

PLACE AND RESOURCES OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 12 FEBRUARY 2026

Present: Cllrs Andy Canning (Chair), Andrew Starr (Vice-Chair), Richard Crabb, Simon Gibson, Sherry Jespersen, David Northam, Roland Tarr, David Taylor and Val Potheary

Also present: Cllr Jon Andrews, Cllr Richard Biggs, Cllr Ryan Hope and Cllr Andy Todd

Also present remotely: Cllr Nocturin Lacey-Clarke, Cllr Barry Goringe and Cllr Carole Jones

Officers present (for all or part of the meeting):

Jonathan Mair (Director of Legal and Democratic and Monitoring Officer), Jennifer Lewis (Head of Strategic Communications and Engagement) and Mike Garrity (Corporate Director for Planning)

Officers present remotely (for all or part of the meeting):

31. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting on 24 November 2025 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

32. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

33. Public Participation

There was no public participation.

34. Questions from Councillors

There were no questions from Councillors.

35. Working with Communities

The report on Working with Communities was set out by the Director of Public Health & Prevention who described the changes being made by Dorset council and how the approaches detailed in this report will lead to service improvements.

There was appreciation shared by members of the committee for the approach taken and to address the comments from the meeting in November where the original report was raised.

The Committee covered the role of DAPTC and the representation of it a member organisation that doesn't represent all views of town and parish councils.

The important role of elected representation and the difference between elected bodies and membership organisations were discussed along with the role of charities and community groups with the delivery of community work.

Recognition of the difference between the Town and Parish Councils in Dorset and the merits of looking at no geographical approaches.

The importance of not taking a predetermined approach to the ways of working and the iterative approach to meaningfully codesign the approached that meet the needs of local communities. The Overview Committee requested involvement in supporting the design process.

Recommended changes the paper going to Cabinet.

1. The role of DAPTC as a representative for all town and parish view when not all are members and a request for rewording to include "most" or deletion.
2. There was an addition of Ward councillors to 4.2 of the statement of reasonable expectations that was recognised and agreed by the Director of Public Health & Prevention

Recommendations in the report.

1. Place and Resources Overview Committee is asked to consider and endorse the Community Conversations approach outlined in this paper, which supports how we will work with communities to deliver the Council Plan objectives, prepare for the English Devolution and Community Empowerment legislation, and to recommend adoption by Cabinet.
2. Place and Resources Overview Committee is also asked to recommend to cabinet that the revised Statement of Reasonable Expectations between Dorset Council and parish and town councils be approved and adopted.

The Place and Resources Overview Committee unanimously agreed the recommendations above.

36. Biodiversity Duty report

The Biodiversity Duty was described by the Corporate Director Planning and the steps taken and the legal framework that the biodiversity fulfils.

Following the introduction the discussion covered off several key themes and areas of interest. The discussion covered;

- Climate resilience and nature-based solutions
- The future actions planned and the importance of clear measures and KPI's to effective monitoring.
- The integration of the biodiversity duty within work of the council and the local nature strategy as a delivery mechanism for improving biodiversity.
- Sites of Special Scientific Interests and their inclusion within the report and the Biodiversity's Duty's reporting requirements
- Specific areas of consideration such as Moors valley and the Moor river
- Litter free Dorset and enabling of their activities to improve environmental outcomes.
- The limitations of the framework and the restrictions upon the reporting requirements of Department

The Committee resolved to recommend the report to Cabinet and the recommendation passed with 8 votes in favour and 1 abstention.

37. **Place and Resources Overview Committee Work Programme**

The committee reviewed the forward plans and discussed the future items.

38. **Urgent items**

There were no urgent items.

39. **Exempt Business**

There was no exempt business.

Duration of meeting: Times Not Specified

Chairman

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