

## **Cabinet – 1 March 2024**

### **Question from Councillor P Kimber**

#### Community Asset Transfer Policy Review –

Dorset Council Dorset Council cabinet have approved a revised Community Asset Transfer Policy and the processes for assessing and determining Community Asset Transfer applications. Dorset Council's Community Asset Transfer Policy seeks to recognise and maximise the benefit of devolution of assets to local communities, particularly to Town and Parish Councils. The policy supports the delivery of this devolution by providing clear guidance and support for applicants.

**Dorset Council aims to increase local control over assets**, enabling assets to further meet the **needs of local communities** and enhance local Neighbourhood plans.

This review of the Community Asset Transfer policy and processes was required to incorporate it into existing reporting and decision-making processes within the Dorset Council Assets and Regeneration. The revised Policy makes the process simpler for applicants and ensures the process is transparent. A copy of the Full Cabinet report is available on the Dorset Council website.

#### Question to Cabinet

Portland Town Council welcomes the decision of the Cabinet to adopt the new policy and would welcome further discussions on the transfer of Portland assets.

In the meantime, would Dorset Council be able to provide a detailed list of all Dorset Council Portland Assets to the Town Council?

### **Question from Cllr G Taylor**

With reference to agenda item 10: Local Development Scheme Update

Speaking as a resident and Town Councillor for Weymouth I would like to thank Dorset Council for the update on the revised schedule and approach to producing a new Local Plan. In Weymouth we are eagerly awaiting the new plan as our existing Local Plan (from the Borough Council) is losing weight in planning terms due to its age. In Weymouth, a dedicated group including local residents are pressing forward with the Weymouth Neighbourhood Plan with the goal that this should be 'made' via a referendum in 2024 – this plan proposes allocating sites to address the chronic shortage of affordable homes but can only go so far as it cannot address Strategic Sites. We look forward to active engagement with Dorset Council Planning Team to ensure alignment of the Weymouth Neighbourhood Plan and Dorset Local Plan.

I have 2 Questions:

1. How will the revised LP address the chronic shortage of affordable homes for rent in Weymouth, identified in the Weymouth Housing Needs Analysis?
2. Is it Dorset Councils intention, as part of this process, to **update** the Weymouth Master Plan which is an extant Supplementary Planning Document?