



The Cabinet Forward Plan - December 2025 to March 2026 (Publication date – 11 NOVEMBER 2025)

Explanatory Note:

This Forward Plan contains future items to be considered by the Cabinet and Council. It is published 28 days before the next meeting of the Committee. The plan includes items for the meeting including key decisions. Each item shows if it is 'open' to the public or to be considered in a private part of the meeting.

Definition of Key Decisions

Key decisions are defined in Dorset Council's Constitution as decisions of the Cabinet which are likely to -

- (a) to result in the relevant local authority incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the relevant local authority's budget for the service or function to which the decision relates (**Thresholds - £500k**); or
- (b) to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards or electoral divisions in the area of the relevant local authority."

In determining the meaning of "*significant*" for these purposes the Council will have regard to any guidance issued by the Secretary of State in accordance with section 9Q of the Local Government Act 2000 Act. Officers will consult with lead members to determine significance and sensitivity.

Cabinet Members and Portfolios 2024/25

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

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

Council Plan Progress Report Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open A bi-annual report to Cabinet on Council Plan delivery.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 9 Dec 2025		Leader and Cabinet Member for Climate, Performance and Safeguarding	<i>Liz Crocker, Head of Strategy</i> <i>liz.crocker@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Chief Executive</i>
Partnership Principles and Statement of Reasonable Expectations Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open To approve a set of Partnership Principles with Community Partners and To approve a Statement of Reasonable Expectations with Town Councils	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 9 Dec 2025	Place and Resources Overview Committee 24 Nov 2025	Leader and Cabinet Member for Climate, Performance and Safeguarding	<i>Steven Ford, Corporate Director for Strategy, Performance and Sustainability</i> <i>steven.ford@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Jennifer Lewis, Head of Strategic Communications and Engagement</i> <i>jennifer.lewis@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Chief Executive</i>

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
Dorset Local Nature Recovery Strategy Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open To seek Cabinet's approval for the final Dorset Local Nature Recovery Strategy, prepared in accordance with the Environment Act 2021 and associated regulations. The strategy sets out a spatial framework and priorities for nature recovery across Dorset, developed through extensive stakeholder engagement and evidence gathering. Approval will enable formal publication and implementation, supporting biodiversity enhancement, climate resilience and alignment with national and local environmental objectives.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 9 Dec 2025	Place and Resources Overview Committee 24 Nov 2025	Leader and Cabinet Member for Climate, Performance and Safeguarding	<i>Bridget Betts, Environmental Advice Manager bridget.betts@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, Place (Jan Britton)</i>

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Dorset National Landscape Management Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open To adopt the Management Plan 2025-30, which sets out a strategic framework for conserving and enhancing the natural beauty, biodiversity, and culture heritage of the Dorset national Landscape, in alignment with national guidance and local priorities	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 9 Dec 2025		Leader and Cabinet Member for Climate, Performance and Safeguarding	<i>Bridget Betts, Environmental Advice Manager bridget.betts@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, Place (Jan Britton)</i>
Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership Closure Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open To gain Cabinet approval for the final closure arrangements of the Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership (DLEP) including the receiving of legacy funds held by DLEP and the resignation of Cabinet Members from DLEP directorships.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 9 Dec 2025		Cabinet Member for Finance & Capital Strategy	<i>Nick Webster, Head of Growth and Regeneration nicholas.webster@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, Place (Jan Britton)</i>

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Average Speed Cameras - A30 Sherborne dual Carriageway Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open The introduction of new average speed cameras on the A30 Sherborne dual carriageway is aimed at improving road safety. Due to the significant overall cost, this initiative constitutes a key decision.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 9 Dec 2025		Cabinet Member for Place Services	<i>Tony Burden, Road Safety Manager</i> <i>tony.burden@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, Place (Jan Britton)</i>
New Forest Heaths Strategic Access Management and Monitoring Strategy Key Decision - No Public Access - Open Adoption of New Forest Heaths Strategic Access Management and Monitoring Strategy.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 9 Dec 2025		Cabinet Member for Place Services	<i>Sue Bellamy, Senior Planning Policy Officer</i> <i>sue.bellamy@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Mike Garrity, Corporate Director for Planning</i> <i>mike.garrity@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, Place (Jan Britton)</i>

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Report to Change Cabinet decision of delegations for Highway Service Contract (HTSC) Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open To make a minor amendment to the Cabinet decision of 20 May 2025 regarding the scheme of delegation governance for the forthcoming Highway Service Contract.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 9 Dec 2025		Cabinet Member for Place Services	<i>Jack Wiltshire, Corporate Director for Highways and Engineering jack.wiltshire@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, Place (Jan Britton)</i>
Adoption of the Cranborne Chase National Landscape Management Plan Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open Cabinet is asked to agree the final adoption of the revised Cranborne Chase National Landscape Management Plan, following its approval by the Partnership Board. The Council is part of the Partnership Board, and all the constituent local authorities need to approve its adoption. The management plan needs to be reviewed every five years.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 9 Dec 2025		Cabinet Member for Place Services	<i>Hilary Jordan, Service Manager for Spatial Planning hilary.jordan@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, Place (Jan Britton)</i>

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Acquisition of Land Neighbouring Dorset Innovation Park Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Part exempt The acquisition of land, currently in Homes England ownership, located at Winfrith, South Dorset and neighbouring the existing Dorset Innovation Park. Purchase of the land would enable a range of potential future employment related uses and secure the long-term future of the Innovation Park as a strategic employment site serving the South Dorset geography.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 9 Dec 2025		Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Property & Assets and Economic Growth	<i>Nick Webster, Head of Growth and Regeneration nicholas.webster@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, Place (Jan Britton)</i>
Future Leisure Management Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Fully exempt The report sets out proposals to extend the existing leisure contracts until March 2028, to develop a leisure contract procurement strategy and agree to procure a single leisure operator contract subject to the finalisation of the Leisure Strategy in March 2026.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 9 Dec 2025		Cabinet Member for Customer, Culture and Community Engagement	<i>Paul Rutter, Service Manager for Leisure, Arts and Cultural Services paul.rutter@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, Place (Jan Britton)</i>

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2026					
January					
Quarter 3 financial management report Key Decision - No Public Access - Open Quarter 3 financial management report.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 27 Jan 2026		Cabinet Member for Finance & Capital Strategy	<i>Sean Cremer, Corporate Director for Finance and Commercial sean.cremer@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Heather Lappin, Head of Strategic Finance heather.lappin@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i>
Medium Term Financial Plan and Budget Strategy report Key Decision - No Public Access - Open	Decision Maker Dorset Council	Decision Date 10 Feb 2026	Cabinet 27 Jan 2026 Place and Resources Scrutiny Committee 19 Jan 2026 People and Health Scrutiny Committee 21 Jan 2026	Cabinet Member for Finance & Capital Strategy	<i>Sean Cremer, Corporate Director for Finance and Commercial sean.cremer@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Heather Lappin, Head of Strategic Finance heather.lappin@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i>

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

Dorset Council Housing Allocation Policy Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open Proposed revisions to the councils Housing Allocations Policy, which governs how social housing is allocated to applicants on the housing register. The revised policy update aims to ensure fairness, transparency and compliance with legal requirements while addressing local housing need. Key changes may include amendments to priority criteria, eligibility requirements, changes to relevant legislation and operational procedures.	Decision Maker Dorset Council	Decision Date 16 Apr 2026	People and Health Overview Committee 2 Feb 2026 Cabinet 3 Mar 2026	Cabinet Member for Health and Housing	<i>Sarah How, Service Manager for Housing Solutions</i> <i>sarah.how@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, People - Adults</i> <i>(Jonathan Price)</i>
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Dorset Tenancy Strategy Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open A tenancy strategy to set out the kinds and circumstances for different types of tenancies that should be provided to social rented housing tenants, including arrangements for fixed term tenancies, for registered providers which hold stock in the Dorset local authority area, to pay attention to when formulating their tenancy policies.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 3 Mar 2026	People and Health Overview Committee 2 Feb 2026	Cabinet Member for Health and Housing	<i>Sharon Attwater, Service Manager for Housing Strategy and Performance</i> sharon.attwater@dorsettcouncil.gov.uk, <i>Andrew Billany, Corporate Director for Housing</i> andrew.billany@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk <i>Executive Director, People - Adults</i> <i>(Jonathan Price)</i>
Housing Standards Enforcement Policy & Statement of Principles for Determining Financial Penalties Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open To agree the adoption of a new Housing Standards Enforcement Policy & Statement of Principles for Determining Financial Penalties to account for legislative changes being enacted under the Renters Rights Act 2025.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 3 Mar 2026	People and Health Overview Committee 2 Feb 2026	Cabinet Member for Health and Housing	<i>Steven March, Service Manager for Housing Standards</i> steven.march@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, <i>Andrew Billany, Corporate Director for Housing</i> andrew.billany@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk <i>Executive Director, People - Adults</i> <i>(Jonathan Price)</i>

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Towards a new model of day opportunities Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open To consider the results of the consultation on the future of day services in Dorset and use this information to shape a way forward for these services. The consultation was launched on a set of proposals across Dorset arising from Cabinet's agreement in principle to the new model for these services at its meeting on 10 September 2024.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 3 Mar 2026	Health and Wellbeing Board 11 Feb 2026 People and Health Overview Committee 2 Feb 2026	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care	<i>Sarah Perrett, Commissioning Manager - Micro Provider & Voluntary Sector Development</i> sarah.perrett@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, <i>Karen Stephens, Interim Head of Service - Market Relationships, Major Contracts, and Over 65's</i> karen.stephens@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk <i>Executive Director, People - Adults (Jonathan Price)</i>
E-scooter hire scheme: Weymouth, Portland and Dorchester; and Upton and Corfe Mullen Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open To consider any recommendations from February Place & Resources Overview Committee on whether the Council should take advantage of the DfT's offer to local authorities to allow e-scooter rental trials. The	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 9 Dec 2025	Place and Resources Overview Committee 5 Feb 2026	Cabinet Member for Place Services	<i>Christopher Whitehouse, Projects Team Manager</i> christopher.whitehouse@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk <i>Executive Director, Place (Jan Britton)</i>

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paper is dependent on permission being granted by DfT and an application has already been made, the results of which would be known soon.					
May					

Financial Provision for the Voluntary Community Sector Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open The current 5-year financial agreement for the VCS will be coming to an end in October 2026. This paper will propose the new support for them.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date TBC	People and Health Overview Committee 15 Sep 2025	Cabinet Member for Customer, Culture and Community Engagement	<i>Laura Cornette, Business Partner - Communities and Partnerships Laura.cornette@dorset council.gov.uk, Jennifer Lowis, Head of Strategic Communications and Engagement jennifer.lowis@dorsetc ouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, Corporate Development - Section 151 Officer</i>
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Private/Exempt Items for Decision

Each item in the plan above marked as 'private' will refer to one of the following paragraphs.

1. Information relating to any individual.
2. Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual.
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).
4. Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under, the authority.
5. Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.
6. Information which reveals that the shadow council proposes:-
 - (a) to give under any enactment a notice under or by virtue of which requirements are imposed on a person; or
 - (b) to make an order or direction under any enactment.
7. Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime.