



## **The Cabinet Forward Plan - December 2025 to March 2026 (Publication date – 11 NOVEMBER 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**

|                       |                                                                            |
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| <b>Nick Ireland</b>   | Leader and Cabinet Member for Climate, Performance and Safeguarding        |
| <b>Richard Biggs</b>  | Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Property & Assets and Economic Growth |
| <b>Jon Andrews</b>    | Place Services                                                             |
| <b>Shane Bartlett</b> | Planning and Emergency Planning                                            |
| <b>Simon Clifford</b> | Finance & Capital Strategy                                                 |
| <b>Ryan Hope</b>      | Customer, Culture and Community Engagement                                 |
| <b>Steve Robinson</b> | Adult Social Care                                                          |
| <b>Clare Sutton</b>   | Children's Services, Education & Skills                                    |
| <b>Gill Taylor</b>    | Health and Housing.                                                        |
| <b>Ben Wilson</b>     | 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                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
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| <b>December</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                         |                                           |                                                     |                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Council Plan Progress Report</b><br><br><b>Key Decision - Yes</b><br><b>Public Access - Open</b><br><br>A bi-annual report to Cabinet on Council Plan delivery.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <b>Decision Maker</b><br><b>Cabinet</b> | <b>Decision Date</b><br><b>9 Dec 2025</b> |                                                     | Leader and Cabinet Member for Climate, Performance and Safeguarding | <i>Liz Crocker, Head of Strategy</i><br><i>liz.crocker@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i><br><i>Chief Executive</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Towards a new model of day opportunities</b><br><br><b>Key Decision - Yes</b><br><b>Public Access - Open</b><br><br>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. | <b>Decision Maker</b><br><b>Cabinet</b> | <b>Decision Date</b><br><b>9 Dec 2025</b> | Health and Wellbeing Board<br>19 Nov 2025           | Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care                                | <i>Sarah Perrett, Commissioning Manager - Micro Provider &amp; Voluntary Sector Development</i><br><i>sarah.perrett@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> , <i>Karen Stephens, Interim Head of Service - Market Relationships, Major Contracts, and Over 65's</i><br><i>karen.stephens@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i><br><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                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
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| <b>Partnership Principles and Statement of Reasonable Expectations</b><br><br><b>Key Decision</b> - Yes<br><b>Public Access</b> - Open<br>To approve a set of Partnership Principles with Community Partners and<br>To approve a Statement of Reasonable Expectations with Town Councils                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Decision Maker Cabinet | Decision Date 9 Dec 2025 | Place and Resources Overview Committee<br>24 Nov 2025 | Leader and Cabinet Member for Climate, Performance and Safeguarding | <i>Steven Ford, Corporate Director for Strategy, Performance and Sustainability</i><br><i>steven.ford@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Jennifer Lewis, Head of Strategic Communications and Engagement</i><br><i>jennifer.lewis@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i><br><i>Chief Executive</i> |
| <b>Dorset Local Nature Recovery Strategy</b><br><br><b>Key Decision</b> - Yes<br><b>Public Access</b> - Open<br>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 | Place and Resources Overview Committee<br>24 Nov 2025 | Leader and Cabinet Member for Climate, Performance and Safeguarding | <i>Bridget Betts, Environmental Advice Manager</i><br><i>bridget.betts@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i><br><i>Executive Director, Place (Jan Britton)</i>                                                                                                                       |

| Subject / Decision                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Decision Maker         | Date the Decision is Due | Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s) | Portfolio Holder                                                    | Officer Contact                                                                                                                                                   |
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| <p><b>Dorset National Landscape Management</b></p> <p><b>Key Decision</b> - Yes<br/><b>Public Access</b> - Open</p> <p>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</p> | Decision Maker Cabinet | Decision Date 9 Dec 2025 |                                                     | Leader and Cabinet Member for Climate, Performance and Safeguarding | <p><i>Bridget Betts, Environmental Advice Manager</i><br/> <i>bridget.betts@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i><br/> <i>Executive Director, Place (Jan Britton)</i></p>      |
| <p><b>Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership Closure</b></p> <p><b>Key Decision</b> - Yes<br/><b>Public Access</b> - Open</p> <p>To gain Cabinet approval for the final closure arrangements of the Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership (DLEP) including the receiving of legacy funds held by DLEP and the resignation of Cabinet Members from DLEP directorships.</p>                 | Decision Maker Cabinet | Decision Date 9 Dec 2025 |                                                     | Cabinet Member for Finance & Capital Strategy                       | <p><i>Nick Webster, Head of Growth and Regeneration</i><br/> <i>nicholas.webster@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i><br/> <i>Executive Director, Place (Jan Britton)</i></p> |

| Subject / Decision                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Decision Maker                | Date the Decision is Due         | Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s) | Portfolio Holder                              | Officer Contact                                                                                                                                                                                       |
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| <b>Average Speed Cameras - A30 Sherborne dual Carriageway</b><br><br><b>Key Decision - Yes</b><br><b>Public Access - Open</b><br><br>The introduction of new average speed cameras on the A30 Sherborne dual carriageway is aimed at improving road safety. Due to the significant overall cost, this initiative constitutes a key decision. | <b>Decision Maker Cabinet</b> | <b>Decision Date 9 Dec 2025</b>  |                                                     | Cabinet Member for Place Services             | <i>Tony Burden, Road Safety Manager</i><br><i>tony.burden@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i><br><i>Executive Director, Place (Jan Britton)</i>                                                                  |
| <b>2026</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                               |                                  |                                                     |                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>January</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                               |                                  |                                                     |                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Quarter 3 financial management report</b><br><br><b>Key Decision - No</b><br><b>Public Access - Open</b><br><br>Quarter 3 financial management report.                                                                                                                                                                                    | <b>Decision Maker Cabinet</b> | <b>Decision Date 27 Jan 2026</b> |                                                     | Cabinet Member for Finance & Capital Strategy | <i>Sean Cremer, Corporate Director for Finance and Commercial</i><br><i>sean.cremer@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Heather Lappin, Head of Strategic Finance</i><br><i>heather.lappin@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> |

| Subject / Decision                                                                                                          | Decision Maker                                 | Date the Decision is Due                   | Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)                                                                                                  | Portfolio Holder                                    | Officer Contact                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
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| <b>Medium Term Financial Plan and Budget Strategy report</b><br><br><b>Key Decision</b> - No<br><b>Public Access</b> - Open | <b>Decision Maker</b><br><b>Dorset Council</b> | <b>Decision Date</b><br><b>10 Feb 2026</b> | Cabinet<br>27 Jan 2026<br><br>Place and Resources<br>Scrutiny Committee<br>19 Jan 2026<br><br>People and Health Scrutiny<br>Committee<br>21 Jan 2026 | Cabinet Member for<br>Finance & Capital<br>Strategy | <i>Sean Cremer, Corporate<br/> Director for Finance and<br/> Commercial<br/> sean.cremer@dorsetcouncil<br/> .gov.uk, Heather Lappin,<br/> Head of Strategic Finance<br/> heather.lappin@dorsetcoun<br/> cil.gov.uk</i> |
| <b>March</b>                                                                                                                |                                                |                                            |                                                                                                                                                      |                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

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| <b>Dorset Council Housing Allocation Policy</b><br><br><b>Key Decision</b> - Yes<br><b>Public Access</b> - Open<br><br>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. | <b>Decision Maker</b><br><b>Dorset Council</b> | <b>Decision Date</b><br><b>16 Apr 2026</b> | People and Health<br>Overview Committee<br>2 Feb 2026<br><br>Cabinet<br>3 Mar 2026 | Cabinet Member for<br>Health and Housing | <i>Sarah How, Service<br/> Manager for Housing<br/> Solutions<br/> sarah.how@dorsetcouncil.g<br/> ov.uk<br/> Executive Director, People -<br/> Adults (Jonathan Price)</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                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
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| <p><b>Dorset Tenancy Strategy</b></p> <p><b>Key Decision</b> - Yes<br/><b>Public Access</b> - Open</p> <p>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.</p> | Decision Maker<br>Cabinet | Decision Date<br>3 Mar 2026 | People and Health<br>Overview Committee<br>3 Nov 2025 | Cabinet Member for<br>Health and Housing | <p><i>Sharon Attwater, Service Manager for Housing Strategy and Performance</i><br/> <a href="mailto:sharon.attwater@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk">sharon.attwater@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</a>, <i>Andrew Billany, Corporate Director for Housing</i><br/> <a href="mailto:andrew.billany@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk">andrew.billany@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</a><br/> <i>Executive Director, People - Adults (Jonathan Price)</i></p> |
| <p><b>Housing Standards Enforcement Policy &amp; Statement of Principles for Determining Financial Penalties</b></p> <p><b>Key Decision</b> - Yes<br/><b>Public Access</b> - Open</p> <p>To agree the adoption of a new Housing Standards Enforcement Policy &amp; Statement of Principles for Determining Financial Penalties to account for legislative changes being enacted under the Renters Rights Act 2025.</p>                                         | Decision Maker<br>Cabinet | Decision Date<br>3 Mar 2026 | People and Health<br>Overview Committee<br>2 Feb 2026 | Cabinet Member for<br>Health and Housing | <p><i>Steven March, Service Manager for Housing Standards</i><br/> <a href="mailto:steven.march@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk">steven.march@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</a>, <i>Andrew Billany, Corporate Director for Housing</i><br/> <a href="mailto:andrew.billany@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk">andrew.billany@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</a><br/> <i>Executive Director, People - Adults (Jonathan Price)</i></p>                         |

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| <b>Financial Provision for the Voluntary Community Sector</b><br><br><b>Key Decision - Yes</b><br><b>Public Access - Open</b><br><br>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. | <b>Decision Maker</b><br><b>Cabinet</b> | <b>Decision Date</b> | People and Health<br>Overview Committee<br>15 Sep 2025 | Cabinet Member for Customer, Culture and Community Engagement | <i>Laura Cornette, Business Partner - Communities and Partnerships</i><br><i>Laura.cornette@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Jennifer Lewis, Head of Strategic Communications and Engagement</i><br><i>jennifer.lewis@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i><br><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.