

Cabinet

5 October 2021

Dorset Council Plan

For Recommendation to Council

Portfolio Holder: Cllr P Wharf, Corporate Development and Change

Local Councillor(s): All

Executive Director: M Prosser, Chief Executive

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Report Status: Public

Recommendation: That the Cabinet:

- i. Make any final amendments to the draft wording of the updated council plan, attached at appendix 1, and recommend it to full council for adoption on 14 October
- ii. Note the contribution to the updated council plan from the two Overview Committees
- iii. Discuss and agree the name of the plan, following a recommendation by the Place and Resources Overview Committee on 17 September 2021; and
- iv. Delegate responsibility for the final design of the plan, and the summary 'plan on a page' version, to the portfolio holder for corporate development and change, in consultation with the Leader and Chief Executive.

Reason for Recommendation: To provide clarity about this council's priorities following the COVID-19 pandemic.

1. Executive Summary

Dorset Council's first council plan was adopted in January 2020, before COVID-19 struck. In the summer of 2021, Cabinet asked for the plan be updated, steered by the two Overview Committees, to reflect the impact and implications of the pandemic.

On 26 July 2021 members of the Overview Committees held a joint informal workshop to review the draft Council Plan, with a specific focus on COVID-19 recovery. It was discussed again at their formal meetings on 2 and 17 September. The minutes of those discussions are attached at appendix 3.

2. Financial Implications

None in relation to this report.

3. Well-being and Health Implications

Health and well-being are integral elements of the plan, and feature particularly in the 'strong and healthy communities' and 'staying safe and well' priorities.

4. Climate implications

It is recommended that climate and ecology become one of the main priorities of the council following the adoption of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy and Action Plan in July 2021.

5. Other Implications

None.

6. Risk Assessment

Having considered the risks associated with this decision, the level of risk has been identified as:

Current Risk: Low

Residual Risk: Low

7. Equalities Impact Assessment

An equalities impact assessment was undertaken when the plan was first adopted in January 2020.

8. Appendices

- i. Updated council plan text
- ii. Original council plan
- iii. Relevant minutes of the People and Health Overview Committee (2 September 2021) and Place and Resources Overview Committee (17 September 2021)

9. Background Papers

[2020-01-28-cabinet-Dorset-plan-report.pdf \(dorsetcouncil.gov.uk\)](#)

10. The evolution of the council plan – January 2020-October 2021

- 10.1 The first ever Dorset Council plan was agreed by the Cabinet in January 2020, following informal workshops with councillors, and engagement with residents and partners. This was before the COVID-19 struck, and the original plan (attached at appendix 2) makes no reference to the pandemic as a result.
- 10.2 In the summer of 2021, Cabinet asked that the council plan be updated, with support from the two Overview Committees, in their policy-making capacity. An informal session was held with the Overview Committees on 26 July 2021, and the output from the meeting – the updated draft plan – was reported to their Committees on 2 September and 17 September.
- 10.3 The minutes of those discussions are attached at appendix 3. In summary, key feedback from the People and Health Overview Committee (2 September) was that:
 - The plan is long and needs a summary version
 - The correlation between Dorset’s challenges and the council’s priorities and actions needs to be clearer
 - Dorset’s major challenges – the low wage/low skilled economy, lack of social mobility, unaffordable housing, the outward migration of younger people and inward migration of older people – are not all fully addressed by the plan
- 10.4 Key feedback from the Place and Resources Committee (17 September) was that:
 - The size of the council – the fifth biggest by size and eight biggest by population – should be made clearer

- There should be a link to the council's research database, [Dorset Insights](#)
- Naming very local areas of deprivation could be unhelpful and should be removed
- The plan should be called either the 'Dorset Council Plan' or 'Dorset Council's Corporate Plan'. Cabinet is asked to agree one of these options.

10.5 Both Committees expressed a desire for climate and the ecology to become a key priority, following the council's adoption of a Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy and Action plan in July 2021 and its commitment to become carbon neutral by 2040.

[Please do not delete the footnote.](#)

Footnote:

Issues relating to financial, legal, environmental, economic and equalities implications have been considered and any information relevant to the decision is included within the report.