



The Cabinet Forward Plan - April to July 2026 (Publication date – 24 MARCH 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
2026					

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 16 Mar 2026	Cabinet Member for Health and Housing	<i>Steven March, Service Manager for Housing Standards steven.march@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Iain Sim, Interim Corporate Director for Housing iain.sim@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk 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	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 21 Apr 2026		Cabinet Member for Health and Housing	<i>Paul Derrien, Housing Enabling and Delivery Manager paul.derrien@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Vikki Jeffrey, Senior Housing Funding and Delivery Officer vikki.jeffrey@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, People - Adults (Jonathan Price)</i>

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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.					
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	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)
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	Nina Coakley, Head of Transformation and Design nina.coakley@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Lisa Cotton, Corporate Director for Transformation, Customer and Cultural Services lisa.cotton@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Chief Executive

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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	Andrew Galpin, Infrastructure & Delivery Planning Manager andrew.galpin@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, Place (Jan Britton)
Culture Strategy 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	Paul Rutter, Service Manager for Leisure, Arts and Cultural Services paul.rutter@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, Place (Jan Britton)
Nitrogen Credit Pricing methodology Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open To set out an agreed methodology for how we set the price of our nutrient credits ensuring legal defensibility, financial sustainability, a credible and trusted credit market, and strong governance through transparent, accountable pricing.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 21 Apr 2026		Cabinet Member for Finance & Capital Strategy	Bridget Betts, Environmental Advice Manager bridget.betts@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, Place (Jan Britton)

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New Forest District Council Local Plan consultation Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open New Forest District Council Local Plan Regulation 18 consultation response.	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, Terry Sneller, Strategic Planning Manager</i> <i>terry.sneller@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, Place (Jan Britton)</i>
Marnhull Neighbourhood Development Plan 2024 - 2038 Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open Report relating to the making (adoption) of the neighbourhood plan following examination and referendum.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 21 Apr 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>
Microsoft Licensing 2026 - 27 renewal Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open Changes to the licensing arrangements with Microsoft have extended the current agreement term by an additional year incurring spending.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 21 Apr 2026		Cabinet Member for Corporate Development and Transformation	<i>James Ailward, Head of ICT Operations</i> <i>james.ailward@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, Corporate Development - Section 151 Officer</i>

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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		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>
May					

Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategic Funding Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open A strategic funding paper seeking Council Support for Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) Capital Programme and pipeline.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 19 May 2026		Cabinet Member for Place Services	<i>Jack Wiltshire, Corporate Director for Highways and Engineering</i> <i>jack.wiltshire@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> , <i>Matthew Penny, Service Manager - Flood & Coastal Erosion</i> <i>matthew.penny@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, Place (Jan Britton)</i>
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</i> , <i>Jennifer Lowis, Head of Strategic Communications and Engagement</i> <i>jennifer.lowis@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, Corporate Development - Section 151 Officer</i>

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Dft Rental E-scooter Trial Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open Seeking Cabinet approval to enable two areas of Dorset to introduce an e-scooter rental service trial. The two areas are: 1) Upton and Corfe Mullen 2) Weymouth, Portland, Chickereil and Dorchester.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 19 May 2026		Cabinet Member for Place Services	<i>Christopher Whitehouse, Projects Team Manager christopher.whitehouse@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Kate Tunks, Service Manager for Infrastructure and Assets kate.tunks@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, Place (Jan Britton)</i>
Bridport Reablement Centre Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open A report to provide an update on the Bridport Reablement Centre Project, including approval on the Stage 2 Scheme and award of the build contract to the preferred construction partner.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 19 May 2026	People and Health Overview Committee 29 Apr 2026	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>
Future direction of public health contracts following disaggregation of the Shared Service Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open This report will update Cabinet on commissioning intentions, and preferred arrangements for commissioning public health services following disaggregation of the shared service in 2024-25. Cabinet is asked to support the recommendations on	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 19 May 2026		Cabinet Member for Health and Housing	<i>Sam Crowe, Director of Public Health sam.crowe@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Director of Public Health and Prevention (Sam Crowe)</i>

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
future direction of travel for public health contracts. A mirror paper is going to BCP Council Cabinet with the same recommendations.					
June					

Youth Justice Plan Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open To approve the Youth Justice Plan for 2026/27.	Decision Maker Dorset Council	Decision Date 16 Jul 2026	Cabinet 23 Jun 2026	Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills	<i>David Webb, Head of Service - Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service</i> <i>david.webb@bcpcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, People - Children (Paul Dempsey)</i>
Draft Outturn Report 2025/26 Key Decision - No Public Access - Open To consider the 2025/26 Outturn report.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 23 Jun 2026		Cabinet Member for Finance & Capital Strategy	<i>Sean Cremer, Corporate Director for Finance and Commercial</i> <i>sean.cremer@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Sian Hedger, Deputy s151 Officer</i> <i>sian.hedger@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, Corporate Development - Section 151 Officer</i>
September					

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July 2026 (period 4) financial management report 26/27 Key Decision - No Public Access - Open To consider the Period 4 financial management report.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 8 Sep 2026		Cabinet Member for Finance & Capital Strategy	Sean Cremer, Corporate Director for Finance and Commercial sean.cremer@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk , Sian Hedger, Deputy s151 Officer sian.hedger@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, Corporate Development - Section 151 Officer
November 2026					
September 2026 (period 6) financial management report 26/27 Key Decision - No Public Access - Open To consider the period 6 financial management report 2026/27.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 10 Nov 2026		Cabinet Member for Finance & Capital Strategy	Sean Cremer, Corporate Director for Finance and Commercial sean.cremer@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk , Sian Hedger, Deputy s151 Officer sian.hedger@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, Corporate Development - Section 151 Officer
February 2027					
December 2026 Quarter 3 financial management plan 2026/2027 Key Decision - No Public Access - Open To consider the Quarter 3 financial management plan 2026/27.	Decision Maker Cabinet	Decision Date 2 Feb 2027		Cabinet Member for Finance & Capital Strategy	Sean Cremer, Corporate Director for Finance and Commercial sean.cremer@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk , Sian Hedger, Deputy s151 Officer sian.hedger@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director, Corporate Development - Section 151 Officer

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Budget & Medium term financial plan strategy report (MTFP) Key Decision - Yes Public Access - Open To consider the medium Term Financial (MTFP) and budget strategy.	Decision Maker Dorset Council	Decision Date 11 Feb 2027	Cabinet 2 Feb 2027	Cabinet Member for Finance & Capital Strategy	<i>Sean Cremer, Corporate Director for Finance and Commercial</i> <i>sean.cremer@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Sian Hedger, Deputy s151 Officer</i> <i>sian.hedger@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</i> <i>Executive Director, Corporate Development - Section 151 Officer</i>

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.