

Date of committee: 28 July 2026

Date published: 29 July 2026

Date of implementation: 6 August

**DECISIONS OF THE CABINET
28 JULY 2026**

The following decisions were made by the Cabinet on 28 July 2026 and will come into force and may be implemented on 6 August 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 5 August 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 DORSET COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2025 - 2026

That the Dorset Council Annual Report for 2025-2026 be received and noted.

Reason for the decision

The annual report provided a summary of the council's performance and achievements over the past year and demonstrated delivery against the Council Plan priorities. Approval of the report allowed for it to be formally published as part of the council's commitment to transparency, accountability and effective governance.

7 DORSET LOCAL VISITOR ECONOMY PARTNERSHIP DESTINATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

- (a) That the Dorset Local Visitor Economy Partnership Destination Management Plan (DLVEPDM) be adopted and
- (b) That additional funding be added to the 2027/2028 budget to meet the aspirations within the plan.

Note: additional funding to meet the aspirations of the Destination Management Plan would be subject to the agreement of Full Council as part of setting the 2027/28 budget.

- (c) That the local offering be recognised in the wording of the DLVEPDM action plan.

Reason for the decision

The visitor economy affected tourists, businesses, employment opportunities, cultural and heritage assets, transport networks, and infrastructure across Dorset. The Destination Management Plan was developed collaboratively with businesses, stakeholders, and cultural partners to provide a clear strategic framework for the visitor economy. Adoption of the Plan supported the development of a more resilient, sustainable, and competitive visitor economy, delivering benefits to communities, businesses, and visitors across Dorset throughout the year.

8 SEND REFORM PLAN

- (a) That the content of Dorset's Local Area SEND Reform Plan (2026-2029) be noted.
- (b) That the plan submitted to the Department for Education be endorsed.
- (c) That the proposed programme of reform and associate transformation activity be supported.
- (d) That further updates on delivery, performance and financial impact be brought back to Cabinet at key milestones.

Reason for the decision

The Reform Plan was a key strategic priority for the Council and a mandatory requirement under the Government's SEND reform programme. Its approval and delivery would help

address growing financial pressures, improve outcomes for children and young people, increase local educational provision, and reduce reliance on costly out-of-area placements, creating a more sustainable and inclusive SEND system.

9 DORSET COUNCIL LOCAL PLAN

- (a) That Cabinet agrees to progress the Dorset Council Local Plan via the new plan-making system;
- (b) That the governance arrangements outlined in the report be agreed, delegating the detailed arrangements to the Cabinet Member for Planning and Planning Enforcement in consultation with the Corporate Director for Planning;
- (c) That the indicative timetable for the production of the local plan as set out in Appendix 1 (of the Cabinet report – 28 July 2026) be agreed with the detail being delegated to the Cabinet Member for Planning and Planning Enforcement and the Corporate Director for Planning, to review and vary this timetable and update and publish when necessary;
- (d) That the content and publication of the formal Notice of Intent to Commence Plan Making included in Appendix 2 (of the Cabinet report – 28 July 2026) be agreed;
- (e) That the outline of the focused Scoping Consultation and Consultation Strategy in Appendix 3 (of the Cabinet report – 28 July 2026) be noted with the detail to be agreed with the Cabinet Member for Planning and Planning Enforcement;
- (f) That the spend of up to £1,000,000, initially funded from Local Plan Reserves, to bring in additional support to the project as and when needed, be agreed.

Reason for the decision

To put the necessary arrangements in place to enable the Dorset Council Local Plan to be prepared as quickly and efficiently as possible under the new plan-making system.

10 DORSET HISTORY CENTRE - APPROVAL SOUGHT TO PROCEED WITH DEVELOPMENT OF CAPITAL PROJECT

- (a) That the Dorset History Centre's request to proceed with externally funded development work on its capital project Past Lives, Future Proofed further to the anticipated submission of a Stage 2 application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund in November 2027 for £3.8 million and subsequent Delivery Phase of the project whose total value over both phases is £5.28 million, be approved.
- (b) That authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Economy and Environment, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Economic Growth and Strategic Assets to approve spend decisions, including procurement, contract award, and payment of invoices, within the Total Scheme Budget for the Dorset History Centre capital project as detailed in paragraph 4.2, of the Cabinet report of 28 July 2026.

All activity will be undertaken in accordance with Dorset Council's Contract Procedure Rules, Financial Regulations, Scheme of Delegation and applicable law. Procurement of services for the Delivery Phase of the project is contingent upon a successful Stage 2 application to NLHF.

- (c) That Dorset Council acts as financial guarantor: Dorset History Centre intends to bridge the current budget gap of £110,000 (see para 4.3 of the Cabinet report of 28 July 2026) by fundraising from a variety of sources.

In the event that this proved challenging, Dorset Council will meet the budget shortfall to ensure the viability of the project and the securing of the large capital grant from National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Reason for the decision

To support and endorse the development of a project that would result in significant inward investment in Dorset's cultural infrastructure through the provision of capital improvements to Dorset History Centre and a pan-Dorset public engagement programme.

11 PROCUREMENT - DORSET HIGHWAYS CONTRACTOR RESOURCE (LABOUR TOP UP) FRAMEWORK

That the 'Estimated DC Total Spend over Contract Term' value of £20m as set out in Appendix 1 to the Cabinet report of 12 March 2024 be replaced with a value of £60m.

Reason for the decision

To ensure compliant spend in line with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules.

12 CRISIS AND RESILIENCE FUND

That:

- (a) Interim governance of the Crisis and Resilience Fund programme be provided through the Communities and Prevention Delivery Board, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Public Health, Prevention and Communities and the Cabinet Member for Housing.
- (b) An annual report on Crisis and Resilience Fund spend and impact be presented to the People and Health Scrutiny Committee.
- (c) The proposals set out in Appendix 2 of the Cabinet report of 28 July 2026, for the allocation of Crisis and Resilience Fund funding to the resilience services and projects identified, be agreed.

Reason for the decision

To provide clear interim governance and decision-making for the Crisis and Resilience Fund through the Communities and Prevention Delivery Board, as part of the council's senior leadership delivery arrangements.

13 E-SCOOTER MICROMOBILITY RENTAL SERVICE

- (a) That the commencement of the proposed e-scooter rental service be approved, comprising:

Weymouth, Dorchester, Portland and Chickerell, through the appointment of a competitively procured operator; and
Corfe Mullen and Upton, through an extension of the existing Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP) e-scooter rental scheme.

- (b) That officers be authorised to co-produce geofencing arrangements with Ward Members and Town and Parish Councils, ensuring that local concerns and priorities are reflected in the scheme design, and to engage with the Department

for Transport regarding the provision of appropriate warning signage to promote public awareness and safety.

Reason for the decision

The introduction of regulated e-scooter rental schemes supports Dorset Council's adopted strategic objectives, including those set out in the Local Transport Plan, Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy and Sustainable Transport Plan.

14 EDUCATION, HEALTH AND CARE PLAN (EHCP) WORKING GROUP - FINAL REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO CABINET

That the responses to the recommendations of the People and Health Scrutiny Committee, made on 16 April 2026 following its inquiry into Education, Health and Care Assessment and Planning, be agreed.

Reason for the decision

The Scrutiny Committee's recommendations were consistent with actions that the service had already implemented or had identified as necessary to improve the experiences of children and families accessing the service. The service recognised and accepted the Scrutiny Committee's role in holding it to account for performance in this area and welcomed the recommendations as supporting ongoing improvement activity.

16 COOMBE HOUSE SCHOOL - FUTURE SITE OPTIONS

- (a) That the Executive Director for Children's Services work with the Company to model the impact of the 2026 Schools' White Paper and the impact of the proposals relating to Osprey Quay.
- (b) That the Chief Executive establishes a working group to review the commercial options for the site, with the Company.
- (c) Cabinet recognised the need for a short-term investment plan for the site to ensure it was being maintained, (whilst acknowledging the work required in respect of the long-term plan for the site) and instructs the Executive Director Economy and Environment, to prepare the short-term investment plan.

Reason for the decision

The Council needed to establish its future approach to the use and investment of the wider site and asset.

17 SHAFTESBURY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN 2019-2031 - FIRST REVIEW

- (a) That the Council 'makes' the Modified Shaftesbury Neighbourhood Plan 2019-2031 (as set out in Appendix A of the Cabinet report of 28 July 2026) part of the statutory development plan for the Shaftesbury Neighbourhood Area.
- (b) That the Council offers its congratulations to Shaftesbury Town Council and members of the Neighbourhood Plan Group for producing a successful neighbourhood plan review.

Reason for this decision

To formally make the modified neighbourhood plan part of the statutory development plan for the Shaftesbury Neighbourhood Area. In addition, to recognise the significant amount

of work undertaken by the Town Council and members of the Neighbourhood Plan Group in preparing the plan review and to congratulate the Council and the Group on their success.