



Dorset Council

Date: Thursday, 14 May 2026
Time: 6.30 pm
Venue: Council Chamber, County Hall, Dorchester, DT1 1XJ

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

Chief Executive: Catherine Howe, County Hall, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1XJ

For more information about this agenda please contact Democratic & Governance Services
Meeting Contact susan.dallison@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

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

To elect the Chair of Council for the 2026/27 municipal year.

2. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

To elect the Vice-chair of Council for the 2026/27 municipal year.

3. APOLOGIES

To receive any apologies for absence.

4. MINUTES

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To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 16th April 2026.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

decision councillors are asked to state the agenda item, the nature of the interest and any action they propose to take as part of their declaration.

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

6. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

To receive a short presentation from the Youth Council.

To receive any announcements from the Chair of Council.

7. ELECTION OF LEADER OF COUNCIL

To elect the Leader of Council for the 2026/27 municipal year.

8. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY LEADER OF COUNCIL AND CABINET MEMBERS

The Leader of Council to report the appointment of the Deputy Leader and Cabinet members.

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

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

10. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - QUESTIONS

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

(a) Questions and statements from Town and Parish Councils;

(b) Questions and statements from those living or working in the Dorset Council area;

A person or organisation can submit either 1 question or 1 statement at 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 Full Council this will be circulated to all members of the council in advance of the meeting as a supplement to the agenda and appended to the minutes of the meeting for the formal record, but it will not be read out at the meeting. The first 8 questions and the first 8 statements received by Democratic Services will be accepted on a first come first served basis in accordance with the deadline below:

The full text of the question or statement must be received by 8.30am on Monday 11th May 2026. All submissions must be emailed to susan.dallison@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

When submitting your question or statement please note that:

- You can submit 1 question or 1 statement for each meeting;
- A question may include a pre-amble to set the context, each question, including the pre-amble can consist of up to **450 words** and you will be given up to **3 minutes** to read out your question;
- Sub-divided questions will not be accepted;
- When submitting a question please indicate who the question is for, i.e. the name of the Cabinet member;
- You will need to include your full name, address and contact details;
- All questions and statements will be published with the minutes of the meeting as a matter of public record.

Before submitting your question or statement please read the Council's Procedure Rules paragraphs 9.1 – 9.12 to ensure that your question/statement is compliant.

[Part 2 Rules of Procedure - Council and Committee Procedure Rules.pdf](#)

11. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS

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

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

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

[Council Procedure Rules](#)

12. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES, JOINT COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND ELECTION OF CHAIRS AND VICE-CHAIRS 23 - 42

To consider a report by S Dallison, Team Leader Democratic & Governance.

13. NEW WARDING PROPOSALS - SUBMISSION TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND 43 - 56

To consider a report by J Andrews, Service Manager Democratic and Electoral Services.

14. FLEXIBLE USE OF CAPITAL RECEIPTS STRATEGY 2026/27 TO 2029/30 57 - 62

To consider a report by S Hedger, Interim Deputy S151.

15. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

To receive questions submitted by councillors. The deadline for receipt of questions is 8.30am on Monday 11th May 2026.

16. URGENT ITEMS

To consider any items of business which the Chairman has had prior notification and considers to be urgent pursuant to section 100B (4) b) of the Local Government Act 1972. The reason for the urgency shall be recorded in the minutes.

17. EXEMPT BUSINESS

To move the exclusion of the press and the public for the following item in view of the likely disclosure of exempt information within the meaning of paragraph 3 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.



DORSET COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 16 APRIL 2026

Present: Cllrs Stella Jones (Chair), Les Fry (Vice-Chair), Jon Andrews, Jindy Atwal, Mike Baker, Shane Bartlett, Belinda Bawden, Laura Beddow, Derek Beer, Matt Bell, Richard Biggs, Louise Bown, Alex Brenton, Piers Brown, Ray Bryan, Andy Canning, Will Chakawhata, Simon Christopher, Simon Clifford, Toni Coombs, Barrie Cooper, Richard Crabb, Peter Dickenson, Neil Eysenck, Beryl Ezzard, Scott Florek, Spencer Flower, Alex Fuhrmann, Simon Gibson, Jill Haynes, Hannah Hobbs-Chell, Sally Holland, Ryan Holloway, Ryan Hope, Nick Ireland, Jack Jeanes, Sherry Jespersen, Carole Jones, Chris Kippax, Nocturin Lacey-Clarke, Robin Legg, Cathy Lugg, Craig Monks, David Morgan, Steve Murcer, David Northam, Louie O'Leary, Jon Orrell, Emma Parker, Mike Parkes (online), Andrew Parry, Val Potheary, Byron Quayle, Belinda Ridout, Julie Robinson, Steve Robinson, Pete Roper, David Shortell, Andy Skeats, Jane Somper, Duncan Sowry-House, Andrew Starr, Gary Suttle, Clare Sutton, Roland Tarr, David Taylor, Andy Todd, Chris Tomes, David Tooke, James Vitali, Kate Wheller, Sarah Williams, Ben Wilson and Carl Woode

Apologies: Cllrs Bridget Bolwell, Rob Hughes, Paul Kimber, Rory Major, Gill Taylor and Claudia Webb

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

Susan Dallison (Democratic & Governance Services Team Leader), Jonathan Mair (Director – Legal and Democratic), Julia Ingram (Corporate Director of Adult Social Care), Paul Dempsey (Executive Director of People – Children), Lisa Cotton (Corporate Director for Transformation, Customer, and Cultural Services), Sam Crowe (Director of Public Health and Prevention), Sean Cremer (Corporate Director of Finance and Commercial), Hayley Caves (Member Development and Support Officer), Jacqui Andrews (Service Manager for Democratic and Electoral Services), George Dare (Senior Democratic and Governance Officer), Antony Nash (Senior Democratic and Governance Officer), Chris Matthews (Head of People and Workforce), Graham Duggan (Head of Regulatory Services), and Grace Evans (Head of Legal Services).

Officers present remotely (for all or part of the meeting): Iain Sim (Interim Corporate Director of Housing)

TRIBUTES TO THE LATE COUNCILLOR DAVE BOLWELL

The Council observed a minute's silence in memory of Dave Bolwell and Barry Goringe. The Chair announced that tributes to Barry Goringe would take place at the next meeting of Council.

Members paid tribute to Dave Bolwell's service as a councillor and his contributions to Dorset Council, Bridport Town Council, and in Bradford-upon-Avon before he moved to

Dorset. Councillors remembered his kindness, good humour, and his commitment to the local community.

71. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bridget Bolwell, Rob Hughes, Gill Taylor, Claudia Webb, Rory Major and Paul Kimber.

72. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 February 2026 were confirmed and signed.

73. Declarations of Interest

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

74. Chair's Announcements

Member of Youth Parliament

The Chair invited the Member of Youth Parliament, Tom Clifton, to address the council. The Member of Youth Parliament reflected on his term in Youth Parliament and his work tackling sexual violence in schools.

Jonathan Price – Executive Director, People – Adults and Housing

The Chair announced that Jonathan Price would be leaving Dorset Council at the end of April. On behalf of the Council, the Chair thanked Jonathan for the work he had done for the council.

75. Public Participation - questions

There were two questions received from members of the public and responses were provided by the relevant Cabinet Members. The questions and responses are attached as an appendix to these minutes.

76. Public participation - petitions and deputations

There were no petitions or deputations.

77. Announcements and Reports from the Leader of Council and Cabinet Members

The Leader of the Council announced that Dorset Council was the national winner of the Clean Energy – Power Award at the 2026 APSE Energy Awards at the end of February.

The Leader also announced that Councillor R Hope would be stepping down from his Cabinet Member role at the Annual Meeting and that Councillor M Bell would join Cabinet. The Leader thanked Councillor Hope for the work he had done as a Cabinet Member.

A motion without notice was proposed by Councillor T Coombs that the order of business in the agenda be changed (Procedure Rule 16c), specifically that Item 13 – Questions from Councillors be moved to be the next item on the agenda. The motion was seconded by Councillor V Potheary.

Members spoke in favour and against the motion to change the order of the agenda.

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

78. Dorset Council Housing Allocation Policy 2026-2031

The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care proposed the recommendation as set out in the report. The proposal was seconded by the Leader of Council.

Members debated the report and the debate reflected a range of views. Several councillors raised concerns that the £60k income threshold was too high and that there were concerns about the local connection criteria. The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care responded to these concerns and explained that there had been improvements made to the policy.

The Director of Legal and Democratic advised that during the debate, he discussed with Councillor L Beddow about whether she had a disclosable pecuniary interest due to being employed by a registered social landlord. He gave the advice that this policy did not directly relate to her employment.

Decision:

That the Housing Allocations Policy 2026–2031 be approved, subject to an amendment to section 4.15 replacing the first bullet point with the following text:

- *applicants who own, or part own, or have any legal or beneficial interest in a residential property in the UK or abroad, whether occupied by them or let to others. This includes applicants who hold such an interest directly or indirectly, including through a company, partnership, trust, or other legal entity, where the applicant has control of, or a material interest in, that entity and it owns residential property, or*

Reason for the decision

To ensure Dorset Council has a clear, fair, and legally compliant policy governing the allocation of social housing, consistent with the Council's statutory duties under the Housing Act 1996 (as amended) and the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 considering the needs and priorities of Dorset residents.

79. Fees for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licences

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Commercial Strategy presented and proposed the recommendations as set out in the report. This was seconded by Councillor Derek Beer.

Decision:

That the new fees for the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licences be adopted.

Reason for the decision:

The fees have not been raised since 2022 when they were calculated on the cost of running the service.

80. **Shipton Gorge and Loders Community Governance Review**

The recommendations as set out in the report were presented and proposed by the Leader of Council. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Neil Eysenck.

Decision:

That the final recommendations in respect of the parish boundaries for the parishes of Shipton Gorge and Loders as shown in Appendices A, B and C, be agreed.

Reason for the decision:

To ensure that community governance arrangements within the area under review are reflective of the identities and interests of the community in that area, and comply with statutory guidance.

81. **Review of the Senior Leadership Team and Appointment to Roles**

The following officers, who were members of the Senior Leadership Team, left the meeting for the duration of the item: J Mair, J Ingram, P Dempsey, L Cotton, S Crowe and S Cremer.

The Leader of the Council presented and proposed the recommendations set out in the report. The proposal was seconded by Councillor A Parry.

Decision:

- a) That Sean Cremer be appointed to the post of Director - Resources (Section 151 Officer) and as the administrator for the Local Government Pension Scheme in Dorset.
- b) That the Council's Pay Policy Statement be amended to incorporate an additional pay enhancement for Directors in Statutory Officer positions.

Officers returned to the meeting following the decision being made.

82. **Member Code of Conduct Complaint**

Council received the report.

83. Questions from Councillors

There were nine questions received from councillors. The questions and responses provided by Cabinet Members are attached as an appendix to these minutes.

In response to a supplementary question by Councillor L Fry, the Cabinet Member for Place Services responded that attempts would be made to replace the trees where it is possible to do so.

In response to a supplementary question by Councillor C Lugg, the Cabinet Member for Place Services reiterated that school crossing patrols would not take place on zebra crossings as it causes confusion for drivers.

In response to a supplementary question by Councillor R Legg, the Cabinet Member for Planning and Emergency Planning advised that he would try to ensure the meeting of emergency planning would take place before the end of the consultation period.

In response to a supplementary question by Councillor C Monks, the Cabinet Member for Place Services agreed to meet with him and that the Environment Agency would be running sessions across Dorset, including in rural areas.

84. Urgent items

There were no urgent items.

85. Exempt Business

There was no exempt business.

Duration of meeting: 6.30 - 8.15 pm

Chair

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Full Council – 16 April 2026

Questions submitted by the Public

Question 1 – submitted by Geoffrey Chopping

In January 2018, before the East Dorset District Council Offices closed, I submitted a Definitive Map Modification Order Application for a public footpath across Woodleaze Copse and through the offices site to Furzehill Wood. Many witnesses supported the application, several of which are dogwalkers and still use the application route daily. Furzehill Wood is owned by the Woodland Trust and is open to the public.

Since then, I have become a Holt Parish Councillor and Biodiversity Net Gain has become a requirement. Consequently, I am keen to support: the current users of the Application footpath; the interests of the future residents of the new estate; and to protect the considerable wild life which uses the site as a wide wildlife corridor linking the green spaces, which almost totally surround the development site. Although there is some fencing it is mainly fairly porous fencing so that most Wildlife can find a way through, including large mammals.

Over a year ago, when I learnt that the DMMO Application was being claimed by Dorset Council as the reason the current preferred developer had not agreed to formally proceed, I explained that Dorset Council could legally declare the current walkable DMMO application route as a Public Footpath (precisely fulfilling the Application Route), or if they would create a walkable route and declare it along or near the boundaries of the 5 adjacent dwellings and declare it as a public footpath then I would be delighted to withdraw my DMMO Application.

Dorset Council have done neither, even though the Senior Ranger - Green space team East confirmed that the route along the fences was possible.

In the last year, the quantity of vandalization has increased enormously and the police have been repeatedly called.

So far Dorset Council have failed to implement any effective security measures and the vandalization continues unchecked. A manhole cover was missing for a month leaving a deep water filled chamber as a considerable safety hazard.

The Leader of Dorset Council was invited to issue a statement to the Holt Annual Parish meeting, held on 19 March 2026, with an update of the situation including: the DMMO footpath Application;

the position with the preferred developer, who is the Whitelock Group;

when effective security would be undertaken;

and whether Dorset Council has accepted yet that Furzehill is really not suitable for having an enormous quantity of further dwellings dumped in its midst, when there is a complete lack of sustainable public transport and limited local shopping facilities.

No statement was received then, nor has one be received since.

QUESTION: Will Dorset Council explain why it neither attempted to answer any of the questions, nor comment on any of the criticisms?

Response by Cllr S Bartlett

The request for a statement to the parish council meeting was not acted on because it did not come from the parish council itself.

The Definitive Map Modification Order application is still in the queue, and it will take time to work through. We have held several site meetings to look at alternative routes suggested by Cllr Chopping, but we have not been able to agree to these. The proposed alternatives would cause significant disruption to wildlife, vegetation, mature trees and nearby residents. There is also no evidence that these routes have been used as paths, and they would be narrow and difficult to access.

For those reasons, the council now intends to proceed with declaring the original DMMO application route before the land is sold. Discussions about the sale of the site are ongoing.

On site security, regular inspections are already taking place. Because of the high number of break-ins, security patrols have been increased to several visits every 24 hours. We have also approved the installation of five CCTV and alarm units to improve monitoring and deter further vandalism.

Decisions about future housing in the area are part of the Local Plan process. Possible sites are still being assessed alongside public consultation responses and supporting evidence. A draft plan is expected to be considered by Cabinet and Full Council later this year.

Question 2 – submitted by Jenny Murray

On the 16h April 2026 it will be exactly one year since the UK Supreme Court ruled unanimously in the For Women Scotland Ltd v The Scottish Ministers that the terms “sex” “man” and “woman” in the Equality Act 2010 refer to biological sex. (a link to the ruling is here <https://supremecourt.uk/cases/press-summary/uksc-2024-0042>).

The Government has confirmed that organisations should not wait for "EHRC guidance" as the FWS Supreme Court ruling was "crystal clear". The EHRC said the guidance "is just a navigation tool" and the law of the land was determined on 16 April 2025.

We are aware that Dorset Council has established a "A Task and Finish Working Group" for action across this area. Can Dorset Council confirm it is now compliant with the FWS Supreme Court Ruling across all its internal and external policies, internal/external training, data collection, equality impact assessments and is also ensuring that all 3rd party service providers/supply base are compliant.

Response by Cllr N Ireland

Thank you for your question.

Dorset Council recognises the Supreme Court's judgment in *For Women Scotland Ltd v The Scottish Ministers*, delivered on 16 April 2025, which clarified that, for the purposes of the Equality Act 2010, the terms "sex", "man" and "woman" refer to biological sex. We also recognise that gender reassignment remains a separate protected characteristic under the Act.

Following the judgment, the council established a task-and-finish approach to review relevant policies, practices and guidance. This work has included internal communications, reviews of documentation, and actions across our workplaces to ensure facilities and arrangements remain lawful and appropriate.

The council continues to keep its policies and practices under review to ensure compliance with the Equality Act 2010 as interpreted by the Supreme Court, alongside our ongoing duties under the Public Sector Equality Duty.

In relation to external providers, Dorset Council requires all suppliers and contractors to comply with equality legislation as a condition of working with the authority and to keep their practices up to date with relevant legal requirements.

This is an ongoing process, and the council will continue to review and update its arrangements as required.

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Full Council – 16 April 2026

Questions submitted by Councillors

Question 1 – submitted by Cllr L Fry

How did the Council get this so wrong??

Over the past couple of weeks roadworks have been taking place at the Queens Ave / Maud Road junction in Dorchester. The work undertaken is to bury the electric cables and gas pipes deeper into the ground, ahead of the road improvements due in the school summer holidays. Queens Ave is a historic tree lined road, with mature lime trees close to the roads edge and junctions.

The Councils Policy is that any ground works undertaken near the base of mature trees must be dug by hand to prevent any damage, especially root damage to the tree. This is what is insisted of all developers

This work caused all the roots to be damaged, severed from the tree trunk. This has resulted in the tree becoming unsafe and will need to be taken down. The loss of this mature tree was totally preventable, had the work been undertaken in accordance with the agreed procedure.

Questions

How taking into account the Councils Policy of ground works around mature trees, was the ground at the base of a mature lime tree not dug by hand to protect the roots?

What can be done to prevent this happening again?

Response by Cllr J Andrews

I have spoken to the Executive Director for Place and he says “We’re very sorry this work led to the loss of a mature lime tree. I have made clear to the Executive Director that should not have happened.

“The council is clear that work near established trees should be dug by hand to protect the roots. In this case, that did not happen as it should have. The right checks weren’t followed, and we got it wrong.

“The work was done during the Easter holidays to prepare for a new pedestrian crossing near The Thomas Hardy School. Electricity cables needed to be lowered, working with SSE. The planned route had to change to avoid a gas pipe, and during that work the tree’s roots were damaged.

“Expert advice has now confirmed the tree is unsafe and will need to be removed. It will be replaced.

To stop this happening again, a full review is already underway. We are reinforcing clear instructions with staff and contractors so agreed ways of working around trees are followed every time.

Dorset Council has made nature recovery a clear priority. Over the past two years, nearly 5,000 trees have been planted on Council owned land, as highlighted in our Biodiversity Report. In 2024, the Council declared a Nature Emergency and is now delivering on that commitment, including through the Dorset Local Nature Recovery Strategy, which sets out how we will protect and restore habitats while supporting communities and wellbeing across the county.

Question 2 – submitted by Cllr M Parkes & Cllr C Lugg

School crossing patrol

Whilst we are extremely pleased with the two new pedestrian crossings, we are very disappointed that the school crossing patrol will be withdrawn in Church Road, Ferndown at the end of the summer term.

The crossings remain extremely busy serving children from the first, middle and upper schools which is compounded by ongoing dangerous parking at the start and end of the school day.

Can the cabinet member explain the rationale for withdrawal of the crossing patrol and if it is a funding-based decision whether it would be possible to remain if funded by other sources such as the Town Council?

Response by Cllr J Andrews

We're pleased that the two new zebra crossings are being welcomed by the community. They're there to make it safer for children and pedestrians.

Where a zebra crossing is installed, a school crossing patrol does not operate at the same place. Drivers are already required by law to stop at a zebra crossing. Having a patrol there as well can confuse drivers and increase risk rather than reduce it.

For that reason, when a zebra crossing replaces a location previously covered by a patrol, the patrol is withdrawn from that point. This is not a funding decision.

The crossings in Ferndown provide a safe, permanent crossing at all times of day and throughout the year, not just at school times.

School crossing patrols are valued, and Dorset Council continues to fund them where they are still needed and meet our criteria. Communities can choose to fund a patrol at other locations, but not at a zebra crossing.

We also recognise concerns about parking at school drop-off and pick-up times. We continue to work with schools and families to encourage safer behaviour and reduce congestion around schools.

Question 3 – submitted by Cllr J Orrell

Does the Leader agree with me that the pension fund should make its investment decisions not just on money alone but also on moral, ethical and ecological grounds, investing positively in wind and solar and not choosing to invest in polluting fossil fuels and arms manufacturers that enable genocide in Gaza?

Response by Cllr N Ireland

Yes. I do agree that responsible investment requires consideration of ethical, environmental and social factors alongside financial ones, particularly where they present material long-term risks. Climate change and environmental degradation are recognised financial risks, and the Pension Fund already reflects this within its responsible investment approach.

Several LGPS funds in England have adopted formal exclusion or divestment policies, and legal advice provided to LGPS administering authorities confirms that ethical and sustainability considerations may be considered.

There are examples of Ethical, Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) and fossil free funds that have delivered returns broadly in line with conventional funds over medium and long-term periods and tend to show equal or lower downside risk together with lower volatility, largely due to reduced exposure to high-risk sectors.

In short, the evidence does not necessarily show that ethical or fossil free investment underperforms. In fact, over the long term it performs broadly the same, often with lower downside risk. The idea that councils must choose between values and returns is no longer supported by the data.

The Pension Fund Committee will formally review its Investment Strategy later this year and will seek scheme members' views on the role of nonfinancial considerations within the framework of its fiduciary duties.

As of May, elected members of this council can join Dorset Council's pension scheme and therefore will be eligible to engage with said review.

Question 4 submitted by Cllr R Legg

An Osborne resident has been in dispute with the highway authority about the cause of flooding to his home since before the formation of Dorset Council in 2019. The dispute has twice been considered by the Ombudsman and three successive Members of Parliament have made representations on his behalf. The flooding episodes have increased his household insurance premiums and blighted his ability to sell his house. If the authority is determined to maintain its original position as notified to Edward Morello MP in the last few weeks will, it now make all the files and correspondence relating to the dispute open for inspection, including electronic communications, internal memos, and communications with the Ombudsman and MPs?

Response by Cllr J Andrews

Cllr Legg is correct that the dispute he refers to goes back many years and predates the existence of this Council.

Both the Council and the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman believe this to be a legal disagreement. Having issued a final decision, the Ombudsman has decided not to respond to further correspondence from the resident.

Like anyone else the resident is entitled to make a freedom of information request and if they are dissatisfied with our response the resident can ask the Information Commissioners Office to carry out a review.

Question 5 submitted by Cllr R Legg

At a time when the Climate Emergency is increasing the occurrence of devastating heathland fires and flooding incidents in our county the proposed closure of four fire stations appears profoundly ill judged. Will the authority's Emergency Planning Team explore in what way community resilience to emergency situations can be supported by retaining the experience and enthusiasm of volunteer firefighters in those communities whose fire stations are threatened by closure?

Response by Cllr S Bartlett

The Dorset Local Resilience Forum has a Community Resilience Group, supported by multi agency partners. The Council's Emergency Management and Resilience Team will feed Councillor Legg's suggestion into that forum, alongside the wider work that is underway to enhance community resilience. Due to sensitivity around the present situation of the Fire Authority I am happy to meet Cllr Legg outside of this meeting with officers to discuss his concerns further should he wish to do so.

Question 6 submitted by Cllr C Monks

Will Dorset Council allocate dedicated funding to support Prout Bridge, recognising that it delivers many of the same preventative and family-support functions as Council Family Hubs, despite currently receiving no direct financial support?

Response by Cllr Sutton

Thank you for your question regarding whether Dorset Council will allocate dedicated funding to support the Prout Bridge Project.

Dorset Council recognises and highly values the significant preventative, wellbeing and family-support role played by voluntary and community sector organisations across the county, including the Prout Bridge Project. The work delivered by Prout Bridge reflects many of the principles we seek to promote across the wider system, including trusted relationships, accessibility, community-based provision and early intervention to support positive outcomes for children and young people.

However, it is important to be clear that funding provided to Dorset Council through the Best Start in Life and Family Hub programme is governed by national policy, strategy and service specifications, rather than local discretion. This funding is issued with clear conditions and is committed to delivering a nationally defined Family Hub model, including universal and targeted services focused on pregnancy, infancy and early childhood. A central objective of the programme is to improve early outcomes such children reaching a Good Level of Development (GLD) at the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage, reflecting the critical importance of the earliest years in shaping long-term life chances.

While the Prout Bridge Project's work is highly valued, its core delivery is focused primarily on youth work and mental health support for older children and young people, including targeted youth clubs, mentoring and wellbeing interventions for those aged approximately 8 to 25. This important provision sits largely within the adolescent and youth support space, rather than the early-years remit that Best Start Family Hub funding is designed to address. As a result, Best Start Family Hub funding cannot be allocated on a discretionary basis to individual organisations delivering aligned but non-commissioned activity outside of the approved Family Hub network and national programme requirements.

That said, Dorset Council remains committed to supporting strong community-led prevention and early help through other appropriate local mechanisms. Local Alliance Groups (LAGs) provide a transparent, place-based route for voluntary and community organisations to apply for council funding on a project basis. LAG funding is specifically intended to support early help, prevention and community responses

that align with local need and complement the wider Best Start, Family Hub and Early Help system. The Prout Bridge Project is therefore eligible to apply for LAG funding for specific projects through this route.

Further information on Local Alliance Group funding and the application process is publicly available, and organisations are actively encouraged to bring forward proposals through this mechanism. Details can be found here: [Local Alliance Group funding for projects - Dorset Council](#)

Furthermore, Prout Bridge is also able to apply to the Dorset Youth Fund, which I am aware that you have successfully applied to previously. The £200k Youth Grant for 2026-27 opens for applications on 30th April, with a focus on supporting a range of positive activities for young people, including support for those whose needs might otherwise escalate. More information can be found on this [link](#)

Question 7 submitted by Cllr C Monks

Following the Council's recent announcement of additional funding for flood prevention, what future flood defence works are proposed for Beaminster ward, and what is the anticipated timeframe for their delivery?

Response by Cllr J Andrews

Dorset, including Beaminster, is already benefiting from the council's extra investment in flood prevention, including the addition of another gully-emptying vehicle to help reduce surface water flooding.

Alongside this, further work with local communities is already underway to better understand where flooding happens and why. This work will continue over the summer.

Once that work is complete, we will be able to confirm what further flood defence measures are needed in Beaminster and set out a clear programme and timescales for delivery.

The aim is to make sure any future works are properly targeted and will make a real difference.

Question 8 submitted by Cllr Louie O'Leary

Reporting of broken glass

Smashed glass has been a growing problem in parts of my ward, with everything from broken bottles to smashed lights being the cause. While not as obviously serious as syringes and needles, it is far more serious than general litter. I have tried reporting smashed glass via normal litter reporting but often have had to deal with it

myself due to the length of time it takes for a response. Will the council create a new self-report portal that makes this a greater priority for the sake of both residents and animals?

Response by Cllr J Andrews

Thank you for raising this. I wasn't aware that broken glass was a recurring issue in parts of your ward, so it's helpful to have it flagged.

At the moment, broken glass is reported under general litter. Creating a brand-new reporting category would take time and would not be a quick fix.

That said, I've asked officers who assess street cleansing reports to actively look out for any reports involving broken glass and to prioritise them where there is a clear risk to people or animals.

We will monitor how this approach works and whether response times improve, and we'll keep under review whether changes to the reporting system are needed in the longer term.

Question 9 submitted by Cllr Louie O'Leary

Weymouth Entrance improvements

The council has made the regeneration of Weymouth and Portland a major issue for this administration. We have heard on several occasions big new ideas and plans for Weymouth, including leisure, energy, and high-tech ambitions. However, while these are no doubt exciting possibilities, there are less ambitious but important things that would make a major impact. The main route into Weymouth runs into my ward, the Weymouth relief road. This road is in major need of beautification and improvement. Graffiti, ugly boarding, dirty signs often obscured by overgrown scrub, and a lack of imagination plague the gateway to Weymouth. Will the council commit to a tidy-up and overall improvement to the main entrance to Weymouth.

Response by Cllr Jon Andrews

I agree that the Weymouth Relief Road is the main gateway into the town, and at the moment it does not look as good as it should.

While longer-term regeneration projects matter, everyday things like how clean, tidy and welcoming a place feels also make a real difference.

Parts of the relief road have clearly deteriorated over time. Responsibility is split across different council teams and, in some places, landowners, but that won't stop us taking action.

Our Community Highway officers are preparing for this work to begin. That will include clearing overgrown areas, removing graffiti, and reviewing signs, barriers and fencing, so poor or unnecessary features can be improved or removed.

This work will be taken forward using existing budgets where possible and linked to wider transport and regeneration work. Local ward councillors will be involved as plans develop.

We accept that relatively small, practical improvements here are achievable and would make an immediate difference - and that work should begin.

Full Council

14 May 2026

Appointments to Committees, Joint Committees, Boards and Election of Chairs and Vice-chairs For Decision

Cabinet Member:

Cllr N Ireland, Leader of the Council, Climate, Performance and Safeguarding

Local Councillor(s): All

Senior Leadership Team: J Mair, Director of Assurance and Governance

Report author and job title: Susan Dallison, Team Leader Democratic & Governance

Email: susan.dallison@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Statutory Authority: Local Government and Housing Act 1989

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

1. Executive summary

- 1.1 Full Council is asked to review and approve the allocation of committee seats in line with the rules of political balance (see paragraph 5.3), the wishes of each political group and in accordance with the Council's terms of reference relating to membership of committees.
- 1.2 As well as appointing members to committee seats for the 2026/27 municipal year, Full Council is also asked to appoint members to serve on several joint committees and boards in accordance with the nominations provided by the political group leaders. Full Council will also elect the Chairs and Vice-chairs for the ordinary committees for the forthcoming municipal year.
- 1.3 There is also a recommendation to delegate authority to Jonathan Mair, Director of Assurance and Governance, so that in year changes can be made to committee appointments, in consultation with the relevant political group leader, if the need arises.

2. **Recommendation(s)**

- 2.1 That, subject to 2.2 below, the allocation of committee seats and the appointments to committees and joint boards and panels, as nominated by the political group leaders be approved for 2026/27 as set out in Appendices 1, 2 & 3 respectively.
- 2.2 That, as an exception to the requirements of the Constitution the make-up of the Strategic Planning and Technical Committee comprise of 5 members from the Western & Southern Planning Committee, 4 members from the Eastern Area Planning Committee and 3 members of the Northern Area Planning Committee.
- 2.3 That delegated authority be given to the Director of Assurance and Governance, in consultation with the appropriate political group leader, to make in-year changes to committee, joint board and panel appointments.
- 2.4 That Full Council appoints committee Chairs and Vice-chairs for the 2026/27 municipal year (nominations set out in Appendix 4).

3. **Reason for the recommendation(s)**

- 3.1 To comply with the Local Government Act 1989 and the Dorset Council Constitution committee terms of reference.

4. **Political Groups and Percentage Entitlement**

- 4.1 Where membership of Dorset Council is divided into political groups the council is required to allocate the total number of seats on ordinary committees in accordance with the overall strength of each political group.
- 4.2 Members will be aware that there are currently two vacancies on Dorset Council, Bridport Ward and St Leonards and St Ives. The by-election for the Bridport Ward will be held on 21st May and for St Leonards and St Ives it is anticipated that there will be a by-election in late June/early July. The political balance and allocation of committee seats will therefore be based on the status quo, and a review of political proportionality will take place as soon as the results of the by-elections are known. If the percentage entitlement of any political group changes as a result of the by-elections, then a further report will be submitted to the Full Council on 16th July to make any necessary adjustments to the political balance on committees.
- 4.3 The number of members of each political group and the overall percentage entitlement to committee seats is currently as follows:

Liberal Democrat Group – 41 members (51.25% entitlement)

Conservative Group – 29 members (36.25% entitlement)

Green Group – 4 members (5% entitlement)

Independents for Dorset Group – 4 members (5% entitlement)

Labour Group – 2 members (2.5% entitlement)

5. Allocation of committee seats and appointments to committees

- 5.1 The number of seats on ordinary committees (listed in Appendix 1) are allocated to each political group in the same proportion as the overall size of each political group, as far as is practicable. This excludes appointments to the Cabinet which are decided by the Leader of Council, and any other panel or board where the political balance rules do not apply such as the Health and Well Being Board and the shareholder committees.
- 5.2 Where a political group has the majority of seats on the council is must also, where practicable, have a majority of seats on each individual body to which appointments are made.
- 5.3 The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 sets out the 4 principles to be followed, as far as reasonably practicable, when working out political proportionality.
 - (a) Preventing domination by a single group: That not all the seats on a committee should be allocated to the same political group:
 - (b) Ensuring a majority group enjoys a majority on all committees: If one political group has a majority in the Full Council, that political group should have a majority on each committee:
 - (c) Aggregating all committee places and allocating fair shares: Subject to (a) and (b) above, the number of seats on the ordinary committees of an authority which are allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the total number of all the seats on the ordinary committees of that authority as is borne by the number of members of that group to the membership of the authority; and
 - (d) Ensuring as far as practicable fairness on each committee: Subject to (a) and (c) above, the number of the committee seats which are allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the number of all the seats on that committee as is borne by the number of members of the group to the membership of the authority.
- 5.4 Full Council may waive the requirement to apply political balance rules for any committee(s) where the Full Council wishes to appoint an alternative number of members from political groups. For political balance to be waived no member must vote against the motion, an objection by a single member would make it necessary to apply strict political proportionality. This report assumes

that the Council does not want an alternative arrangement to that prescribed in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

- 5.5 The terms of reference of the Strategic and Technical Planning Committee state that the committee will comprise of 4 members from each of the area planning committees. However, the nominations proposed by the Political Group Leaders means that there are 5 members from Western & Southern, 4 members from Eastern Area and 3 members from Northern area sitting on the Strategic and Technical Planning Committee, which does not comply with the Constitution. To rectify this situation the Council is asked to approve the nominations for this committee from the Group Leaders as an exception to the requirements of the Constitution.

6. Joint Arrangements

- 6.1 As well as making appointments to the council's ordinary committees, Full Council is also asked to approve nominations to the joint committees, panels and boards as set out in Appendix 3.

7. Appointment of Committee Chairs and Vice-chairs

- 7.1 In accordance with the Constitution, the election of committee Chairs and Vice-chairs will take place at the Annual Meeting of Full Council, unless Full Council has agreed alternative arrangements. No councillor shall be the Chair of more than one committee and Vice-chair of more than one other committee except with the consent of Full Council.
- 7.2 In accordance with the Constitution the Leader of Council will be the Chair of the Cabinet and the Deputy Leader will be the Vice-chair of Cabinet.

8. Alternative options considered

- 8.1 Nominations to committee seats can only be made by political group leaders, not by Full Council. If members wished to disapply the rules of political proportionality this would require a vote at Full Council with no member voting against.

9. Legal considerations

- 9.1 Compliance with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

10. Financial implications

- 10.1 Members elected to roles of special responsibility will receive an allowance in addition to the basic allowance as set out in the Council's Scheme of Members Allowances.

11. **Natural environment, climate & ecology implications**

11.1 There are no implications.

12. **Well-being and health implications**

12.1 There are no implications.

13. **Other implications**

13.1 There are no other implications.

14. **Risk implications**

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

Current Risk: LOW

Residual Risk: LOW

15. **Equalities**

15.1 There are no equalities implications.

16. **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Allocation of committee seats (political proportionality)

Appendix 2 – Nominations to ordinary committee seats 2026/27

Appendix 3 – Nominations to joint committees, panels and boards 2026/27.

Appendix 4 – Nominations for committee Chairs and Vice-chairs

17. **Background papers**

17.1 None.

18. **Report sign-off**

18.1 This report has been through the internal report clearance process and has been signed off by the Director for Assurance and Governance and the Director for Resources and the appropriate Portfolio Holder(s)

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	Liberal Democrat Group 41 Members 51.25% of seats	Conservative Group 29 Members 36.25% of seats	Green Group 4 Members 5% of seats	Independents for Dorset Group 4 Members 5% of seats	Labour 2 Members 2.5%
Committee	No. of seats	No. of seats	No. of seats	No. of seats	No. of seats
People & Health Overview (10)	6	4	0	0	0
People & Health Scrutiny (10)	6	4	0	0	0
Place & Resources Overview (10)	6	4	0	0	0
Place & Resources Scrutiny (10)	6	4	0	0	0
Audit & Governance (10)	6	4	0	0	0
Appeals (15)	6	5	1	1	2
General Licensing / Gambling Act (15)	6	6	1	1	1
Pension Fund (5)	3	2	0	0	0
Strategic & Tech Planning (12)	6	4	1	1	0
Northern Area Planning (12)	6	4	1	1	0
Eastern Area Planning (12)	6	4	1	1	0
Western & Southern Planning (12)	6	4	1	1	0
Total seats	69	49	6	6	3

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ALLOCATION OF ORDINARY COMMITTEE SEATS POLITICAL GROUP NOMINATIONS - 2026/27

PEOPLE & HEALTH OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

Committee size: 10

Allocation of seats: Lib Dem 6, Cons 4

No member of this committee shall also be appointed to Cabinet.

No member of this committee shall also be appointed to the People & Health Scrutiny Committee.

Political Group	Nomination
Liberal Democrat	Cllr Will Chakawhata
Liberal Democrat	Cllr Beryl Ezzard
Liberal Democrat	Cllr Jindy Atwal
Liberal Democrat	Cllr Louise Bown
Liberal Democrat	Cllr Stella Jones
Liberal Democrat	Cllr Ryan Holloway
Conservative	Cllr Emma Parker
Conservative	Cllr Byron Quayle
Conservative	Cllr Andrew Parry
Conservative – seat given to the Green Group	Cllr Jon Orrell

PEOPLE & HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Committee size: 10

Allocation of seats: Lib Dem 6, Cons 4

No member of this committee shall also be appointed to Cabinet.

Political Group	Nomination
Liberal Democrat	Cllr Bridget Bolwell
Liberal Democrat	Cllr Chris Kippax
Liberal Democrat	Cllr Carl Woode
Liberal Democrat	Cllr Sally Holland
Liberal Democrat	Cllr Robin Legg
Liberal Democrat	Cllr Andy Todd
Conservative	Cllr Toni Coombs
Conservative	Cllr Carole Jones
Conservative	Cllr Andy Skeats
Conservative	Cllr Jane Somper

PLACE & RESOURCES OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

Committee size: 10

Allocation of seats: Lib Dem 6, Cons 4

No member of this committee shall also be appointed to Cabinet.

No member of this committee shall also be appointed to the Place & Resources Scrutiny Committee.

Political Group	Nomination
Liberal Democrat	Cllr Ryan Hope
Liberal Democrat	Cllr David Taylor
Liberal Democrat	Cllr Andrew Starr
Liberal Democrat	Cllr Richard Crabb
Liberal Democrat	Cllr David Northam
Liberal Democrat	Cllr Roland Tarr
Conservative	Cllr Simon Gibson
Conservative	Cllr Piers Brown
Conservative	Cllr Val Potheary
Conservative	Cllr Sherry Jespersen

PLACE & RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Committee size: 10

Allocation of seats: Lib Dem 6, Cons 4

No member of this committee shall also be appointed to Cabinet.

Political Group	Nomination
Liberal Democrat	Cllr David Tooke
Liberal Democrat	Cllr Carl Woode
Liberal Democrat	Cllr Alex Fuhrmann
Liberal Democrat	Cllr Alex Brenton
Liberal Democrat	Cllr Jack Jeanes
Liberal Democrat	Cllr Barrie Cooper
Conservative	Cllr Noc Lacey-Clarke
Conservative	Cllr David Shortell
Conservative	Cllr Louie O'Leary
Conservative	Cllr Craig Monks

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Committee size: 10

Allocation of seats: Lib Dem 6, Cons 4

No member of this committee shall also be appointed to Cabinet.

Political Group	Nomination
Liberal Democrat	Cllr Andy Todd
Liberal Democrat	Cllr Neil Eysenck
Liberal Democrat	Cllr Ryan Holloway
Liberal Democrat	Cllr Ryan Hope
Liberal Democrat	Cllr Beryl Ezzard
Liberal Democrat (seat given to Green Group)	Cllr Belinda Bawden
Conservative	Cllr Steve Murcer
Conservative	Cllr Spencer Flower
Conservative	Cllr Ray Bryan
Conservative	Cllr Jill Haynes
Co-opted Members appointed 12.10.23 – 12.10.27	
Mr S Roach	
Mr R Ong	

APPEALS COMMITTEE

Committee size: 15

Allocation of seats: Lib Dem 6; Cons 5, Green 1, IFD 1, Lab 2

Political Group	Nomination
Liberal Democrat	Cllr Alex Fuhrmann
Liberal Democrat	Cllr Richard Crabb
Liberal Democrat	Cllr David Morgan
Liberal Democrat	Cllr Louise Bown
Liberal Democrat	Cllr Bridget Bolwell
Liberal Democrat	Cllr Andrew Starr
Conservative	Cllr Mike Parkes
Conservative	Cllr Carole Jones
Conservative	Cllr Laura Beddow
Conservative	Cllr David Shortell
Conservative	Cllr Andrew Parry
Green	Cllr Jon Orrell
Independents For Dorset	Cllr Pete Roper
Labour	Cllr Paul Kimber
Labour (seat given to Cons)	Cllr Emma Parker

Committee size: 15

Allocation of seats: Lib Dem 6; Cons 6, Green 1, IDF 1, Labour 1

Political Group	Nomination
Liberal Democrat	Cllr Derek Beer
Liberal Democrat	Cllr Andrew Starr
Liberal Democrat	Cllr David Morgan
Liberal Democrat	Cllr Louise Bown
Liberal Democrat	Cllr Jack Jeanes
Liberal Democrat	Cllr Sarah Williams
Conservative	Cllr Emma Parker
Conservative	Cllr Chris Tones
Conservative	Cllr Craig Monks
Conservative	Cllr Jane Somper
Conservative	Cllr Jill Haynes
Conservative	Cllr Cathy Lugg
Green	Cllr Claudia Webb
Independents For Dorset	Cllr Les Fry
Labour	Cllr Kate Wheller

STRATEGIC AND TECHNICAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

Committee size: 12

Allocation of seats: Lib Dem 6; Cons 4, Green 1, IFD 1

This committee will be made up of 4 members from each of the 3 Planning Area Committees (unless political balance requirements necessitate otherwise)

Political Group	Nomination
Liberal Democrat	Cllr David Tooke
Liberal Democrat	Cllr Duncan Sowry-House
Liberal Democrat	Cllr David Taylor
Liberal Democrat	Cllr Carl Woode
Liberal Democrat	Cllr David Northam
Liberal Democrat	Cllr Richard Crabb
Conservative	Cllr Gary Suttle
Conservative	Cllr Toni Coombs
Conservative	Cllr Craig Monks
Conservative	Cllr Belinda Ridout
Green	Cllr Belinda Bawden
Independents For Dorset	Cllr Pete Roper

NORTHERN AREA PLANNING COMMITTEE

Committee size: 12

Allocation of seats: Lib Dem 6; Cons 4, Green 1, IFD 1

Political Group	Nomination
Liberal Democrat	Vacancy
Liberal Democrat	Cllr Richard Crabb
Liberal Democrat	Cllr Carl Woode
Liberal Democrat	Cllr Barrie Cooper
Liberal Democrat	Cllr Rory Major
Liberal Democrat	Cllr Alex Brenton
Conservative	Cllr Sherry Jespersen
Conservative	Cllr Belinda Ridout
Conservative	Cllr Steve Murcer
Conservative	Cllr Carole Jones
Green – seat given to Conservative Group	Cllr Val Potheary
Independents for Dorset	Cllr Les Fry

EASTERN AREA PLANNING COMMITTEE

Committee size: 12

Allocation of seats: Lib Dem 6; Cons 4, Green 1, IFD 1

Political Group	Nomination
Liberal Democrat	Cllr David Morgan
Liberal Democrat	Cllr Duncan Sowry-House
Liberal Democrat	Cllr Scott Florek
Liberal Democrat	Cllr David Tooke
Liberal Democrat	Cllr Alex Brenton
Liberal Democrat	Cllr Beryl Ezzard
Conservative	Cllr Gary Suttle
Conservative	Cllr Toni Coombs
Conservative	Cllr Ray Bryan
Conservative	Cllr Andy Skeats
Green – seat given to Conservative Group	Cllr Julie Robinson
Independents for Dorset	Cllr Hannah Hobbs-Chell

WESTERN & SOUTHERN AREA PLANNING COMMITTEE

Committee size: 12

Allocation of seats: Lib Dem 6; Cons 4, Green 1, IFD 1

Political Group	Nomination
Liberal Democrat	Cllr David Taylor
Liberal Democrat	Cllr Neil Eysenck
Liberal Democrat	Cllr David Northam
Liberal Democrat	Cllr Ryan Holloway
Liberal Democrat (seat given to Labour Group)	Cllr Kate Wheller
Liberal Democrat (seat given to Labour Group)	Cllr Paul Kimber
Conservative	Cllr Louie O'Leary
Conservative	Cllr Craig Monks
Conservative	Cllr Simon Christopher
Conservative	Cllr Peter Dickenson
Green	Cllr Belinda Bawden
Independents for Dorset	Cllr Pete Roper

PENSION FUND COMMITTEE

Committee size: 5

Allocation of seats: Lib Dem 3, Cons 2

Not more than 2 members being also appointed to the Cabinet.

Political Group	Nomination
Liberal Democrat	Cllr Andy Canning
Liberal Democrat	Cllr Will Chakawhata
Liberal Democrat	Cllr Andy Todd
Conservative	Cllr Simon Christopher
Conservative	Cllr Val Potheary

Appointments to Joint Committees/Panels & Boards - Appendix 3 - Final

Corporate Parenting Board (7 members plus the Portfolio Holder)	
Liberal Democrat	Cllr Duncan Sowry-House
Liberal Democrat	Cllr Bridget Bolwell
Liberal Democrat	Cllr Stella Jones
Liberal Democrat	Cllr Jindy Atwal
Conservative	Cllr Cathy Lugg
Conservative	Cllr Carole Jones
Conservative	Cllr Julie Robinson
Portfolio Holder for Children's Services	Cllr Clare Sutton

Dorchester Markets Joint Panel (3 members) **New Terms of Reference Three (3) elected members of whom two (2) should preferably represent wards wholly or predominantly within the Dorchester Town Council area – provided that such appointments do not result in the appointee being a member of Dorchester Town Council. If it is not possible to appoint two members from wards within the Dorchester Town Council area, Dorset Council may instead appoint members from wards wholly or predominantly within a six and two third miles radius of the Fairfield Market. (Crossways, Charminster St Marys, Littlemoor & Preston, Radipole, Upwey & Broadway, Winterbourne & Broadmayne)	
Liberal Democrat	Cllr Roland Tarr
Liberal Democrat	Cllr Nick Ireland
Conservative	Cllr Peter Dickenson

Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority (4 members)	
Liberal Democrat	Cllr Richard Biggs
Liberal Democrat	Cllr Duncan Sowry-House
Conservative	Cllr Laura Beddow
Conservative	Cllr Mike Parkes

Appointments to Joint Committees/Panels & Boards - Appendix 3 - Final

Dorset National Landscape Partnership Board (was AONB Partnership Board) (2 members plus Portfolio Holder)	
Liberal Democrat	Cllr Ben Wilson
Conservative	Cllr Jane Somper
Portfolio Holder for Environment	Cllr Nick Ireland

Dorset Coast Forum (2 members)	
Liberal Democrat	Cllr Matt Bell
Conservative	Cllr Peter Dickenson

Dorset Local Access Forum (1 member)	
Liberal Democrat	Cllr Alex Brenton

Dorset Police and Crime Panel (5 members)	
Liberal Democrat	Cllr Louise Bown
Liberal Democrat	Cllr Carl Woode
Liberal Democrat	Cllr Sarah Williams
Conservative	Cllr Simon Gibson
Conservative	Cllr Louie O'Leary

Harbours Advisory Committee (6 members)	
Liberal Democrat	Cllr Sarah Williams
Liberal Democrat	Cllr Sally Holland
Liberal Democrat	Cllr David Northam
Conservative	Cllr Gary Suttle
Conservative	Cllr Peter Dickenson
Independents For Dorset	Cllr Rob Hughes
Co-opted Members Mr M Saxby appointed up to 12/10/2026 Mr L Hardy appointed up to 10/04/2028 Mr M Roberts appointed up to 10/04/2028	

Appointments to Joint Committees/Panels & Boards - Appendix 3 - Final

Joint Archives Board (3 members including the relevant Portfolio Holder)	
Liberal Democrat	Cllr Scott Florek
Conservative	Cllr Laura Beddow
Portfolio Holder for Customer, Culture and Community Engagement	Cllr Matt Bell or Cllr Richard Biggs

Pension Board (1 member)	
Liberal Democrat	Cllr David Taylor

Schools Forum (2 members) 1 member to be appointed from the cabinet	
Liberal Democrat nomination	Cllr Clare Sutton
Conservative	Cllr Carole Jones

Shared Lives (Adult Placement Approval Panel) (2 members)	
Liberal Democrat	Cllr Beryl Ezzard
Conservative	Cllr Jill Haynes

Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (3 members)	
Liberal Democrat	Cllr Jindy Atwal
Liberal Democrat	Cllr Robin Legg
Conservative	Cllr Carole Jones

For Information - appointments made by the Leader of Council

Health & Well Being Board (3) plus 2 substitutes –	
Leader of Council (or the Leader's nominee)	Cllr Gill Taylor
Member	Cllr Clare Sutton
Member	Cllr Steve Robinson
Substitute	Cllr Sally Holland
Substitute	Cllr Chris Kippax

Appointments to Joint Committees/Panels & Boards - Appendix 3 - Final

Shareholder Committee for Care Dorset Holdings Ltd.	
Cabinet member - Chair	Cllr Nick Ireland
Cabinet member – Vice-chair	Cllr Richard Biggs
Cabinet member	Cllr Steve Robinson
Cabinet member	Cllr Ben Wilson
Cabinet member	Cllr Gill Taylor

Shareholder Committee for the Dorset Centre of Excellence	
Cabinet member - Chair	Cllr Nick Ireland
Cabinet member – Vice-chair	Cllr Richard Biggs
Cabinet member	Cllr Gill Taylor
Cabinet member	Cllr Clare Sutton
Cabinet member	Cllr Simon Clifford

Shareholder Committee for Dorset Innovation Park	
Cabinet member	Cllr Nick Ireland
Cabinet member	Cllr Richard Biggs
Cabinet member	Cllr Shane Bartlett
Cabinet member	Cllr Simon Clifford
Cabinet member	Cllr Ben Wilson

SEND Partnership Board	
Portfolio Holder for Children's Services	Cllr Clare Sutton
Cabinet Lead	Cllr Nick Ireland

ANNUAL MEETING OF COUNCIL – MAY 2026

NOMINATIONS FOR COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND VICE-CHAIRS

1. People & Health Overview Committee

Nominations:

Chair – Cllr Louise Bown

Vice- chair- Cllr Jindy Atwal

2. People & Health Scrutiny Committee

Nominations:

Chair – Cllr Toni Coombs

Vice- chair- Cllr Jane Somper

3. Place & Resources Overview Committee

Nominations:

Chair – Cllr Ryan Hope

Vice- chair- Cllr Andrew Starr

4. Place & Resources Scrutiny Committee

Nominations:

Chair – Cllr Noc Lacey-Clarke

Vice- chair- Cllr Craig Monks

5. Audit & Governance Committee

Nominations:

Chair – Cllr Spencer Flower

Vice- chair- Cllr Steve Murcer

6. Appeals Committee

Nominations:

Chair – Cllr Alex Fuhrmann

Vice- chair- Cllr Jon Orrell

7. Harbours Advisory Committee

Nominations:

Chair – Cllr Rob Hughes

Vice- chair- Cllr Sarah Williams

8. Licensing Committee & Gambling Act Committee/General Licensing Committee

Nominations:

Chair – Cllr Derek Beer

Vice- chair- Cllr Jack Jeanes

9. Strategic & Technical Planning Committee

Nominations:

Chair – Cllr Duncan Sowry-House

Vice- chair- Cllr David Northam

10. Northern Area Planning Committee

Nominations:

Chair – Cllr Richard Crabb

Vice- chair- Cllr Carl Woode

11. Eastern Area Planning Committee

Nominations:

Chair – Cllr David Tooke

Vice- chair- Cllr Duncan Sowry-House

12. Western & Southern Area Planning Committee

Nominations:

Chair – Cllr Neil Eysenck

Vice- chair- Cllr Ryan Holloway

13. Pension Fund Committee

Nominations:

Chair – Cllr Andy Canning

Vice- chair- Cllr Andy Todd

Full Council 14 May 2026 New Warding Proposals – Submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England For Decision

Cabinet Member:

Cllr N Ireland, Leader of the Council, Climate, Performance and Safeguarding

Local Councillor(s): All

Senior Leadership Team:

J Mair, Director of Legal & Democratic

Report author and job title:

Jacqui Andrews, Service Manager Democratic and Electoral Services

Email: jacqui.andrews@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Statutory Authority:

Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009

Report status: Public

1. Executive summary

- 1.1 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is an independent body set up by Parliament that undertakes electoral reviews of local authorities with the aim of delivering electoral equality for voters, establishing electoral areas for local authorities that reflect, as far as possible, community identities in that area and promoting effective and convenient government.
- 1.2 An electoral review examines and proposes new electoral arrangements for a local authority including the total number of councillors to be elected to the council, the names, number and boundaries of wards and the number of councillors to be elected for each ward.
- 1.3 Following the submission on council size agreed by Full Council on 10 February 2026, LGBCE have advised that they are minded to agree a council size of 82 councillors, and the next stage of the electoral review is for the Commission to publish a draft warding proposal for public consultation. This report seeks a recommendation in respect of a warding proposal for submission to the LGBCE during their consultation on warding patterns and names which is the next stage in the electoral review process.

2. **Recommendation(s)**

- 2.1 Full Council is asked to agree the warding pattern and ward names proposed by the cross-party task and finish group as set out in Appendix A with a visual representation at Appendix B for submission to the LGBCE.

3. **Reason for the recommendation(s)**

- 3.1 To ensure that the warding proposals adopted by the LGBCE achieve electoral equality and recognise the distinct communities in the Dorset Council area.

4. **Background**

- 4.1 Following agreement to the council's submission on council size agreed at Full Council on 10 February 2026, the LGBCE published its minded-to proposal for council size (82 councillors) and opened its public consultation on warding arrangements which runs from 24 March 2026 to 1 June 2026. The electoral review is run by the LGBCE and the council is a consultee but also supports the Commission by signposting to its publicity in respect of consultation.

- 4.2 On 10 July 2025, Full Council agreed that a cross-party task and finish group be established to make recommendations to Full Council on various submissions to the LGBCE. The task and finish group has the following membership:

- 3 Liberal Democrat councillors
- 2 Conservative councillors
- The group leader or deputy group leader of the Green, Independent and Labour political groups or their nominated substitute.

- 4.3 As part of the initial data required by the Commission, officers generated forecasts of future electorate numbers up to 2032, together with a technical report that explains the forecasting methodology which included data from the Office of National Statistics and the planning policy team at Dorset Council. A copy of this report was sent to the Commission during the early stages of the review. The data showed that the councillor:elector ratio for 82 councillors should be 3931 to achieve electoral equality ie each councillor represents roughly the same number of people so that the value of a vote is the same regardless of where a person lives in the local authority area. The Commission expect any proposal submitted by the council to meet electoral equality in so far as is possible but do allow a variance from this average where this can be demonstrated to be necessary to ensure good community governance.

5. **Task and Finish Group recommendations**

- 5.1 The task and finish group met on 31 March, 16 April and 29 April 2026 to consider officer advice informed by available data and projected electoral

figures to 2032. This timeframe reflects the statutory period that must be taken into account when submitting warding proposals to the Commission. The group also received and considered a number of representations from individual councillors, which informed the development of the warding proposal presented to Full Council.

5.2 In developing its recommendations, the member group had regard to the following principles:

- The new ward arrangements should, in so far as is possible, result in electoral equality based on the projected electorate for 2032. This is a mandatory requirement of the Commission.
- Wards should, as far as possible, reflect established community interests and identities, and have clearly identifiable boundaries.
- Warding arrangements should facilitate effective and convenient local government.
- 'Natural' barriers, such as rivers and railway lines, should be taken into account when developing warding proposals.
- Wards must be contiguous ie sharing a common border – 'island' and 'donut' wards are not permitted.

5.3 During detailed consideration of warding options, it became apparent that achieving good electoral equality with a council size of 82 members would require the division of several well-established communities. By increasing the proposed council size to 84 members, the group was able to develop a model that delivers strong electoral equality while also respecting long-standing community ties.

5.4 Based on a council size of 84 members, the councillor-to-electors ratio for the projected 2032 electorate is 3,837. While the Commission seeks to achieve this average representation as closely as possible, it recognises that some variance may be necessary to secure effective community representation. The Commission expects proposals to aim for an electoral variance within $\pm 10\%$ of the average, although greater variance may be accepted where this is justified by compelling community or governance considerations.

5.5 The task and finish group's proposal meets the Commission's $\pm 10\%$ tolerance in all but five wards, as set out below:

Portland: -14%
 Lyme Regis and Charmouth: +10.92%
 Blandford: +12.50%
 St Leonards and St Ives: -10.16%
 Corfe Mullen: +10.15%

In each of these cases, the group concluded that there was no practical way to further improve electoral variance without undermining effective community governance or dividing well-established communities.

- 5.6 Appendix A provides details of the proposed wards including the recommended name of each ward. Appendix B contains a map illustrating the proposed warding arrangements.

6. Alternative options considered

- 6.1 The task and finish group considered a number of different proposals, and also considered the representation levels for each ward, considering whether local communities were best represented by smaller wards with a single member or whether community identity was best achieved by drawing up larger ward boundaries with 2 or 3 member representation.
- 6.2 The council could choose not to engage with the warding consultation process but this would deprive the council of the important opportunity to make submissions and to influence the electoral arrangements which will apply from 2029.

7. Legal considerations

- 7.1 The electoral review is conducted by the LGBCE. They will follow a timetable that is compliant with legislation and Dorset Council will provide data and information in accordance with requests made by them and will make submissions at the various stages of the review in line with the timetable set out by the Commission.

8. Financial implications

- 8.1 The council has agreed a scheme of allowance under which each councillor is entitled to receive a basic allowance of £16,000. The decision of the Commission that they are minded to agree a council size of 82 councillors does not change the current cost of allowances. However, if the proposed warding pattern agreed by Full Council and the subsequent final decision of the Commission is to increase or decrease the current council size, this will increase or decrease the budget by £16,000 per councillor over or under the current membership of 82 councillors.

9. Natural environment, climate & ecology implications

- 9.1 There are no natural environment, climate or ecology implications associated with this report.

10. Well-being and health implications

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

11. Other implications

- 11.1 There are no other implications associated with this report.

12. Risk implications

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

13. Equalities

- 13.1 The request for an electoral review by the council was to ensure that, in so far as is possible, electoral equality is achieved. The review is being carried out by the LGBCE who will be responsible for conducting an appropriate equalities impact assessment.

14. Appendices

- 14.1 Appendix A – Proposed warding pattern for Dorset Council
Appendix B Map representation of proposed warding pattern for Dorset Council

15. Background papers

- 15.1 [Council size submission to Local Government Boundary Commission for England](#)
[Local Government Boundary Commission for England Electoral Reviews Technical Guidance](#)
16. Report sign-off
- 16.1 This report has been through the internal report clearance process and has been signed off by the Director, Assurance and Governance (Monitoring Officer), the Director, Resources (Section 151 Officer) and the appropriate Portfolio Holder.

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Ward Name	Parish	Electorate 2032	No Cllrs	Electorate per Cllr	+/- of average electorate
Beacon	Ashmore Parish				
	Cann Parish				
	Compton Abbas Parish				
	East Orchard Parish				
	Fontmell Magna Parish				
	Iwerne Minster Parish				
	Margaret Marsh Parish				
	Melbury Abbas Parish				
	Sutton Waldron Parish				
	Shaftesbury Parish (part)				
	Motcombe Parish				
	West Orchard Parish	4144	1	4144	8.00%
Beaminster	Beaminster Town Council				
	Netherbury Parish	3946	1	3946	2.84%
Blackmore Vale	Child Okeford Parish				
	Hammoon Parish				
	Ibberton Parish				
	Lydlinch Parish				
	Manston Parish				
	Okeford Fitzpaine Parish				
	Parish Meeting of Fifehead Neville				
	Parish Meeting of Hanford				
	Parish Meeting of Turnworth				
	Shillingstone Parish	3830	1	3830	-0.18%
Blandford	Blandford Forum Town Council	8633	2	4317	12.50%
Blandford St Mary	Blandford St Mary Parish				
	Bryanston Parish				
	Charlton Marshall Parish				
	Spetisbury Parish	4104	1	4104	6.96%
Bridport	Bridport Town Council	12130	3	4043	5.38%
Broadmayne and Winterborne Vale	Bincombe Parish (part)				
	Broadmayne Parish				
	Osmington Parish				
	Parish Meeting of Poxwell				
	Parish Meeting of Warmwell				
	Tincleton Parish				
	West Knighton Parish				
	West Stafford Parish				
	Whitcombe Parish				
	Winterborne Came Parish				
	Winterborne Herringston Parish				
	Winterborne Monkton Parish				
	Winterborne St Martin Parish				
	Winterbourne Abbas Parish				
	Winterbourne Steepleton Parish				
	Woodsford Parish	4133	1	4133	7.71%
Broadwindsor	Broadwindsor Parish				
	Burstock Parish				
	Corscombe Parish				
	East Chelborough Parish				
	Halstock Parish				
	Melbury Osmond Parish				
	Mosterton Parish				
	Parish Meeting of Melbury Bubb				
	Parish Meeting of Melbury Sampford				
	Seaborough Parish				
	South Perrott Parish				
	Stockwood Parish				
	West Chelborough Parish	3561	1	3561	-7.19%
Chalk Valleys	Alton Pancras Parish				
	Cerne Abbas Parish				
	Cheselbourne Parish				
	Dewlish Parish				
	Godmanstone Parish				
	Hazelbury Bryan Parish				
	Hilton Parish				
	Nether Cerne Parish				
	Parish Meeting of Melcombe Horsey				
	Parish Meeting of Stoke Wake				
	Parish Meeting of Woolland				

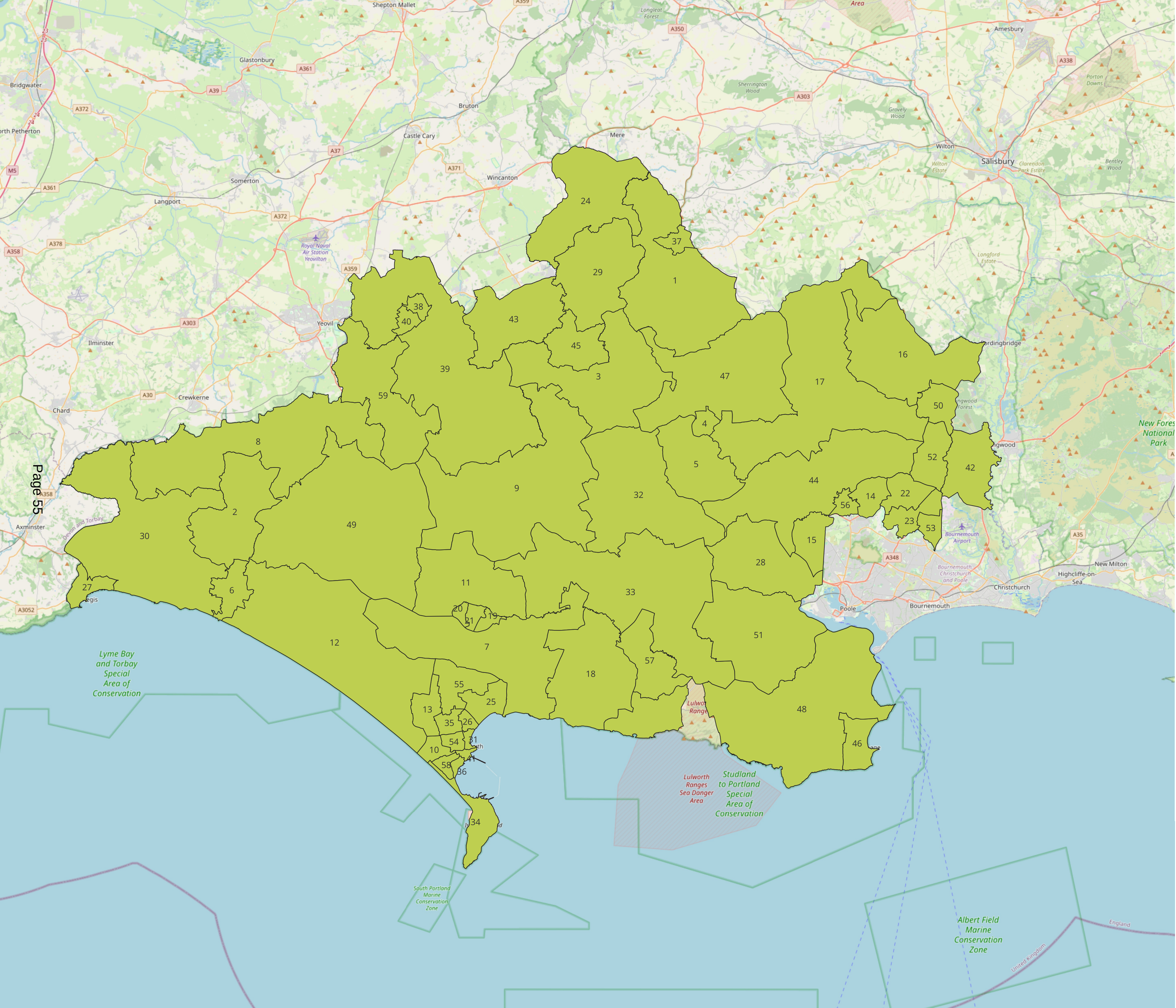
	Piddlehinton Parish Piddletrenthide Parish Up Cerne Parish	3988	1	3988	3.94%
Charlestown and Lanehouse	Chickerell Town Council (part) Weymouth Town Council (part)	3706	1	3706	-3.41%
Charminster St Mary's	Bradford Peverell Parish Charminster Parish Stinsford Parish Stratton Parish	3866	1	3866	0.76%
Chesil	Abbotsbury Parish Burton Bradstock Parish Fleet Parish Langton Herring Parish Litton Cheney Parish Loders Parish Long Bredy and Kingston Russell Parish Parish Meeting of Askerswell Parish Meeting of Chilcombe Parish Meeting of Littlebredy Portesham Parish Puncknowle Parish Shipton Gorge Parish Swyre Parish	4087	1	4087	6.52%
Chickerell	Chickerell Town Council (part)	3968	1	3968	3.40%
Colehill and Wimborne Minster East	Colehill Parish Wimborne Minster Town Council (part)	7244	2	3622	-5.60%
Corfe Mullen	Corfe Mullen Town Council	8453	2	4227	10.15%
Cranborne and Alderholt	Alderholt Parish Cranborne Parish Edmondsham Parish Wimborne St Giles Parish	3885	1	3885	1.25%
Cranborne Chase	Chalbury Parish Crichel Parish Gussage All Saints Parish Gussage St Michael Parish Horton Parish Parish Meeting of Langton Long Sixpenny Handley and Pentridge Parish Tarrant Crawford Parish Tarrant Keyneston Parish Tarrant Rawston Parish Tarrant Rushton Parish Witchampton Parish Woodlands Parish	3561	1	3561	-7.19%
Crossways and Lower Frome	Chaldon Herring Parish Crossways Parish Moreton Parish Owermoigne Parish Winfrith Newburgh and East Knighton Parish	4070	1	4070	6.07%
Dorchester East	Dorchester Town Council (part)	7056	2	3528	-8.05%
Dorchester Poundbury	Dorchester Town Council (part)	4032	1	4032	5.08%
Dorchester West	Dorchester Town Council (part)	7009	2	3504.5	-8.67%
Ferndown North	Ferndown Town Council (part)	7751	2	3876	1.00%
Ferndown South	Ferndown Town Council (part)	7112	2	3556	-7.32%
Gillingham	Bourton Parish Buckhorn Weston Parish Gillingham Town Council Kington Magna Parish Parish Meeting of Silton	12342	3	4114	7.22%
Littlemoor and Preston	Weymouth Town Council (part)	8319	2	4160	8.50%
Lodmoor	Weymouth Town Council (part)	3772	1	3772	-1.70%
Lyme and Charmouth	Charmouth Parish Lyme Regis Town Council	4256	1	4256	10.92%

Lytchett Matravers and Upton	Lytchett Matravers Parish (part)				
	Lytchett Minster and Upton Town Council				
	Morden Parish				
	Sturminster Marshall (part)	10634	3	3545	-7.62%
Marnhull	East Stour Parish				
	Hinton St Mary Parish				
	Marnhull Parish				
	Parish Meeting of Fifehead Magdalen				
	Stour Provost Parish				
	Todber Parish				
	West Stour Parish	3761	1	3761	-1.98%
Marshwood Vale	Bettiscombe Parish				
	Chideock Parish				
	Marshwood Parish				
	Parish Meeting of Catherston Leweston				
	Pilsdon Parish				
	Stanton St Gabriel Parish				
	Stoke Abbott Parish				
	Symondsburys Parish				
	Thorncombe Parish				
	Whitchurch Canoncorum Parish				
	Wootton Fitzpaine Parish	4086	1	4086	6.49%
Melcombe Regis	Weymouth Town Council (part)	3955	1	3955	3.10%
Milborne and the Winterbornes	Anderson Parish				
	Milborne St Andrew Parish				
	Milton Abbas Parish				
	Parish Meeting of Winterborne Clenston				
	Parish Meeting of Winterborne Zelston				
	Winterborne Houghton Parish				
	Winterborne Kingston Parish				
	Winterborne Stickland Parish				
	Winterborne Whitechurch Parish	3645	1	3645	-5.00%
Piddle and Bere Valley	Affpuddle and Turnerspuddle Parish				
	Athelhampton and Puddletown Parish				
	Bere Regis Parish				
	Burleston and Tolpuddle Parish				
	East Holme				
	East Stoke				
	Parish Meeting of Bloxworth	4197	1	4197	9.38%
Portland	Portland Town Council	9899	3	3300	-14.00%
Radipole and Southill	Weymouth Town Council (part)	3679	1	3679	-4.12%
Rodwell & Wyke	Weymouth Town Council (part)	3689	1	3689	-3.86%
Shaftesbury	Shaftesbury Town Council (part)	7377	2	3689	-3.87%
Sherborne East	Sherborne Town Council (part)	3961	1	3961	3.23%
Sherborne Rural	Buckland Newton Parish				
	Castleton Parish				
	Folke Parish				
	Goathill Parish				
	Holnest Parish				
	Holwell Parish				
	Leweston Parish				
	Lillington Parish				
	Longburton Parish				
	Minterne Magna Parish				
	Nether Compton Parish				
	Osborne Parish				
	Over Compton Parish				
	Parish Meeting of Caundle Marsh				
	Parish Meeting of Glanvilles Wootton				
	Parish Meeting of Haydon				
	Parish Meeting of Mappowder				
	Parish Meeting of North Wootton				
	Parish Meeting of Pulham				
	Poyntington Parish				
	Sandford Orcas Parish				
	Trent Parish	3911	1	3911	1.93%
Sherborne West	Sherborne Town Council (part)	3931	1	3931	2.45%
South Harbourside	Weymouth Town Council (part)	3746	1	3746	-2.37%

St Leonards and St Ives	St Leonards and St Ives Parish	6894	2	3447	-10.16%
Stalbridge	Bishop's Caundle Parish Purse Caundle Parish Stalbridge Town Council Stourton Caundle Parish	3752	1	3752	-2.22%
Stour and Allen Vale	Hinton Parish Holt Parish Lytchett Minster and Upton (part) Pamphill Parish Shapwick Parish Sturminster Marshall Parish (part)	3725	1	3725	-2.92%
Sturminster Newton	Sturminster Newton Town Council	3994	1	3994	4.09%
Swanage	Swanage Town Council	8297	2	4149	8.12%
Tarrants and Hill Forts	Chettle Parish Durweston Parish Farnham Parish Iwerne Courtney (Shroton) Parish Iwerne Stepleton Parish Pimperne Parish Stourpaine Parish Tarrant Gunville Parish Tarrant Hinton Parish Tarrant Launceston Parish Tarrant Monkton Parish	3778	1	3778	-1.54%
The Purbecks	Church Knowle Corfe Castle East Lulworth Harmans Cross Kimmeridge Kingston Langton Matravers Steeple with Tyneham Studland West Lulworth Worth Matravers	3933	1	3933	2.50%
Upper Frome and Asker	Cattistock Parish Chilfrome Parish Compton Valence Parish Evershot Frampton Parish Frome St Quintin Parish Frome Vauchurch Parish Maiden Newton Parish North Poorton Parish Parish Meeting of Hooke Parish Meeting of Mapperton Parish Meeting of Wraxall Powerstock Parish Rampisham Sydling St Nicholas Parish Toller Fratrum Parish Toller Porcorum Parish West Compton Parish Wynford Eagle Parish	3648	1	3648	-4.93%
Verwood	Verwood Town Council (part)	11482	3	3827	-0.25%
Wareham Ward	Arne Parish Wareham St Martin Parish Wareham Town Council	8250	2	4125	7.51%
West Moors and Three Legged	Verwood Town Council (part) West Moors Town Council	7792	2	3896	1.54%
West Parley	West Parley Parish	3692	1	3692	-3.78%
Westham	Weymouth Town Council (part)	7311	2	3655	-4.80%
Weymouth North	Bincombe Parish (part) Weymouth Town Council (part)	4009	1	4009	4.50%
Wimborne Minster	Wimborne Minster Town Council	7284	2	3642	-5.08%
Wool and Bovington	Coombe Keynes Parish Wool Parish	3824	1	3824	-0.34%

Wyke Regis	Weymouth Town Council (part)	3649	1	3649	-4.90%
Yetminster and Yeo Valley	Batcombe Parish				
	Beer Hackett Parish				
	Bradford Abbas Parish				
	Chetnole Parish				
	Hermitage Parish				
	Hilfield Parish				
	Leigh Parish				
	Parish Meeting of Clifton Maybank				
	Ryme Intrinseca Parish				
	Thornford Parish				
	Yetminster Parish	3871	1	3871	0.89%

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- 1 - Beacon
- 2 - Beaminster
- 3 - Blackmore Vale
- 4 - Blandford
- 5 - Blandford St Mary's
- 6 - Bridport
- 7 - Broadmayne and Winterborne Vale
- 8 - Broadwindsor
- 9 - Chalk Valleys
- 10 - Charlestown and Lanehouse
- 11 - Charminster St Mary's
- 12 - Chesil
- 13 - Chickereil
- 14 - Colehill and Wimborne Minster East
- 15 - Corfe Mullen
- 16 - Cranborne and Alderholt
- 17 - Cranborne Chase
- 18 - Crossways and Lower Frome
- 19 - Dorchester East
- 20 - Dorchester Poundbury
- 21 - Dorchester West
- 22 - Ferndown North
- 23 - Ferndown South
- 24 - Gillingham
- 25 - Littlemoor and Preston
- 26 - Lodmoor
- 27 - Lyme and Charmouth
- 28 - Lytchett Matravers and Upton
- 29 - Marnhull
- 30 - Marshwood Vale
- 31 - Melcombe Regis
- 32 - Milborne and the Winterbornes
- 33 - Piddle and Bere Valley
- 34 - Portland
- 35 - Radipole and Southill
- 36 - Rodwell and Wyke
- 37 - Shaftesbury
- 38 - Sherborne East
- 39 - Sherborne Rural
- 40 - Sherborne West
- 41 - South Harbourside
- 42 - St Leonards & St Ives
- 43 - Stalbridge
- 44 - Stour and Allen Vale
- 45 - Sturminster Newton
- 46 - Swanage
- 47 - Tarrant's and Hill Forts
- 48 - The Purbecks
- 49 - Upper Frome and Asker
- 50 - Verwood
- 51 - Wareham
- 52 - West Moors and Three Legged Cross
- 53 - West Parley
- 54 - Westham
- 55 - Weymouth North
- 56 - Wimborne Minster
- 57 - Wool and Bovington
- 58 - Wyke Regis
- 59 - Yetminster and Yeo Valley

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Full Council

14 May 2026

Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy report 2026/27 to 2029/30

For Decision

Cabinet Member:

Cllr S Clifford, Finance & Capital Strategy

Local Councillor(s): All

Senior Leadership Team:

S Cremer, Corporate Director, Section 151 Officer

Report author and job title: Sian Hedger interim DS151

Email: sian.hedger@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Statutory Authority:

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

1. Executive summary (maximum of 500 words)

- 1.1 This report comes to Full Council for approval of the Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy for 2026/27.

2. Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 To approve the capital receipts strategy for 2026/27 and submission to the Department of Housing Levelling Up and Communities.

3. Reason for the recommendation(s)

- 3.1 The Council has responsibility to deliver transformation to services across the council. The use of a flexible capital receipts strategy will enable the use of up to £5.3m of capital receipts in 2026/27 to invest in the delivery of transformation projects. For each financial year a local authority should prepare at least one Flexible use of Capital Receipts Strategy, details of which are required to be submitted to the Secretary of State during the financial year.

4. The report

- 4.1 The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities has provided guidance on the extension of the flexibility to use capital receipts to fund transformation projects up until the end of financial year 2029/30
- 4.2 The guidance on use of capital receipts flexibility is issued under section 15(1) of the Local Government Act 2003.
- 4.3 Local Authorities are required to have regard to the current edition of the Prudential Code for capital finance in local authorities by regulation 2 of the local Authorities (Capital Finance and accounting) regulation 2003 and to the Local Authority Accounting Code as proper practices for preparing accounts under section 31(a) of the Act.
- 4.4 The guidance applies to all years that the flexible use of capital receipts direction applies and makes it clear that local authorities cannot borrow to finance revenue costs of service reform.
- 4.5 Local authorities can only use capital receipts from a qualifying disposal of property, plant and equipment assets received in the years in which the flexibility is offered.
- 4.6 The Secretary of State believes that individual authorities are best placed to decide which projects will be most effective for their areas. The key criteria to use when deciding whether expenditure can be funded by the capital receipts flexibility is that it is forecast to generate **ongoing savings** to an authority's net service expenditure.
- 4.7 Each year a Flexible use of Capital Receipts Strategy should list each project that plans to make use of the capital receipts flexibility and that on a project - by project basis detail the expected savings/service transformation are expected. The Strategy should report the impact on the Prudential indicators for the forthcoming year and subsequent years.
- 4.8 It is a required condition that we submit details to the government so that they are sighted on use of the flexibility.
- 4.9 Disposals meeting the qualifying criteria have achieved £4.8m of qualifying flexible use of capital receipts(FUCR) to year end 25/26, which are held in reserve.(YE pending) As reported to [Cabinet in October 2025](#) shows £12.4m of forecast disposals for 2026/27. £0.5m of these will be required to fund transformation projects.
- 4.10 This brings the total request for flexible use of Capital Receipts to fund transformation projects in 2026/27 to £5.3m

4.11 Transformation projects for which the £5.3m of FUCR is funding or part funding is as set out in the April 2026 Cabinet agenda [Transformation Report](#)

4.12 To note qualifying expenditure is expenditure on projects designed to generate ongoing revenue savings in the delivery of public services and / or transform service delivery to reduce costs and /or transform service delivery in a way that reduces costs or demand for services in future years Dorset Council have to decide what is qualifying expenditure whilst complying with criteria set.

5. Alternative options considered

5.1 We are not allowed to borrow to fund revenue costs and so alternatively these costs could be funded from increasing the base budgets and or one-off funds such as reserves.

6. Legal considerations

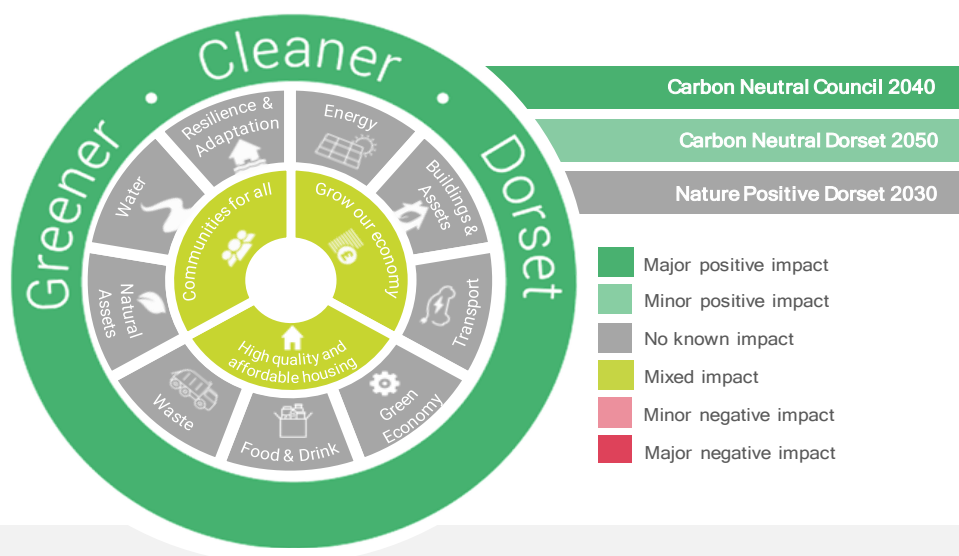
6.1 Presenting this report to full Council will meet the requirements set out in the statutory guidance.

7. Financial implications

7.1 Financial implications are covered within the body of this report.

8. Natural environment, climate & ecology implications

Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy



Quantitative Impact on CEE targets (if known)

	Unit	Number of units (+/-)
2030 - Natural asset extent & condition	Ha	0
2040 - Operational Emissions	CO ₂ (tonnes)	

ACCESSIBLE TABLE SHOWING IMPACTS

Natural Environment, Climate & Ecology Strategy Commitments	Impact
Energy	No known impact
Buildings & Assets	No known impact
Transport	No known impact
Green Economy	No known impact
Food & Drink	No known impact
Waste	No known impact
Natural Assets & Ecology	No known impact
Water	No known impact
Resilience and Adaptation	No known impact

Corporate Plan Aims	Impact
Grow our economy	neutral
High-quality and affordable housing	neutral
Communities for all	neutral

9. Well-being and health implications

9.1 N/A

10. Other implications

10.1 N/A

11. Risk implications

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

Current Risk: Low

Residual Risk: Low

12. Equalities

12.1 N/A

13. Appendices

13.1 None

14. Background papers

14.1 December 2023 - [Capital receipts policy.pdf](#)

15. Report sign-off

15.1 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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