



PORTFOLIO HOLDER/LEAD MEMBER UPDATE SUMMARY

PORTFOLIO:¹

Adult Social Care, Health and Housing

CABINET DATE:²

5 December 2023

KEY ACTIVITIES SINCE THE
LAST REPORT:³

Budgetary pressure

The directorate is accountable for two demand led budget areas where it in nationally recognised new demand is driving challenging conditions. Since the last cabinet update, we have seen further improvements in our budget with reduction in the ASC overspend. The plans we have put into action and will continue to help us manage the likely demands of the winter period.

Housing pressures remain significant due to demand rising but also the impact of rents and temporary accommodation charges rising further above the frozen Local Housing Allowance cap, and the amount recoverable from Housing Benefit. However, we continue to fully digest the Autumn statement to understand the impact of the Government announcement to restore the Local Housing Allowance rates from April 2024 to the 30th percentile of market rents. This will be a help for people on low incomes looking to find their own private rented housing, as much of that (around 95%) has been unaffordable at the previously frozen rate to those who are reliant on welfare benefits. This will prevent some households having to present to us as being homeless. It appears that the 2011 LHA rate will still apply to Bed and

¹ Enter the portfolio area

² Insert the date of the Cabinet meeting to which this summary update is to be reported

³ Provide brief details of the meetings attended, key activities or project milestones completed since the last report

Breakfast usage, so that cost pressure will remain, where the Council picks up costs and rises above that level.

Housing Strategy

The Strategy sets out our vision, aims and objectives for housing in Dorset and brings together extensive research and analysis of housing issues from a local and national context. Internal and external stakeholder engagement and responses to a 10-week public consultation have also helped to shape the strategy. The consultation asked participants what was most important, in terms of housing, and to comment on our proposed vision, aims and objectives. We received 2137 responses.

A detailed delivery plan plus supporting strategies, policies and procedures will be developed over the lifetime of the strategy and set out how these objectives will be delivered.

The Housing Strategy has been presented to the People and Health Overview meeting on 30 November and will be shared with Cabinet today (5 December).

DCF2

We are reviewing the number of providers across all markets on the Dorset Care Framework, this year we have seen many new providers join across the community-based areas which is bringing efficiencies month on month. As we head into the final part of this financial year, we have embarked on work to review our residential and nursing provision and will start the procurement to these "lots" in the new calendar year. Completing this procurement will be key in helping the Directorate achieve next years challenging financial landscape.

ASC Savings

We continue to drive forward our challenging savings programme of £8.773m. Our transformation plan is supporting us to be able to deliver £7.607m (87%) as of the end of November 2023. As with all demand led budgets, we need to continuously monitor all activity and spend to help inform the year end forecast.

DELEGATED DECISIONS
MADE:⁴

N/A

ANTICIPATED
ACTIVITIES/MILESTONES
FOR NEXT PERIOD:⁵

Cabinet – 5 December
Housing Strategy

⁴ Enter details of any delegated decisions made since the last meeting

⁵ Provide details of key activities, project milestones or significant meetings anticipated in the next period