals).
- 3.10 Given the annual funding decisions under the Better Care Fund, and the status of the urgent and emergency care (FutureCare) transformation programme, the proposal is to award an initial 7-month contract, with three separate subsequent annual extension options (7 months +1yr +1yr +1yr). Whilst this provides flexibility and efficiency in the future contract management, it is expected that early in this contract period, the information and budget decisions will be settled to allow for a full tendering process to be undertaken.
- 3.11 The total financial envelope for the awards is a maximum full-year equivalent value of £3,265,354, as set out in the Better Care Fund plan. This is a small reduction on the previous year to take account of changed NHS allocations. The five providers are currently arranged across 9 individual contracts, reflecting different geographic delivery of services. This would be replicated, but with some minor amendment to reflect the recent trends in placement and where there is excess underused capacity.

Efficiency and value for money considerations

- 3.12 The current contracts are let at set hourly rates, which would continue into the new contracting arrangement. These rates are slightly higher than the standard Dorset Care Framework homecare rates, to reflect an enhanced specialism in delivering recovery-focused home support. The direct award is not proposing to change the hourly rates significantly, with any adjustment expected to be in line with this year's offer to wider Dorset Care Framework providers (2.7%).
- 3.13 In any event, all cost will be contained within the current overall NHS budget envelope. This will be achieved by taking the opportunity to more efficiently distribute the contract hours across the county, reflective of current need profiles. The current average utilisation has been around 85%, with a number of areas being in the early 90s% most of the time. The average is brought down by some overprovision in the east of the county, which will be

addressed in the new through this new contract award, with general greater flexibility being part of any agreed extension process.

- 3.14 Additionally, the providers have worked with the Council to upskill staff and to deliver trusted reviews to support decision-making for individuals at the end of the short-term support intervention. This is helping to avoid a significant amount of additional review activity for our locality teams, and continuing to draw on this capacity is a significant efficiency in our current operation. It is also working well for individuals, who experience fewer 'hand-offs' in their care journey.

4. Alternative options considered

- 4.1 Initially, it was intended to run a further competition from Lots 1 and 4 of the Dorset Care, Support, Housing and Community Safety Framework. Had this option been pursued, sign off from Cabinet would not have been required, as the Framework itself received Cabinet Approval on 22 June 2021. However, due to short timescales it was quickly discounted as being too difficult to guarantee award of a new arrangement by 1 September 2025, particularly given the potential for both TUPE transfer and complex system implementation requirements.
- 4.2 Three options were therefore explored in regard to the re-procurement of this service:
- Option 1 – Extend the current contract via another Reg72;
 - Option 2 – Gap in provision;
 - Option 3 – Direct Award under PSR23.
- 4.3 As outlined, extension via Regulation 72 was confirmed as not viable.
- 4.4 The risk of having a gap in the provision will be a significant delay in being able to discharge individuals, with significant implications for individuals, and a backlog once the contract commences.
- 4.5 Therefore the recommendation to directly award contracts under PSR23 is recommended.

5. Legal considerations

- 5.1 Both legal and procurement advice has been actively sought throughout the planning leading up to this decision.
- 5.2 No further extension to these contracts is permissible under the existing arrangements due to the extent and value of variations to date. The Health Care Services (Provider Selection Regime) Regulations 2023 provide an option to direct award these services, given the role that they play in the delivery of health and care services.

5.3 The project team reviewed the PSR 'Decision Tree' alongside the regulations, and this led to the conclusion that Direct Award Process C under the regulations is appropriate for the reasons outlined above.

5.4 Direct Award Process C may be used where:

- a current contract is due to end and the incumbent provider is performing to contract standard;
- will likely satisfy the new contract of same services (not new requirements);
- the proposed contracting arrangements are not changing considerably; and
- not awarded a framework agreement.

6. Financial implications

6.1 Since its inception, the Scheme has been mainly funded by NHS Dorset Integrated Care Board (ICB), via Better Care Fund (BCF) monies. The FutureCare programme will enable Dorset ICS to review how future BCF investment is focussed into urgent and emergency care pathways, but there is much work to complete before the system is able to plan how any re-configuration would take place.

6.2 For the current financial year 2025/26 BCF funding has been confirmed from Dorset ICB. Current year funding from the ICB is £3,265,354. This decision therefore represents no financial risk to the Council.

6.3 Current levels of activity represent a cost avoidance to the ICB of £98,000 per day (given an assumed cost of £700/per day for each occupied acute bed). For the Council, the avoidance of home care costs by reducing unnecessary long term care is estimated around c£1m per annum.

7. Natural environment, climate & ecology implications

7.1 There are no immediate implications from this decision, as it continues existing provision into the near future. However, under the FutureCare transformation programme, there is opportunity to continue to look for greater efficiency in the delivery of these services across the county, aligned to the ways in which our wider homecare is 'zoned' so that care workers' routes are more efficiently planned.

8. Well-being and health implications

8.1 No adverse impacts arise from the decision.

8.2 Not taking this decision, however, would lead to significant health and wellbeing implications as people receive less proactive help during crisis, or

are delayed longer in hospital beds, with the associated impact on hospital through-flow.

9. Other implications

9.1 None.

10. Risk implications

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

Current Risk: HIGH. Without action to direct award, the contracts would cease and a significant number of mainly older people would suffer delays in hospital, reduced reablement outcomes and longer-term adverse health and wellbeing outcomes. There would be a significant financial impact on health service partners and the Council.

Residual Risk: LOW. This is the most efficient way of continuing existing provision, protecting current patient flows and providing flexible community support to people, whilst the work is undertaken to review future requirements. The procurement has been assessed as legally compliant.

11. Equalities

11.1 As this is a proposal to continue existing services, there are no immediate equalities implications, either negative or positive. If the services were to cease, there would be significant adverse impact on older people, people with disabilities and mental health conditions and carers. Affected staff would be disproportionately women.

11.2 As part of the FutureCare plans, more detailed equalities assessments will accompany any decisions for longer-term commissioning of these services.

12. Appendices

12.1 None

13. Background papers

13.1 [Integrated Care System – Urgent & Emergency Care Diagnostic](#) – Report to the Health & Wellbeing Board, 20 November 2024

14. Report sign-off

14.1 This report has been through the internal report clearance process and has been signed off by the Director for Legal and Democratic (Monitoring

Officer), the Executive Director for Corporate Development (Section 151 Officer) and the appropriate Portfolio Holder(s)

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