



The Cabinet Forward Plan October 2025 to January 2026 (Publication date – 10 SEPTEMBER 2025)

Explanatory Note:

This Forward Plan contains future items to be considered by the Cabinet and Council. It is published 28 days before the next meeting of the Committee. The plan includes items for the meeting including key decisions. Each item shows if it is 'open' to the public or to be considered in a private part of the meeting.

Definition of Key Decisions

Key decisions are defined in Dorset Council's Constitution as decisions of the Cabinet which are likely to -

- (a) to result in the relevant local authority incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the relevant local authority's budget for the service or function to which the decision relates (**Thresholds - £500k**); or
- (b) to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards or electoral divisions in the area of the relevant local authority."

In determining the meaning of "*significant*" for these purposes the Council will have regard to any guidance issued by the Secretary of State in accordance with section 9Q of the Local Government Act 2000 Act. Officers will consult with lead members to determine significance and sensitivity.

Cabinet Members and Portfolios 2024/25

Nick Ireland	Leader and Cabinet Member for Climate, Performance and Safeguarding
Richard Biggs	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Property & Assets and Economic Growth
Jon Andrews	Place Services
Shane Bartlett	Planning and Emergency Planning
Simon Clifford	Finance & Capital Strategy
Ryan Hope	Customer, Culture and Community Engagement
Steve Robinson	Adult Social Care
Clare Sutton	Children's Services, Education & Skills
Gill Taylor	Health and Housing.
Ben Wilson	Corporate Development and Transformation

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
October 2025					

Dorset Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2028 Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open Dorset Council has a legal requirement to create a Domestic Abuse Strategy as set out in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. This was the second Strategy the Council had written such legislation came into place. The Strategy requires sign-off from the Council.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 9 Oct 2025	People and Health Overview Committee 15 Sep 2025	Cabinet Member for Health and Housing	<i>Andy Frost, Service Manager for Community Safety andy.frost@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Ian Grant, Programme Coordinator ian.grant@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, People - Adults (Jonathan Price)</i>
Age Friendly Communities Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open To provide an update on the Age Friendly Communities Programme.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 9 Oct 2025	Health and Wellbeing Board 24 Sep 2025 People and Health Overview Committee 15 Sep 2025	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care	<i>Sam Poole, Interim Corporate Director for Commissioning & Improvement samuel.poole@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, People - Adults (Jonathan Price)</i>
Empty Homes Strategy Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open This report will introduce a strategy which sets out how the Council intends to bring long term empty properties back into use.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 9 Oct 2025	People and Health Overview Committee 15 Sep 2025 Cabinet 9 Oct 2025	Cabinet Member for Health and Housing	<i>Steven March, Service Manager for Housing Standards steven.march@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, People - Adults (Jonathan Price)</i>

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
Dorset Council - Farms Estates Strategy Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open Draft strategy for Cabinet consideration and approval following development and appraisal by the Farm Advisory Panel.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 9 Oct 2025		Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Property & Assets and Economic Growth	David Haynes, Senior Rural Estates Surveyor david.haynes@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Jessica Maskrey, Head of Service – Assets & Property jessica.maskrey@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, Place (Jan Britton)
Developer contribution funding for community facilities at Mampitts Green, Shaftesbury Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open To provide Cabinet members with an update on progress with the award of s106 developer contribution monies for the Mampitts Green project, Shaftesbury. To secure agreement of funding milestone variations, and provisions to enable early funding drawdown to support progression of the project	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 9 Oct 2025		Cabinet Member for Planning and Emergency Planning	Hilary Jordan, Service Manager for Spatial Planning hilary.jordan@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Andrew Galpin, Infrastructure & Delivery Planning Manager andrew.galpin@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, Place (Jan Britton)

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
New Forest Mitigation Strategy Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open To seek agreement to adopt the New Forest Mitigation Strategy and apply a tariff to qualifying development to help fund the Strategic Access, Management and Monitoring projects identified in the strategy, thereby allowing the Council to give planning permission in the east of the council area.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 9 Oct 2025		Cabinet Member for Place Services	<i>Hilary Jordan, Service Manager for Spatial Planning hilary.jordan@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, Place (Jan Britton)</i>
Transformation Investment and Our Future Council Delivery update Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open To seek Cabinet agreement to adopt the refreshed Transformation Strategy and OFC Delivery Model, which builds on existing progress under the Our Future Council programme. It strengthens our approach to organisational sustainability, targeted investment and service redesign with continued focus on enabling technologies and digital delivery to support budget balancing.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 9 Oct 2025		Cabinet Member for Corporate Development and Transformation	<i>Lisa Cotton, Corporate Director for Customer and Cultural Services lisa.cotton@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Chief Executive</i>

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Get Dorset and BCP Working Plan Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open To gain Cabinet approval for Dorset and BCP's Get Britain Working Plan and the related connect to work plan, and delegate authority for subsequent changes and allocation of further funding.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 9 Oct 2025		Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Property & Assets and Economic Growth	<i>Jon Bird, Service Manager for Economic Development and Skills jon.bird@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Nick Webster, Head of Growth and Regeneration nicholas.webster@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, Place (Jan Britton)</i>
Aspire Adoption Annual Report Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open To consider the Aspire Adoption Annual Report.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 9 Oct 2025		Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills	<i>Jane MacLennan jane.maclennan@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, People - Children (Paul Dempsey)</i>
Council Tax for Care Leavers Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 9 Oct 2025		Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills	<i>Jane MacLennan jane.maclennan@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Paula Golding, Corporate Director for Care and Protection paula.golding@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, People - Children (Paul Dempsey)</i>

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
Children's Services - Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services progress update Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open An update to Cabinet on Children's Services progress and impact against the post inspection action plan from the May 2025 inspection of Children's Services. This includes an updated "Self-Evaluation" from Dorset to Ofsted.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 9 Oct 2025		Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills	<i>Richard Belcher, Service Manager - Strategic Partnerships</i> <i>richard.belcher@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, People - Children (Paul Dempsey)</i>
Children's Services Capital Programme Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Part exempt Update on various elements of the Children's Services Capital programme, including the SEND programme, with a view to clarifying or seeking delegations to allow the programmes to progress.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 9 Oct 2025		Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills, Cabinet Member for Finance & Capital Strategy	<i>Paul Scothern, Service Manager Capital Commissioning</i> <i>paul.scothern@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, People - Children (Paul Dempsey)</i>

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
Modification of Public Health Contracts over £500k: 0-19 Public Health Nursing and Sexual Health Services Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Fully exempt Both 0-19 Children and Young People Public Health Nursing Service and the Integrated Sexual Health Service contracts are currently due to end on 30 September 2026. Due to delays in procurement planning arising from the disaggregation of Public Health functions, approval is sought to extend the Integrated Sexual Health Service contract by 6 months and the 1-19 public Health Nursing Service contract by 12 months. This will enable appropriate staging and completion of procurement activity.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 9 Oct 2025		Cabinet Member for Health and Housing	<i>Jane Horne, Consultant in Public Health</i> <i>jane.horne@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Director of Public Health and Prevention (Sam Crowe)</i>
November					

Council Plan Progress Report Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open A bi-annual report to Cabinet on Council Plan delivery.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 11 Nov 2025		Leader and Cabinet Member for Climate, Performance and Safeguarding	<i>Liz Crocker, Head of Strategy</i> <i>liz.crocker@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Chief Executive</i>
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Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
Quarter 2 financial management report Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open To consider the Quarter 2 Financial Monitoring Report 2024/25.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 11 Nov 2025		Cabinet Member for Finance & Capital Strategy	<i>Sean Cremer, Corporate Director for Finance and Commercial</i> <i>sean.cremer@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Heather Lappin, Head of Strategic Finance</i> <i>heather.lappin@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i>
Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) and budget strategy Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open To consider the Medium Term Financial (MTFP) and budget strategy.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 11 Nov 2025		Cabinet Member for Finance & Capital Strategy	<i>Sean Cremer, Corporate Director for Finance and Commercial</i> <i>sean.cremer@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Heather Lappin, Head of Strategic Finance</i> <i>heather.lappin@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i>
Dorset Care Record Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open Approval for Dorset Council's continued participation in the Dorset Care Record (DCR).	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 11 Nov 2025		Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care	<i>Sam Poole, Interim Corporate Director for Commissioning & Improvement</i> <i>samuel.poole@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Jen Cook, Lawyer - Contracts and Commercial</i> <i>jennifer.h.cook@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, People - Adults (Jonathan Price)</i>

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
Report on Pipeline of Asset Disposals Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Part exempt To consider a report on the Pipeline of Asset Disposals.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 11 Nov 2025		Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Property & Assets and Economic Growth	<i>Carly Galloway, Service Manager Business Operations carly.galloway@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Jessica Maskrey, Head of Service – Assets & Property jessica.maskrey@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, Place (Jan Britton)</i>
December					

Dorset Tenancy Strategy Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open A tenancy strategy to set out the kinds and circumstances for different types of tenancies that should be provided to social rented housing tenants, including arrangements for fixed term tenancies, for registered providers which hold stock in the Dorset local authority area, to pay attention to when formulating their tenancy policies.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 9 Dec 2025	People and Health Overview Committee 3 Nov 2025	Cabinet Member for Health and Housing	<i>Sharon Attwater, Service Manager for Housing Strategy and Performance sharon.attwater@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Andrew Billany, Corporate Director for Housing andrew.billany@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, People - Adults (Jonathan Price)</i>
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Towards a new model of day opportunities transformation Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open To consider the results of the consultation on the future of day services in Dorset and use this information to shape a way forward for these services. The consultation was launched on a set of proposals across Dorset arising from Cabinet's agreement in principle to the new model for these services at its meeting on 10 September 2024.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 9 Dec 2025	People and Health Overview Committee 3 Nov 2025	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care	<i>Sarah Perrett, Commissioning Manager - Micro Provider & Voluntary Sector Development</i> sarah.perrett@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, <i>Karen Stephens, Interim Head of Service - Market Relationships, Major Contracts, and Over 65's</i> karen.stephens@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk <i>Executive Director, People - Adults (Jonathan Price)</i>
Partnership Principles and Statement of Reasonable Expectations Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open To approve a set of Partnership Principles with Community Partners and To approve a Statement of Reasonable Expectations with Town Councils	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 9 Dec 2025	People and Health Overview Committee TBC Place and Resources Overview Committee TBC	Leader and Cabinet Member for Climate, Performance and Safeguarding	<i>Steven Ford, Corporate Director for Strategy, Performance and Sustainability</i> steven.ford@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, <i>Jennifer Lewis, Head of Strategic Communications and Engagement</i> jennifer.lewis@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk <i>Chief Executive</i>

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
Dorset Local Nature Recovery Strategy Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open To seek Cabinet's approval for the final Dorset Local Nature Recovery Strategy, prepared in accordance with the Environment Act 2021 and associated regulations. The strategy sets out a spatial framework and priorities for nature recovery across Dorset, developed through extensive stakeholder engagement and evidence gathering. Approval will enable formal publication and implementation, supporting biodiversity enhancement, climate resilience and alignment with national and local environmental objectives	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 9 Dec 2025		Leader and Cabinet Member for Climate, Performance and Safeguarding	<i>Bridget Betts, Environmental Advice Manager bridget.betts@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, Place (Jan Britton)</i>
Dorset National Landscape Management Key Decision - Yes Public Access – Open To adopt the Management Plan 2025-30, which sets out a strategic framework for conserving and enhancing the natural beauty, biodiversity, and culture heritage of the Dorset national Landscape, in alignment with national guidance and local priorities	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 9 Dec 2025		Leader and Cabinet Member for Climate, Performance and Safeguarding	<i>Bridget Betts, Environmental Advice Manager bridget.betts@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, Place (Jan Britton)</i>

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2026

February

Quarter 3 financial management report Key Decision - No Public Access - Open Quarter 3 financial management report.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 27 Jan 2026		Cabinet Member for Finance & Capital Strategy	<i>Sean Cremer, Corporate Director for Finance and Commercial</i> sean.cremer@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, <i>Heather Lappin, Head of Strategic Finance</i> heather.lappin@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk
Dorset Council Housing Allocation Policy Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open Proposed revisions to the councils Housing Allocations Policy, which governs how social housing is allocated to applicants on the housing register. The revised policy update aims to ensure fairness, transparency and compliance with legal requirements while addressing local housing need. Key changes may include amendments to priority criteria, eligibility requirements, changes to relevant legislation and operational procedures.	Decision Maker Dorset Council	Decision Date 10 Feb 2026	People and Health Overview Committee 3 Nov 2025 Cabinet 9 Dec 2025	Cabinet Member for Health and Housing	<i>Sarah How, Service Manager for Housing Solutions</i> sarah.how@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk <i>Executive Director, People - Adults (Jonathan Price)</i>

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
Medium Term Financial Plan and Budget Strategy report Key Decision - No Public Access - Open	Decision Maker Dorset Council	Decision Date 10 Feb 2026	Cabinet 27 Jan 2026 Place and Resources Scrutiny Committee 22 Jan 2026 People and Health Scrutiny Committee 23 Jan 2026	Cabinet Member for Finance & Capital Strategy	<i>Sean Cremer, Corporate Director for Finance and Commercial</i> <i>sean.cremer@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Heather Lappin, Head of Strategic Finance</i> <i>heather.lappin@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i>
May					

Financial Provision for the Voluntary Community Sector Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open The current 5-year financial agreement for the VCS will be coming to an end in October 2026. This paper will propose the new support for them.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date	People and Health Overview Committee 15 Sep 2025	Cabinet Member for Customer, Culture and Community Engagement	<i>Laura Cornette, Business Partner - Communities and Partnerships</i> <i>Laura.cornette@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Jennifer Lowis, Head of Strategic Communications and Engagement</i> <i>jennifer.louis@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, Corporate Development - Section 151 Officer</i>
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Private/Exempt Items for Decision

Each item in the plan above marked as 'private' will refer to one of the following paragraphs.

1. Information relating to any individual.
2. Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual.
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).
4. Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under, the authority.
5. Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.
6. Information which reveals that the shadow council proposes:-
 - (a) to give under any enactment a notice under or by virtue of which requirements are imposed on a person; or
 - (b) to make an order or direction under any enactment.
7. Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime.