



The Cabinet Forward Plan - January to April 2026 (Publication date – 19 DECEMBER 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
2026					
January					
Quarter 3 financial management report Key Decision - No Public Access - Open Quarter 3 financial management report.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 29 Jan 2026		Cabinet Member for Finance & Capital Strategy	<i>Sean Cremer, Corporate Director for Finance and Commercial</i> sean.cremer@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk
Medium Term Financial Plan and Budget Strategy report Key Decision - No Public Access - Open	Decision Maker Dorset Council	Decision Date 10 Feb 2026	Cabinet 29 Jan 2026 Place and Resources Scrutiny Committee 22 Jan 2026 People and Health Scrutiny Committee 21 Jan 2026	Cabinet Member for Finance & Capital Strategy	<i>Sean Cremer, Corporate Director for Finance and Commercial</i> sean.cremer@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk
Weymouth Neighbourhood Plan 2021 - 2038 Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open Item relates to the making (adoption) of the plan subject to a favourable outcome in the referendum being held on 4 December 2025.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 29 Jan 2026		Cabinet Member for Planning and Emergency Planning	<i>Ed Gerry, Community Planning Manager</i> ed.gerry@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
Climate programme capital workstreams over £500K Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open Seek approval/delegated authority for specific climate capital workstreams over £500k threshold.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 29 Jan 2026		Leader and Cabinet Member for Climate, Performance and Safeguarding	<i>Steven Ford, Corporate Director for Strategy, Performance and Sustainability</i> <i>steven.ford@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Antony Littlechild, Sustainability Team Manager</i> <i>antony.littlechild@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Section 151 Officer</i>
Melbury Abbas and Cann Neighbourhood development Plan Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open Item relates to making (adoption) of the plan subject to a favourable outcome in the referendum being held on 4 December 2025.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 29 Jan 2026		Cabinet Member for Planning and Emergency Planning	<i>Ed Gerry, Community Planning Manager</i> <i>ed.gerry@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, Place (Jan Britton)</i>
New Forest National Park Local Plan consultation response Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open A response to the New Forest National Park Local Plan consultation.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 29 Jan 2026		Cabinet Member for Planning and Emergency Planning	<i>Terry Sneller, Strategic Planning Manager</i> <i>terry.sneller@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <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
East Devon Local Plan consultation response Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open Response to East Devon District Council Local Plan consultation.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 29 Jan 2026		Cabinet Member for Planning and Emergency Planning	<i>Mike Garrity, Corporate Director for Planning</i> <i>mike.garrity@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Hilary Jordan, Service Manager for Spatial Planning</i> <i>hilary.jordan@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, Place (Jan Britton)</i>
Active Travel Infrastructure Plan Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open The Active Travel Infrastructure Plan sets out the network for walking, cycling and wheeling. This includes identified improvements and guides future investment decisions. The plan has been reviewed by the Place and Resources Overview Committee.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 29 Jan 2026		Cabinet Member for Place Services	<i>Christopher Peck, Principal Transport Planner</i> <i>christopher.peck@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Jack Wiltshire, Corporate Director for Highways and Engineering</i> <i>jack.wiltshire@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, Place (Jan Britton)</i>
School Admission Arrangements 2027-2028 Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open The annual statutory duty to determine the Admissions Arrangements and the Co-ordinated school transfer scheme for the academic year 2027-28.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 29 Jan 2026		Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills	<i>Ed Denham, School Admissions Manager</i> <i>ed.denham@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, People - Children (Paul Dempsey)</i>

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Independent Reviewing Officer Annual Report Key Decision - No Public Access - Open To receive the Independent Reviewing Officer Annual Report	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 29 Jan 2026		Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills	<i>Sunita Khattra-Hall, Corporate Director for Quality Assurance and Safeguarding Families</i> <i>sunita.khattra-hall@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, People - Children (Paul Dempsey)</i>
LADO (Local Authority Safeguarding Officer) Annual Report Key Decision - No Public Access - Open To receive the LADO Annual Report.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 29 Jan 2026		Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills	<i>Sunita Khattra-Hall, Corporate Director for Quality Assurance and Safeguarding Families</i> <i>sunita.khattra-hall@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, People - Children (Paul Dempsey)</i>
Coombe House Annual Performance Report 2025 Key Decision - No Public Access - Open To consider the annual performance report produced by the Dorset Centre of Excellence.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 29 Jan 2026	Shareholder Committee for the Dorset Centre of Excellence (DCOE) 1 Dec 2025	Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills	<i>Executive Director, People - Children (Paul Dempsey)</i>
March					

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
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 16 Apr 2026	People and Health Overview Committee 2 Feb 2026 Cabinet 3 Mar 2026	Cabinet Member for Health and Housing	<i>Sarah How, Service Manager for Housing Solutions</i> <i>sarah.how@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, People - Adults (Jonathan Price)</i>
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 3 Mar 2026	People and Health Overview Committee 2 Feb 2026	Cabinet Member for Health and Housing	<i>Sharon Attwater, Service Manager for Housing Strategy and Performance</i> <i>sharon.attwater@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Iain Sim, Interim Corporate Director for Housing</i> <i>iain.sim@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
Working with Communities Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open To endorse the approach to working with communities in 2026 and 2027. To approve a Statement of Reasonable Expectations with Town Councils	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 3 Mar 2026		Leader and Cabinet Member for Climate, Performance and Safeguarding	<i>Jennifer Lowis, Head of Strategic Communications and Engagement</i> <i>jennifer.lowis@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Sam Crowe, Director of Public Health</i> <i>sam.crowe@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Chief Executive</i>
Housing Standards Enforcement Policy & Statement of Principles for Determining Financial Penalties Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open To agree the adoption of a new Housing Standards Enforcement Policy & Statement of Principles for Determining Financial Penalties to account for legislative changes being enacted under the Renters Rights Act 2025.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 3 Mar 2026	People and Health Overview Committee 2 Feb 2026	Cabinet Member for Health and Housing	<i>Steven March, Service Manager for Housing Standards</i> <i>steven.march@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Iain Sim, Interim Corporate Director for Housing</i> <i>ian.sim@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, People - Adults (Jonathan Price)</i>
Local Authority Housing Fund (LAHF) 4 Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open In the Spending Review in June, the Government announced a fourth round of the Local Authority Housing Fund (LAHF) 4 committing £950m to deliver a four-year programme nationally (from April 2026). This	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 3 Mar 2026		Cabinet Member for Health and Housing	<i>Paul Derrien, Housing Enabling Team Leader</i> <i>paul.derrien@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Vikki Jeffrey, Senior Housing Funding and Delivery Officer</i> <i>vikki.jeffrey@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 will inform Cabinet that DC had been awarded £662,000 of capital grant and £4, 796 of revenue grant from MHLG to acquire 4 properties. Two of these properties were to be used as settled housing for refugees from Afghanistan and the other two to be used as temporary accommodation for those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.					
Towards a new model of day opportunities Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Fully exempt 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 3 Mar 2026	Health and Wellbeing Board 11 Feb 2026 People and Health Overview Committee 2 Feb 2026	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care	<i>Sarah Perrett, Commissioning Manager - Micro Provider & Voluntary Sector Development sarah.perrett@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Karen Stephens, Interim Head of Service - Market Relationships, Major Contracts, and Over 65's karen.stephens@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, People - Adults (Jonathan Price)</i>
E-scooter hire scheme: Weymouth, Portland and Dorchester; and Upton and Corfe Mullen Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 3 Mar 2026	Place and Resources Overview Committee 5 Feb 2026	Cabinet Member for Place Services	<i>Christopher Whitehouse, Projects Team Manager christopher.whitehouse@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk 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
To consider any recommendations from February Place & Resources Overview Committee on whether the Council should take advantage of the DfT's offer to local authorities to allow e-scooter rental trials. The paper is dependent on permission being granted by DfT and an application has already been made, the results of which would be known soon.					
Crisis and Resilience Fund Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open The Crisis and Resilience Fund is replacing the Household Support Fund from April 2026. In December, National Government will give us the final detail of what will be included within the fund and we will shape our community offer accordingly and will bring it to P&H Overview Committee and Cabinet for agreement to commence on the 1 April 2026.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 3 Mar 2026	People and Health Overview Committee 2 Feb 2026	Cabinet Member for Customer, Culture and Community Engagement	<i>Laura Cornette, Business Partner - Communities and Partnerships</i> <i>Laura.cornette@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Katie Hale, Head of Revenues and Benefits</i> <i>katie.hale@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Section 151 Officer</i>
Strategic Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) - prioritisation of CIL funded infrastructure projects Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 3 Mar 2026		Cabinet Member for Planning and Emergency Planning	<i>Andrew Galpin, Infrastructure & Delivery Planning Manager</i> <i>andrew.galpin@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, Place (Jan Britton)</i>

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To provide an update on arrangements for spending strategic CIL. The report will address the clarification of current CIL funding commitments, and the identification and prioritisation of CIL funded projects to be supported through the Capital Programme process.					
Dorset National Landscape grant funding 2026-2029 Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open In January 2026 the hosted partnership team for the Dorset National Landscape should be notified of its grant allocation from Defra for 2026-2027 and indicative allocations for 2027-2029. All support delivery of the Management Plan previously adopted by Cabinet.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 3 Mar 2026		Cabinet Member for Planning and Emergency Planning	Mike Garrity, Corporate Director for Planning mike.garrity@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Tom Munro, Dorset National Landscape Manager tom.munro@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, Place (Jan Britton)
National Planning Policy Framework consultation response Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open Response to the Government's National Planning Policy Framework – proposed reforms and other changes to the planning system consultation.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 3 Mar 2026		Cabinet Member for Planning and Emergency Planning	Mike Garrity, Corporate Director for Planning mike.garrity@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Terry Sneller, Strategic Planning Manager terry.sneller@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, Place (Jan Britton)

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Biodiversity Duty report 2023-24 Key Decision - No Public Access - Open This report outlines the actions taken by Dorset Council to comply with the Biodiversity Duty under the Environment Act 2021. It presents Dorset Council's first report on biodiversity summarising policies, objectives and actions to conserve and enhance biodiversity across the whole council.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 3 Mar 2026	Place and Resources Overview Committee 5 Feb 2026	Leader and Cabinet Member for Climate, Performance and Safeguarding	<i>Bridget Betts, Environmental Advice Manager bridget.betts@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Mike Garrity, Corporate Director for Planning mike.garrity@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, Place (Jan Britton)</i>
Procurement arrangements for specified services for Children's Services Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open The report seeks to clarify procurement arrangements for specified services to enable continuation of service delivery.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 3 Mar 2026		Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills	<i>Kelly Henry, Head of Good Care Provision, Safeguarding and Business Support kelly.henry@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, People - Children (Paul Dempsey)</i>
April					

Transformation Update Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 21 Apr 2026		Cabinet Member for Corporate Development and Transformation	<i>Nina Coakley, Head of Change nina.coakley@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Lisa Cotton, Corporate Director for</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
Sets out the context, progress to date, and the rationale for targeted investment for transformation. This will ensure Dorset Council remains resilient and fit for the future, full aligned with Council Plan priorities and our medium-term financial plan.					<i>Customer and Cultural Services lisa.cotton@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Chief Executive</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	Cabinet Member for Customer, Culture and Community Engagement	<i>Laura Cornette, Business Partner - Communities and Partnerships Laura.cornette@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Jennifer Lowis, Head of Strategic Communications and Engagement jennifer.lowis@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk 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.