The Cabinet Forward Plan - December 2026 to March 2027
(Publication date – 3 NOVEMBER 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 2026/27

Nick Ireland	Leader and Cabinet Member for Climate, Communications, Performance & Safeguarding
Richard Biggs	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Economic Growth & Strategic Assets
Jack Jeanes	Place Services
Shane Bartlett	Planning and Planning Enforcement
Simon Clifford	Resources& Finance
Matt Bell	Public Health, Prevention & Communities
Steve Robinson	Adult Social Care & Health
Clare Sutton	Children, Families & Education
Gill Taylor	Housing & Homelessness
Ben Wilson	Transformation, Customer & Workforce

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
2026					
December 2026					
Transformation Update **Key Decision** - No **Public Access** - **Open** Transformation update: Update on transformation portfolio delivery, benefits realisation, portfolio performance and investment position.	**Decision Maker** **Cabinet**	**Decision Date** **8 Dec 2026**		Cabinet Member for Transformation, Customer & Workforce	*Nina Coakley, Head of Transformation and Design* *nina.coakley@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk* *Executive Director - Modernisation and Customer Delivery (Lucie Laker)*
Enterprise Resource Programme (ERP) Update **Key Decision** - Yes **Public Access** - **Open** ERP Programme delivery, progress to date, programme governance, budget position key risks and next steps.	**Decision Maker** **Cabinet**	**Decision Date** **8 Dec 2026**		Cabinet Member for Transformation, Customer & Workforce	*Nina Coakley, Head of Transformation and Design* *nina.coakley@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Lisa Cotton, Corporate Director for Transformation and Customer Experience* *lisa.cotton@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk* *Executive Director - Modernisation and Customer Delivery (Lucie Laker)*

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
Annual ILACS Self Evaluation and Test of Assurance Checklist **Key Decision** - Yes **Public Access** - **Open** The ILACS Self Evaluation set out Dorset Council's assessment against the Ofsted Inspection of Local Authority Children's Service es. The test of Assurance checklist is used as part of the council's continuous improvement and self-evaluation process. It provides assurance to senior leaders, elected members, partners and inspectors the effective arrangements are in place and regularly reviewed.	**Decision Maker** **Cabinet**	**Decision Date** **8 Dec 2026**		Cabinet Member for Children, Families & Education	*Madeleine Hall, Operations and Oversight Manager* *madeleine.hall@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk* *Executive Director - Children's Services (Paul Dempsey)*
Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) **Key Decision** - Yes **Public Access** - **Open** To consider the adoption of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan	**Decision Maker** **Cabinet**	**Decision Date** **8 Dec 2026**	Place and Resources Overview Committee 19 Nov 2026	Cabinet Member for Place Services	*Russell Goff, Senior Ranger* *russell.goff@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk* *Executive Director - Economy and Environment (Jan Britton)*
Mid year performance update **Key Decision** - No **Public Access** - **Open** To provide an update on mid-year progress in council plan delivery and broader organisational health.	**Decision Maker** **Cabinet**	**Decision Date** **8 Dec 2026**		Leader and Cabinet Member for Climate, Communications, Performance & Safeguarding	*Liz Crocker, Head of Strategy* *liz.crocker@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Chris Heighway, Performance and Analytics Team Manager* *chris.heighway@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk* *Chief Executive*

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
Adult Directorate CQC Inspection Findings and Improvement Plan **Key Decision** - No **Public Access** - **Open** To provide Cabinet with an overview of the recent CQC inspection of Adult Services and the directorates ambitions for improvement.	**Decision Maker Cabinet**	**Decision Date 8 Dec 2026**		Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care & Health	*Amy-Jane White, Quality Assurance and Programme Lead amy-jane.white@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk* *Director - Adult Social Care (Julia Ingram)*
Wareham Arc Landscape Recovery **Key Decision** - Yes **Public Access** - **Open** Wareham Arc Landscape Recovery is a well-developed proposal for a 20 year, Defra-funded programme of landscape transformation for nature in the West Purbeck, Lytchett Matravers & Upon, Southeast Purbeck and Wareham wards.	**Decision Maker Cabinet**	**Decision Date 8 Dec 2026**		Leader and Cabinet Member for Climate, Communications, Performance & Safeguarding	*Tom Munro, Dorset National Landscape Manager tom.munro@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk* *Executive Director - Economy and Environment (Jan Britton)*
MEMO Portland **Key Decision** - Yes **Public Access** - **Open** To report the progress of MEMO Portland and the continuing development of the project.	**Decision Maker Cabinet**	**Decision Date 8 Dec 2026**		Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Economic Growth & Strategic Assets	*Matthew Piles, Strategic Director - Weymouth 2040 matthew.piles@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk* *Executive Director - Economy and Environment (Jan Britton)*

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
Temporary Accommodation Rent Setting Policy **Key Decision** - Yes **Public Access** - **Open** SWAP Audit made a recommendation for Dorset Council to develop a rent setting policy in relation to temporary and emergency accommodation used for homelessness services.	**Decision Maker Cabinet**	**Decision Date 8 Dec 2026**		Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness	*Sharon Attwater, Head of Housing sharon.attwater@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Iain Sim, Interim Corporate Director for Housing iain.sim@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Executive Director - Housing, Prevention and Communities (Sam Crowe)*
Discretionary Rate Relief - Policy Review **Key Decision** - Yes **Public Access** - **Open** This item provides a review of our Business Rates, Discretionary Rate Relief Policy.	**Decision Maker Cabinet**	**Decision Date 8 Dec 2026**		Cabinet Member for Resources and Finance	*Katie Hale, Head of Revenues and Benefits katie.hale@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Sean Cremer, Councillor Ben Wilson*
Mosaic contract extension spend - retrospective notification **Key Decision** - Yes **Public Access** - **Open** An emergency spend approval for the Mosaic contract extension was required in September. The report is to give Cabinet sight of this emergency approval.	**Decision Maker Cabinet**	**Decision Date 8 Dec 2026**		Cabinet Member for Resources and Finance	*Glen Conroy, ICT Operations Manager glen.conroy@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Catherine Howe, Lucie Laker*

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
Bere Regis Neighbourhood Plan Review (2019-2034) **Key Decision** - Yes **Public Access** - **Open** Report relating to the "making" (adoption) of the plan review following its independent examination.	**Decision Maker Cabinet**	**Decision Date 8 Dec 2026**		Cabinet Member for Planning and Planning Enforcement	*Ed Gerry, Community Planning Manager ed.gerry@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Anna Lee, Service Manager for Development Management and Enforcement anna.lee@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk* *Executive Director - Economy and Environment (Jan Britton)*
The Bridport Area Neighbourhood Plan 2020-2026 **Key Decision** - Yes **Public Access** - Open	**Decision Maker Cabinet**	**Decision Date 8 Dec 2026**		Cabinet Member for Planning and Planning Enforcement	*Ed Gerry, Community Planning Manager ed.gerry@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Anna Lee, Service Manager for Development Management and Enforcement anna.lee@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk* *Executive Director - Economy and Environment (Jan Britton)*
Parking contracts and procurement **Key Decision** - Yes **Public Access** - **Open** To seek Cabinet approval for a procurement exceeding £500k, plus delegated authority to procure new contracts for aspects of parking services (enforcement, permits, cash, app).	**Decision Maker Cabinet**	**Decision Date 8 Dec 2026**		Cabinet Member for Place Services	*Michael Westwood, Service Manager for Parking Services michael.westwood@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk* *Executive Director - Economy and Environment (Jan Britton)*

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
FutureCare Closedown Report **Key Decision** - Yes **Public Access** - **Open** The FutureCare programme set out, over eighteen months from January 2025, to help more people in Dorset avoid an unnecessary hospital stay or return home and regain independence more quickly, and in doing so to release bedded capacity, improve outcomes and deliver financial benefit across the system. This followed a diagnostic activity completed by Newton in the summer of 2024. This report provides an evaluation of the progress achieved through the completion of the FutureCare Programme.	**Decision Maker** **Cabinet**	**Decision Date** **8 Dec 2026**		Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care & Health	*Sue Evans, Head of Specialist Services* *sue.evans@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk* *Director - Adult Social Care (Julia Ingram)*
Safeguarding Families Together: approval of commissioning expenditure **Key Decision** - Yes **Public Access** - **Open** Cabinet endorsement of safeguarding families together approach and approval of commissioning expenditure.	**Decision Maker** **Cabinet**	**Decision Date** **10 Nov 2026**		Cabinet Member for Children, Families & Education	*Tracey Old, Strategic Commissioner* *tracey.old@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk* *Executive Director - Children's Services (Paul Dempsey)*

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
Weymouth 2040 Regeneration Programme **Key Decision** - Yes **Public Access** - **Part exempt** A progress report on the Weymouth 2040 Regeneration Programme.	**Decision Maker Cabinet**	**Decision Date 8 Dec 2026**		Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Economic Growth & Strategic Assets	*Matthew Piles, Strategic Director - Weymouth 2040 matthew.piles@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk* *Executive Director - Economy and Environment (Jan Britton)*
Dorset Council - Procurement of Hotel and Guest House Managing Agents **Key Decision** - Yes **Public Access** - **Part exempt** Report seeking approval to award the contract for the management of Dorset Council Hotel and Guest Houses following the recent procurement.	**Decision Maker Cabinet**	**Decision Date 8 Dec 2026**		Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Economic Growth & Strategic Assets	*Julian Wain, Strategic Property Advisor Julian.wain@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk* *Executive Director - Economy and Environment (Jan Britton)*
LiveWell Dorset digital Procurement **Key Decision** - Yes **Public Access** - **Fully exempt** Key decision about procurement of the LiveWell Dorset CRM and CMS	**Decision Maker Cabinet**	**Decision Date 8 Dec 2026**		Cabinet Member for Public Health, Prevention & Communities	*Jane Horne, Consultant in Public Health jane.horne@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk* *Executive Director - Housing, Prevention and Communities (Sam Crowe)*
Rough Sleeper grant agreements **Key Decision** - Yes **Public Access** - **Fully exempt** To approve the award of grant agreements to organisations providing support to rough sleepers.	**Decision Maker Cabinet**	**Decision Date 8 Dec 2026**		Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness	*Paul Derrien, Housing Enabling and Delivery Manager paul.derrien@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Melissa Johnson, Programme Manager melissa.johnson@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk* *Executive Director - Housing, Prevention and Communities (Sam Crowe)*

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
February 2027					
Crisis and Resilience Fund **Key Decision** - Yes **Public Access** - **Open** The policy to back up the Crisis and Resilience Fund Governance.	**Decision Maker** **Cabinet**	**Decision Date** **2 Feb 2027**		Cabinet Member for Public Health, Prevention & Communities	*Laura Cornette, Business Partner - Communities and Partnerships* *Laura.cornette@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk* *Executive Director - Modernisation and Customer Delivery (Lucie Laker)*
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 Resources and Finance	*Sean Cremer, Director - Resources (Section 151 Officer)* *sean.cremer@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Sian Hedger, Deputy s151 Officer* *sian.hedger@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk* *Director - Resources (Section 151 Officer)*
Southwest Fostering Hub Proposals **Key Decision** - No **Public Access** - **Open** Report for oversight and decision making by Cabinet to extend the role of Southwest fostering hub in the recruitment and assessment of foster carers in line with DfE guidance.	**Decision Maker** **Cabinet**	**Decision Date** **2 Feb 2027**		Cabinet Member for Children, Families & Education	*Jane Maclennan, Head of Service Care Leavers, Fostering and Adoption* *jane.maclennan@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk* *Executive Director - Children's Services (Paul Dempsey)*

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Date the Decision is Due	Other Committee(s) consulted and Date of meeting(s)	Portfolio Holder	Officer Contact
Review of Financial Assessment and Care Contributions Policy **Key Decision** - Yes **Public Access** - **Open** The policy was due to be reviewed and to update the policy in line with some legal challenges to the Care Act 2014 since its implementation. In doing so we have also amalgamated the Financial Assessment and Care Contributions policy and the Deferred Payment Agreement Policy and the two impact significantly on each other.	**Decision Maker** **Cabinet**	**Decision Date** **2 Feb 2027**	People and Health Overview Committee 18 Jan 2027	Cabinet Member for Resources and Finance, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care & Health, Leader and Cabinet Member for Climate, Communications, Performance & Safeguarding	*Nicola Fowler, Financial Assessments Team Manager* *nicola.fowler@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk* *Director - Resources (Section 151 Officer)*
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 Resources and Finance	*Sean Cremer, Director - Resources (Section 151 Officer)* *sean.cremer@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk, Sian Hedger, Deputy s151 Officer* *sian.hedger@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk* *Executive Director, Corporate Development - Section 151 Officer*

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.