

PLACE AND RESOURCES OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 22 MAY 2025

Present: Cllrs Andy Canning (Chair), Andrew Starr (Vice-Chair), Piers Brown, Simon Gibson, Sherry Jespersen, David Northam, Roland Tarr, Val Potheary and David Taylor

Apologies: Cllrs Richard Crabb

Also present: Cllr Jon Andrews, Cllr Shane Bartlett, Cllr Richard Biggs, Cllr Simon Clifford, Cllr Carole Jones, Cllr Steve Murcer, Cllr James Vitali and Cllr Ben Wilson

Also present remotely: Cllr Alex Brenton, Cllr Ray Bryan, Cllr Chris Kippax, Cllr Jane Somper, Cllr Gill Taylor and Cllr Andy Todd

Officers present (for all or part of the meeting):

Matthew Piles (Corporate Director - Strategic Director - Weymouth 2040), Graham Duggan (Head of Community & Public Protection), Kirstie Snow (Business Partner - External Affairs) and Nick Webster (Head of Growth and Regeneration)

Officers present remotely (for all or part of the meeting):

Steven Ford (Corporate Director for Strategy, Performance and Sustainability)

1. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting were agreed as correct record and signed by the Chair

2. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest

3. Public Participation

There was no public participation.

4. Questions from Councillors

There were no questions from Councillors.

5. Economic Growth Strategy

The Head of Growth & Economic Regeneration presented the Dorset Economic Growth Strategy, highlighting challenges and opportunities emphasising alignment with government policy and focusing on strengths within the local economy.

The discussion focussed on the following key areas and points:

- The balance of support between large and small businesses.
- Highlighted the need for universities and colleges to boost local skills and seize opportunities.
- The role of agriculture and how prominent it was in the strategy.
- The importance of digital infrastructure in supporting economic growth.
- The significance of tourism and hospitality in the local economy.
- Identified transport infrastructure as a barrier to growth and reviewed the resources allocated to address it.
- How delivery and impact would be monitored.
- Raised issues around grid capacity and power supply and explored green energy opportunities.
- Explored the potential of setting up an investment office.
- The social value that could come from generating green energy.
- The need for affordable housing to support the workforce.
- Noted concerns about vacant properties and unused business spaces.
- Highlighted the importance of STEM subjects in driving future growth.
- Observed that investment and focus were concentrated in the southern parts of the county.
- Considered the role of public transport in supporting economic development.
- Reviewed the support available for businesses and new entrepreneurs to help drive growth.

6. Consultation Report for Anti-social Behaviour Related Public Spaces Protection Orders

Ahead of the item the meeting extension was proposed by Cllr Jespersen, seconded by Cllr Taylor and unanimously agreed.

The Head of Community and Public Protection presented the report on extending and adopting the Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO's) detailed in the report following a period of consultation.

Following the presentation the committee debated the item with the following considerations;

- The engagement and consultation process was discussed with an emphasis on the importance of awareness
- The resources needed for enforcement and the cost of enforcement
- The funding model around enforcement
- The role of the enforcement officer
- The impact of these orders on the local environment

Following the debate the committee were unanimously in support of the adoption of the PSPO's

7. Commissioned Grants for Direct Community Benefit Policy

The Business Partner for Communities & Partnerships introduced the item alongside the Cabinet Member for Finance and capital strategy.

The discussion covered of the following areas.

- Clarification was sought on the definition of 'direct community benefit'.
- The feasibility of parish councils acting as bank accounts for small organisations was discussed.
- The resources available for monitoring were considered.
- The accuracy of statements regarding the devolution of Community Infrastructure Levy and Section 106 funds to town and parish councils was questioned.
- The exclusion of religious groups and funding for organisations operating outside the Dorset Council area was raised

The Committee unanimously approved the papers recommendations.

8. **Place and Resources Overview Committee Work Programme**

The Committee reviewed the work programme.

9. **Urgent items**

There were no urgent items.

10. **Exempt Business**

There was no exempt business.

Duration of meeting: 10.00 am - 1.38 pm

Chairman

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