



The Cabinet Forward Plan - April to July 2026

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
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April

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 21 Apr 2026	People and Health Overview Committee	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 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.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 21 Apr 2026		Cabinet Member for Health and Housing	<i>Paul Derrien, Housing Enabling and Delivery Manager</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>

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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.					
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 21 Apr 2026		Cabinet Member for Planning and Emergency Planning	<i>Mike Garrity, Corporate Director for Planning</i> <i>mike.garrity@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Tom Munro, Dorset National Landscape Manager</i> <i>tom.munro@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, Place (Jan Britton)</i>
Transformation Update Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open 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.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 21 Apr 2026		Cabinet Member for Corporate Development and Transformation	<i>Nina Coakley, Head of Transformation and Design</i> <i>nina.coakley@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Lisa Cotton, Corporate Director for Transformation, Customer and Cultural Services</i> <i>lisa.cotton@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <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
Strategic Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) - prioritisation of CIL funded infrastructure projects Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open 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.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 21 Apr 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>
Culture Strategy 2021 - 2026 Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open Strategy document to shape the future direction of arts, culture and heritage across the Dorset Council area.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 21 Apr 2026	Place and Resources Overview Committee 26 Mar 2026	Cabinet Member for Customer, Culture and Community Engagement	<i>Paul Rutter, Service Manager for Leisure, Arts and Cultural Services</i> <i>paul.rutter@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, Place (Jan Britton)</i>
Leisure Facilities Strategy Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Part exempt Strategy report to determine the future of leisure centre provision.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 21 Apr 2026	Place and Resources Overview Committee 26 Mar 2026	Cabinet Member for Customer, Culture and Community Engagement	<i>Paul Rutter, Service Manager for Leisure, Arts and Cultural Services</i> <i>paul.rutter@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
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 19 May 2026	People and Health Overview Committee	Cabinet Member for Customer, Culture and Community Engagement	<i>Laura Cornette, Business Partner - Communities and Partnerships</i> <i>Laura.cornette@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Jennifer Lewis, Head of Strategic Communications and Engagement</i> <i>jennifer.lewis@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.