

Date of committee: 7 November 2023

Date published: 8 November 2023

Date of implementation: 16 November 2023

**DECISIONS OF THE CABINET
7 NOVEMBER 2023**

The following decisions were made by the Cabinet on 7 November 2023 and will come into force and may be implemented on 16 November 2023 unless the decision is called in for scrutiny.

In accordance with the council's constitution, any six members of the same relevant Scrutiny Committee may request the Monitoring Officer to 'call-in' a decision for scrutiny. The Monitoring Officer will be provided with written notice that will identify the decision to be called-in and the ground for the call-in when the request is made. If satisfied that there are reasonable grounds for the proposed call-in, the Monitoring Officer will notify the decision-maker of the call-in within 5 clear working days. The deadline for this request is **15 November 2023.**

The full call-in procedure is set out in the Constitution or for further information and advice please telephone Kate Critchel on 01305 252234

6 PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER- REPORT ON THE FINDINGS FORM THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION

- (a) That the DOG-related Public Spaces Protection Order be approved, as set out within the original report to Place and Resources Overview Committee of 5 October 2023, (starting at paragraph 1.2 of the report) and
- (b) That the PSPO be reviewed after the winter period by the appropriate committee with a focus on Lyme Regis Front Town Beach.

Reasons for the decision

To protect public health, safety and animal welfare.

To provide a new PSPO as required by the Anti-social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014.

To assist with the efficient use of enforcement resources.

To recognise the public's support, through the consultation responses, for certain restrictions required for public safety.

To recognise and implement the requirements of the Equality legislation.

7 QUARTER 2 FINANCIAL MONITORING 2023/24

- (a) That the senior leadership team's forecast of the full year's forecast outturn for the Council, made at the end of Quarter 2, including progress of the transformational and tactical savings incorporated into the budget, be noted.
- (b) That Cabinet identify the priority areas for changes to be made to close the in-year budget gap.
- (c) That Portfolio Holder's work with officers to continue to identify and develop further in-year efficiencies and savings to minimise use of reserves.
- (d) That the capital programme for 2023/24 and updated capital plan for 2023/24 – 2027/28 be noted.

Reason for the decision

The Council has responsibilities to deliver within its corporate plan and it must do this within the resources made available through the revenue and capital budgets for 2023/24. This report summarised the Council's forecast financial performance for the year at the end of the second quarter.

8 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN (MTFP) AND BUDGET STRATEGY

- (a) That the updated cost pressures set out in this paper and the validation work that has been carried out on them, be noted.

- (b) That the assumptions being used in the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP), be agreed.
- (c) That the financial gap arising from (a) and (b) above be noted.
- (d) That 2024/25 principles for budget setting, be agreed.
- (e) That the approach to closing the budget gap set out in this paper, recognising that this is work in progress, be noted.
- (f) That Cabinet continue to press local MPs and work with peers to press the case for additional funding.
- (g) That Portfolio Holders work with officers to continue to identify and develop further efficiencies and savings.
- (h) That the next steps and timetable leading up to the 2024/25 budget which would be presented to full Council on 13 February 2024, to be endorsed.

Reason for the decision

Councils were required by law to set a balanced budget. Essentially this means that expenditure is balanced by income without unsustainable use of one-off, or short-term sources of finance.

The report before Cabinet on 7 November 2023 provided an update on the budget gap for 2024/25 and the subsequent years of the MTFP and gave an update on progress on action/savings to date including the 2023/24 forecast performance against budget.

10 OUR FUTURE COUNCIL

- (a) Cabinet endorsed the progress made on the Our Future Council programme, Phase 1, as described in section 1.4. of the report to Cabinet on 7 November 2023.
- (a) That the continued expansion of Phase 1 to deliver identified and further savings across the organisation, aligned to the activity described in section 1.4. 3. of the report, be approved.
- (b) That the initiation of Phase 2 of Our Future Council programme aligned to and in support of the ongoing budget process and medium-term financial strategy, be endorsed.
- (c) That existing governance in place, to oversee the programme as it develops, through the council's performance board and Our Future Council Programme Steering Group and officer board, be acknowledged.
- (d) That an update report on Phase 2 progress be received in early 2024.

Reason for the decision

Dorset Council has embarked on an ambitious programme called 'Our Future Council' putting our customers first and exploring new ways of working. The primary goal of this

programme was to bring about sustainable change and create a streamlined, digital and unified customer experience, resulting in better outcomes at a lower cost.

The council aims to move beyond convergence and comprehensively review how it is organised. Central to this transformation was a renewed emphasis on our priorities, customers, and communities, with a resolute commitment to placing people and outcomes above our internal organisational boundaries and bureaucracy.

11 EXPANSION OF FUNDED CHILDCARE OFFER FROM APRIL 2024

That the approach to the expansion of funded childcare offer from April 2024 be adopted.

Reason for the decision

To ensure compliance with statutory duties and any subsequent related statutory guidance to ensure there was sufficient childcare for working families.

12 MAKING CARE EXPERIENCE A PROTECTED CHARACTERISTIC - LOCAL ADOPTION

- (a) That the development of an agreed definition of care experienced for the purpose of making this a protected characteristic, be supported.
- (b) Cabinet agreed that 'care experience' would be treated as if it were a Protected Characteristic under the Equalities Act 2010 so that decisions on future services and policies made and adopted by Dorset Council were assessed and considered the impact on people with care experience.
- (c) That the amendment of Dorset Council's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy 2021-2024 to reflect 'care experience' being treated as if it were a protected characteristic and the development of specific actions to reduce the disadvantage and discrimination that care experienced people face, be approved.

Reasons for the decision

Making care experience a protected characteristic would help to remove barriers to success for our care experienced young people and was in line with the recommendation to do so in the Independent Review of Children's Social Care, published in May 2022.

13 FAMILIES FIRST FOR CHILDREN PATHFINDER

That the approach to delivering the Families First for Children Pathfinder, as set out in the report to People and Health Overview Committee of 17 October 2023, be approved.

Reason for the decision

Participation in the Pathfinder programme was a huge opportunity for Dorset to shape the national transformation of children and families strategy and policy and to ensure that Dorset Council was well placed to implement these policy changes when they were rolled

out nationally. Department for Education funding would be made available and would be used to support the required change.

14 CHESIL BANK NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN 2022-2023

- (a) That the Council makes the Chesil Bank Neighbourhood Plan 2022 – 2032 (as set out in Appendix A) part of the statutory development plan for the Chesil Neighbourhood Area.
- (b) That the Council offers its congratulations to Chesil Bank Parish Council and members of the Neighbourhood Plan Group in producing a successful neighbourhood plan.

Reason for the decision

To formally make the Chesil Bank Neighbourhood Plan 2022 - 2032 part of the statutory development plan for the Chesil Bank Neighbourhood Area. In addition, to recognise the significant amount of work undertaken by the Parish Council and members of the Neighbourhood Plan Group in preparing the plan and to congratulate the Councils and the Group on their success.

15 WILTSHIRE LOCAL PLAN REGULATION 19 CONSULTATION RESPONSE

- (a) That the key issues upon which a detailed response be made to the Wiltshire Local Plan consultation as outlined in the report of 7 November 2023, be acknowledged.
- (b) That the responses to Wiltshire Council to the key issues be finalised in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning.

Reason for the decision

To input into the Wiltshire Local Plan as it moves towards examination thereby fulfilling the Council's obligations under the Duty to Cooperate.

16 BLANDFORD WASTE MANAGEMENT CENTRE - UPDATE ON FINANCE AND LAND ACQUISITION

- (a) That the financial position of the project and progress to date be noted.
- (b) That the draft Order documents, including the latest draft Order Plan, as attached to the report of 7 November 2023, be agreed.

Reason for the decision

To deliver works approved by Cabinet to secure critical infrastructure in Blandford for the development of a strategic waste transfer facility in central Dorset which would provide the capacity to maximise the benefits of operational efficiency and resilience to provide business continuity.

17 WEYMOUTH REGENERATION - LEVELLING UP FUNDING AND APPROACH

- (a) That the successful bid to the Levelling Up fund and the approach and progress to date, be noted.
- (b) That the sum of £3.5m, be allocated to match funding as proposed to Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DHLUC) in the Council's LUF (Levelling Up Fund) Bid from the approved Capital Programme.
- (c) That subject to agreement of DHLUC, authority be delegated to the Executive Director of Place, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Levelling Up and the Executive Director of Corporate Development, the decision to reallocate Levelling Up Funds from the proposed New Bond Street scheme to Weymouth Bowl site scheme, and other sites as appropriate.
- (d) That a further report to agree the approaches to development on the relevant sites be presented to a future meeting of Cabinet.

Reason for the decision

This decision brings members up to date on the progress of the Weymouth Waterside Regeneration bid to the Levelling Up Fund and takes the next steps to allow further progress.

21 ACQUISITION OF THE FREEHOLD FOR LEASED LAND AT WOODLEAZE, FURZEHILL

That the recommendations set out in the exempt report to Cabinet of 7 November 2023, be approved.

Reason for the decision

To agree the approach for the acquisition of leased land at Woodleaze, Furzehill.

22 THE PROPOSED SALE OF CLAPCOTTS FARMSTEAD, SPETISBURY

That the recommendations set out in the exempt report to Cabinet of 7 November 2023, be approved.

Reason for the decision

To agree the approach for the proposed sale of the Clapcotts Farmstead, Spetisbury.

23 GRANT FUNDING FROM CIL FOR NITROGEN MITIGATION, POOLE HARBOUR CATCHMENT

That the recommendations set out in the exempt report to Cabinet of 7 November 2023, be approved.

Reason for the decision

To agree the approach for grant funding from CIL for nitrogen mitigation, Poole Harbour Catchment.