

Date of committee: 19 May 2026

Date published: 20 May 2026

Date of implementation: 28 May 2026

DECISIONS OF THE CABINET
19 MAY 2026

The following decisions were made by the Cabinet on 19 May 2026 and will come into force and may be implemented on 28 May 2026 unless the decision is called in for scrutiny.

In accordance with the council's constitution, any six members of the same relevant Scrutiny Committee may request the Monitoring Officer to 'call-in' a decision for scrutiny. The Monitoring Officer will be provided with written notice that will identify the decision to be called-in and the ground for the call-in when the request is made. If satisfied that there are reasonable grounds for the proposed call-in, the Monitoring Officer will notify the decision-maker of the call-in within 5 clear working days. The deadline for this request is **27 May 2026**.

The full call-in procedure is set out in the Constitution or for further information and advice please telephone Kate Critchel on 01305 252234

6 2026 FLOOD INVESTIGATION STUDIES

- (a) That the approach to the flooding investigations set out in the report of 19 May 2026, including the use of Strategic Flood Investigations and Community Flood Reviews in accordance with the proposed framework, be approved.
- (b) That the areas for flooding investigations (as set out in Appendix A of the report), be approved, comprising:
 - a. A Dorset-wide strategic overview report that looks at flooding issues in Dorset's three main river catchment areas.
 - b. Strategic/Detailed Flood Investigations in accordance with the proposed criteria described in this report.
 - c. Community Flood Reviews where a Section 19 investigation is otherwise considered appropriate.
- (c) That a capital budget of £5 million be allocated for flooding resilience measures, including but not limited to addressing the outcomes of Section 19 investigations; and
- (d) Authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Regeneration, Infrastructure and Growth, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Place Services and the Section 151 Officer, to authorise expenditure from that capital budget, with any individual scheme with a value exceeding £500,000 to be reported to Cabinet for specific approval.

Reason for the decision

To fulfil Dorset Council's statutory duty to investigate significant flooding while providing clear, localised guidance, coordinating partner action across catchments and highways, and targeting evidence-based investment to strengthen flood resilience and secure additional funding.

7 GREEN SEAFRONT GROUND STABILISATION & SHORE ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS - FUNDING REQUEST

- (a) That funding of £2.5 million as a capital grant for the New Option of Swanage Town Council's Green Seafront Ground Stabilisation Project be approved; and, authority be delegated to agree the terms and enter into a grant agreement for this purpose to the Executive Director for Regeneration, Infrastructure and Growth in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Place Services and Dorset Council's Section 151 Officer.
- (b) That the allocation of £2.5 million funding from the Local Transport Grant for the Shore Road Highway Improvement Project, be approved; and, authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Regeneration, Infrastructure and Growth in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Place Services to update the Highway Improvements Capital Programme.

Reason for the decision

The decision promotes targeted investment in two complementary Swanage seafront projects that enhance safety, accessibility and public spaces while strengthening coastal resilience, supporting communities and boosting the local economy.

8 MODERN SUSTAINABLE UNITARY - REIMAGINING THE ROLE OF DORSET COUNCIL

That Cabinet endorse the vision and principles of a modern, sustainable unitary council and the overall journey required to achieve this.

Reason for the decision

To ensure members understand the proposed direction, how it supported delivery of council priorities, and how it aligned with existing change programmes. To ensure members were sighted on how this organisational journey would develop over time, with appropriate links to democratic processes built in.

9 PROCUREMENT PIPELINE REPORT - OVER £500K (2026-27)

Cabinet agreed

- (a) To delegate authority to the relevant Cabinet Member, after consultation with the relevant Executive Director or Director, to:
- (b) To begin each of the procurement procedures (or variation) listed in Appendix 1 of the report of 19 May 2026 (subject to an approved and available budget); and
- (c) Final procurement documentation developed within the broad scope set out in the procurement briefing notes (available on request); and
- (d) Contract award (via a recommendation to award report / Executive Decision as appropriate) provided the tender outcome is within + 5% of the budget agreed with Finance when each project begins subject to agreement of the Section 151 Officer in consultation with the Cabinet member for Resources & Finance.
- (e) To support continued early engagement with Commercial & Procurement for higher-value and higher-risk activity. Cabinet endorsed the use of the pipeline as a key governance and assurance tool.

Reason for the decision

Delegation supported timely, well-planned and compliant procurement by improving visibility, prioritisation and resource use, while strengthening audit assurance and allowing significant matters to be escalated to Cabinet.

To ensure compliance with: Procurement Act 2023 and Dorset Council Contract Procedure Rules.

10 UPDATE ON PUBLIC HEALTH DISAGGREGATION INCLUDING PLANS FOR FUTURE CONTRACTS

- (a) That the work completed to establish the Public Health teams within Dorset and BCP councils and the continued good performance in line with statutory responsibilities for Public Health, as set out in the 2012 Health and Social Care Act, be endorsed.
- (b) That the proposed principles for the planned joint commissioning of Public Health services, where this makes sense to continue to do so, to maintain service quality, performance, efficiency and value for money for the residents of Dorset, be agreed.
- (c) To agree the principle that where commissioning and procurement decisions were required for any services that remain jointly provided, the lead commissioning authority's decision making and governance route would be followed. *This included respecting thresholds where Cabinet agreement was required under that lead authority's scheme of delegation.*
- (d) That the proposed future direction for the delivery of public health functions and services through the two Public Health teams in Dorset and BCP council, be agreed.
- (e) That responsibilities for decisions associated with future procurement approaches, where Dorset Council leads, be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Public Health, Prevention & Communities, in consultation with the Executive Director for Housing, Communities.

Reason for the decision

It has been a year since two new Public Health teams were established in BCP and Dorset Councils. The paper and recommendations provided updates to elected members on the progress establishing the new Public Health teams. They provided an overview of the preferred options for how we intend to commission and provide Public Health functions and services in the future.

It was timely to review and set the future ambitions for the Public Health functions and services over the coming years in line with the 3-year indicative ring-fenced grant allocation and the ambitions set out within the Dorset Council Plan.

11 **ADVOCACY AND INDEPENDENT VISITORS CONTRACT SPEND APPROVAL**

- (a) That a maximum spend limit of £1.3million on this contract be approved, which would ensure our children and young people had access to an advocate or Independent Visitor in accordance with our local authority responsibilities.
- (b) That authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Children's Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Education to negotiate and authorise any further contract extensions or amendments subject to the spend limit in as set out in (a) above.

Reason for the decision

Approval was sought to increase the contract spend limit and cover extended demand for Dorset's Advocacy and Independent Visitor Service, reflecting higher than anticipated usage and future growth beyond the original Cabinet-approved value and term.