

Cabinet Public Question for 3 March 2026

1. Question from Cllr Steven Dickens (Weymouth Town Council, Preston Ward)

Could Dorset Council please clarify, as a matter of urgency, who holds formal responsibility for the maintenance of the planters along Preston Beach Road, given that Dorset Council owns the sea wall but claims there is an agreement with Weymouth Town Council regarding upkeep, for which no evidence or paperwork can be provided by either party? Furthermore, what immediate steps will be taken to address the deteriorating condition of these planters, which is impacting the appearance of one of the main access roads to Weymouth—a town reliant on tourism—and to ensure this situation is rectified without further delay?

Response from the Cabinet Member for Place Services

Going forward, Dorset Council will hold formal responsibility for the maintenance of the planters along Preston Beach Road and will maintain them in a suitable condition. A new lease is being prepared which will clarify the responsibility for the upkeep of the seawall.

2. Question from Danny Whyte (Group Admin WeyPortCCOS)

I have read in the recent cabinet papers that Dorset Council are looking into outsourcing some services to BCP, the main one in question is the South West Flood and Coastal Partnership.

Question 1) Why is this even proposed when we have a team within Dorset Council?

Question 2) How much is it going to cost the council to outsource this service?

Response from the Cabinet Member for Place Services

The benefits of the proposed approach are described throughout the report. In particular, Dorset Council will see the collective benefit of having access to a greater pool of knowledge, experience and bidding power. Increasing the size of SWFaC has advantages over the existing arrangement as work demands can be spread across the partnership, reducing peaks and troughs of workload. The Dorset Council investment into the Shared Service will be reflective of the current net cost of running the current service.