Request by Councillor for Scrutiny Review

Area for review:
The Dorset Council Local Plan Consultation

Reason (see note 1 overleaf):
The Local Plan will affect communities in Dorset for the next 17 years and deserves to be scrutinised.

Dorset Council is a planning authority and must have a local plan which sets out planning policies in the local authority area.

Evidence (see note 2 overleaf):

1.0 There is public concern that the consultation has been undertaken at the height of the Covid-19 lockdown which has the potential of excluding some residents from participating.

2.0 The online form is the council’s preferred option for responding to the consultation but it is not fit for purpose.

3.0 Town and Parish councils were not adequately prepared by Dorset Council to assist in publicising the consultation.

4.0 Residents who do not own a computer or do not use the internet run the risk of not being able to participate in the consultation.

5.0 The draft plans were not subject to Equality Impact Assessments and there are other missing pieces of data from the evidence base.

6.0 The Executive Advisory Panel
Councillors who did not sit on the EAP were not allowed to attend meetings and the minutes of the meetings were not recorded. This has impacted on councillors, (with the local knowledge) not being able to offer advice on the development of the plan. It has also impacted on councillors being kept informed.
**Desired Outcomes** (see note 3 overleaf):
To improve consultations in the future.
To extend the consultation period until the summer.

**Name(s):**

Councillor Maria Roe

**Date:** 1st March 2021