

PLACE AND RESOURCES OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 4 JUNE 2026

Present: Cllrs Ryan Hope (Chair), Andrew Starr (Vice-Chair), Piers Brown, Richard Crabb, Simon Gibson, Sherry Jespersen, David Northam, Roland Tarr and David Taylor

Present remotely: Cllrs Val Potheary

Also present: Cllr Jon Andrews, Cllr Belinda Bawden, Cllr Nick Ireland and Cllr Shane Bartlett

Also present remotely: Cllr Alex Brenton

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

Jan Britton (Executive Director - Economy and Environment), Antony Nash (Senior Democratic & Governance Services Officer), Jack Wiltshire (Corporate Director for Highways and Engineering), Owen Clark (Strategic and Policy Team Manager), Christopher Whitehouse (Projects Team Manager), Wayne Sayers (Transport Planning Team Leader) and Helen Jackson (Principal Transport Planner)

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

1. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting on 26 March 2026 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

2. **Declarations of interest**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

3. **Public Participation**

There was no public participation.

4. **Questions from Councillors**

There were no Questions from Councillors.

5. **Joint Local Transport Plan 2026 - 2041**

The report was introduced by the Cabinet member for Regeneration, Infrastructure and Growth who set out the need for the Joint Local transport plan and the next stages of governance.

The Strategic and Policy Team Manager presented the key points of the report and the implications of the Local Transport Plan and the accompanying delivery plan. The Principal Transport Planner set out the vision for transport in Dorset and the six core objectives. The engagement undertaken was described and the financial commitments within the Plan and the aspirations of the plans.

The Committee welcomed the extensive governance process undertaken during the development of the Plan and acknowledged the improvements that had been made as it progressed.

During the discussion, consideration was given to the role of rail within the transport network, particularly in West Dorset.

Discussion took place regarding the geographic distribution of projects within the implementation plan, with concerns raised about potential disparities and the equitable distribution of investment across Dorset.

The focus of the Plan on people rather than vehicles was explored, together with how the Plan would align with planning processes and the Local Plan, including the potential impact on car journeys.

The particular challenges faced by rural communities were discussed, recognising the continued reliance on private vehicles and the importance of community transport in reducing that dependence. It was noted that a further report on this matter would be considered by the Committee in July.

Consideration was also given to the relationship between transport improvements and wider infrastructure requirements, including water infrastructure, and how these would be reflected within the implementation plan.

The discussion highlighted that different areas of Dorset have differing transport needs and that these should be reflected in delivery.

The Committee considered the monitoring arrangements for the Plan, including the key performance indicators that would be used to measure outcomes and assess its effectiveness.

Discussion also took place on the distribution of funding between the two councils, with emphasis placed on ensuring that funding is allocated fairly.

Congestion and journey times were considered, including the aspiration to reduce congestion and improve network performance. The processes required to secure funding from National Highways were also discussed.

The importance of partnership working with National Highways was recognised, together with the shared ambition of delivering highway improvements that support the objectives of the Local Transport Plan.

Recommendations

The recommendations from the report were proposed by Cllr Taylor and seconded by Cllr Crabb and carried with 7 votes for and 1 against.

The Place and Resources Overview Committee;

- Endorsed the Local Transport Plan 2026 – 2041 and recommend it for approval by Cabinet and adoption at Full Council.
- Supported delegated authority to the Executive Director for Regeneration, Infrastructure and Growth, in consultation the Cabinet Member for Place Services, to approve any necessary minor non-material and non-policy altering changes that such do not materially alter the substance, objectives or strategic direction of the plan before it is published.
- Supported the delegated authority to the Executive Director for Regeneration, Infrastructure and Growth, in consultation the Cabinet Member for Place Services, to approve timely updates to the Implementation Plan, where the need arises, to take account of changes of national policy, local priorities or funding.

6. **e-Scooter Micromobility Rental Service**

The Cabinet member introduced the paper and the background for the paper and handed to the Projects Team Manager who presented the key factors from the paper and the considerations that have been raised in engagement with disability groups and the police and crime commissioner while addressing the key concerns and the practical implications of the scheme.

During the discussion, concerns were raised regarding the potential for e-scooters to be hacked and used by individuals who did not hold valid driving licences. Consideration was given to the controls available to operators and the measures required to manage this risk.

The Committee discussed compliance rates associated with bikes and scooters being left outside designated parking bays. It was noted that Dorset currently achieves a compliance rate of 95%, indicating a high level of adherence to the scheme requirements.

The use of geomapping technology was explored, particularly its role in identifying areas where access restrictions or speed controls may be required. Discussion highlighted the importance of involving ward members, town councils and parish councils in identifying locations where additional controls may be necessary.

Safety requirements formed a significant part of the discussion. Assurances were provided that appropriate safety standards and mitigation measures would be incorporated into the procurement process and applied throughout the operation of the scheme.

The Committee also considered the commercial viability of e-scooter schemes. It was noted that a sufficient population base is required to sustain such schemes commercially, and that this had been a key factor in selecting the proposed trial locations.

Further discussion focused on safety concerns relating to the use of e-scooters on both pavements and the road network, and the potential impact on other road users and pedestrians.

The need for appropriate signage to support the operation of the scheme was also discussed, including its role in promoting awareness, compliance and safety.

Recommendation:

The recommendations set out in the paper were proposed alongside specific suggestions from the Committee debate by Cllr Tarr and seconded by Cllr Taylor and unanimously agreed.

The Place and Resources Overview Committee;

- reviewed and provided comment on the proposal to introduce e-scooter rental services in:
 1. Weymouth, Dorchester, Portland and Chickerell (via a competitively procured operator); and
 2. Corfe Mullen and Upton (via an extension of the existing BCP scheme);
- Examined the proposed delivery model, including the practical, legal and operational arrangements required to implement the scheme in accordance with Department for Transport (DfT) trial requirements.
- Provided direction and challenge on key aspects of the proposal including:
 1. The sustainability of the proposed operating areas;
 2. The adequacy of proposed controls relating to safety, parking and equalities impacts;
 3. The extent to which reliance on police enforcement presents an acceptable risk

The recommendations of geofencing to be coproduced with Ward Councillors, Town and Parish councillors and the response to the DfT to look to provision of warning signage was added to the report recommendations.

7. Place and Resources Overview Committee Work Programme

The Committee reviewed the work programme.

8. Urgent items

There were no urgent items.

9. Exempt Business

There was no exempt business.

Duration of meeting: 10.00 am - 12.13 pm

Chairman

.....