

Cabinet

Minutes of meeting held on 6 June 2007

The Cabinet met at County Hall, Colliton Park, Dorchester on 6 June 2007.

Present:

Angus Campbell (Chairman)

Hilary Cox (Vice-Chairman)

Geoffrey Brierley, Toni Coombs, David Crowhurst and Alan Havelock

John Peake attended under Standing Order 54(1).

The following members attended by invitation: Mike Byatt (minutes 262.3 and 262.9) and Robin Legg (minutes 297.1 to 297.4).

Stephen Fryer, West Dorset District Councillor, attended under the Open Door Protocol for minutes 297.1.

Harry Burden also attended.

Officers: David Jenkins (Chief Executive), Elaine Taylor (Director for Corporate Resources), Miles Butler (Director for Environment), Steve Pitt (Director for Adult and Community Services), Stephen Prewett (Director for Children's Services), Paul Kent (Chief Financial Officer), John Richards (Democratic Services Manager) and Jonathan Slater (Public Relations Officer).

For certain items as appropriate: Andy Ackerman (Head of Highway Client Services), Becky Forrester (Voluntary Sector Link Officer), Les Gardner (Head of Partnership Development, Children's Services), Keith Grimmett (Senior Emergency Planning Officer), Bill Jaggs (Head of Regulatory Services) and Peter Scarlett (Valuation and Estates Manager).

(Publication Date: 14 June 2007).

(Notes: (1) In accordance with Rule 16(b) of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules the decisions set out in these minutes will come into force and may then be implemented on the expiry of five working days after the publication date.

(2) **RECOMMENDED** in this type denotes that the approval of the County Council is required.

Minutes

253. The minutes of the meeting held on 2 May 2007 were confirmed and signed.

Matters Arising

254. Arising from minute 244.3 it was

Resolved

255. That the issue of the tender costs of some capital projects exceeding the estimates be investigated by the Asset Management Group with a view to assessing whether the County Council's approval to cost estimates needs revision, and that the outcome be reported back to the Cabinet.

Joint Archives Service 2007-10

256. Arising from minute 228, the Chief Executive reported that Bournemouth Borough Council had agreed the proposed course of action to address the budget pressures facing the Joint Archives Services. The indications were that the Borough of Poole was also likely to agree.

The Dorset Working Group for the 2012 Olympic Games

257. Arising from minute 237.3, the following members had been appointed to serve on the Legacy Board:-

Angus Campbell (substitute: Hilary Cox)

Mike Byatt (substitute: Harry Burden)

Fit for the Future Programme - Opportunity Assessment and Outline Business Case

258.1 Arising from minute 251, the Director for Corporate Resources provided members with a list of key dates leading up to the meeting of the Cabinet on 11 July 2007. This included a seminar for all members of the Council on 9 July.

258.2 In answer to a member's question concerning the recent change of lead consultant, the Chief Executive referred to a meeting with a partner from Deloitte. He was satisfied that everything possible was being done to rebuild and strengthen personal relationships and to ensure that there were no delays to the programme.

Code of Conduct

259. There were no declarations of personal or prejudicial interest.

Forward Plan of Key Decisions

260.1 The Cabinet considered the draft Forward Plan of Key Decisions covering the period 2 July to 31 October 2007 which was due to be published on 15 June 2007.

260.2 Members noted the number of major issues due to be considered at their next meeting on 11 July and asked that officers give careful consideration to the management of the agenda. It was agreed that a meeting would be needed on the Cabinet reserve date of 18 July and that business would be apportioned over those two dates.

Resolved

261. That the draft Forward Plan of Key Decisions be agreed.

Key Decisions included in the Forward Plan**Asset Management**

262.1 The Cabinet considered a report by the Chief Financial Officer on progress in relation to asset management planned actions, as contained in the Asset Management Plan 2007-10, and progress with capital investment priorities, the delivery of the capital programme and Prudential Indicators. Authority was also sought, if necessary, to the redirection of resources within the approved capital control totals.

262.2 In respect of the recommendation to start the North Dorset Property Review, the Chief Financial Officer confirmed that it should still be possible to deliver the Purbeck Area Property Review although the timescale would need to be extended. Detailed project management implications were being addressed by the Asset Management Group (AMG) and their recommendations would be included in the next quarterly monitoring report.

262.3 Members expressed their support for a thorough review of the Modernising Schools Programme in the light of the decisions made following the Efficiency Review of the Capital Programme. In this respect the County Councillor for Westham expressed his support for the case for Budmouth School and stressed the importance of making a decision quickly so as to provide clarity.

262.4 In answer to questions from members, the Director for Environment explained that a detailed highway assessment in respect of the proposed MBT plant at Winfrith would be carried out as part of the planning application process. He also undertook to look into possible developments at the Blue Haze landfill site near Ringwood and report back to the Cabinet member representing Verwood.

262.5 On scheme delays as a result of the Efficiency Review of the Capital Programme and additional costs arising from inflation and associated fees, members agreed that AMG should be asked to investigate means of absorbing any additional costs on these schemes, by looking at alternative options at the design stage, to keep the projects within the originally approved budget allocation.

262.6 The Chief Financial Officer also confirmed that AMG would investigate the performance issues in relation to temporary classrooms and that the outcome would be included in the next quarterly report.

262.7 The further expenditure required for the Weymouth Relief Road Bid was £2.28M and not £2.18M as stated in para 3.10 of the report.

262.8 The Director for Environment explained that the Department for Transport had confirmed that a major scheme bid would need to be submitted, similar to that required for the Relief Road, for the Olympic Transport Package which would complement the relief road by providing technology based traffic management improvements and improvements to public transport, walking/cycling and facilities for the disabled. A full business case was being drawn up and the Cabinet agreed that it would be helpful for a presentation to be made to all members of the County Council.

262.9 On the former Westhaven Junior School site, the County Councillor for Westham urged that any application for development should include the provision of a community centre.

Resolved

263.1 That progress on the delivery of the Capital Programme be noted.

263.2 That as a consequence of the need to defer the Purbeck Property Review report, the next planned review of North Dorset be commenced with a focus on any immediate cross-organisational asset management opportunities (ref. paragraph 2.2 - 2.4).

263.3 That the increase in costs for both the Chickerell Link Road and Avon Causeway Bridge schemes be approved, with the former project included in the list of schemes to be subject to Construction Scrutiny Group post-project appraisal (ref. paragraph 3.2 - 3.3).

263.4 That in respect of additional costs arising from projects deferred by the Efficiency Review of the Capital Programme (ref. paragraphs 3.5 - 3.7) the Asset Management Group be asked to investigate means of absorbing any additional costs on these schemes, by looking at alternative options at the design stage, to keep the projects within the originally approved budget allocation.

263.5 That the cost of refurbishing the Customer Connect accommodation at Pullman Court be approved (ref. paragraph 3.8 - 3.9).

263.6 That the expenditure to enable the Weymouth Relief Road to proceed to hand over be approved (ref. paragraph 3.10).

263.7 That a seminar be arranged for all members of the County Council on the development of the Olympic Transport Package.

263.8 That the increase in Corporate Resources Annual Provision Total for 2007-08 for the Dorset History Centre air conditioning system be approved (ref. paragraph 4.3 - 4.5).

263.9 That the increase in the Environmental Services Annual Provision Total for 2007-08 for a formal bid for an Olympic package be approved (ref. paragraph 4.6).

263.10 That the renaming of the former Penwithen School site as 'Monkton Park' be agreed following re-use of the premises for office purposes (ref. paragraph 7.2).

263.11 That the transfer of the balance of uncommitted capital receipts to a capital reserve be agreed (ref. paragraph 7.6).

263.12 That the guidance criteria and considerations for use in the assessment of any proposals to transfer County Council property assets to community bodies, be approved (ref. paragraph 7.8).

263.13 That the revised estimates and cash flows for the projects listed in Appendix 2 of the report be approved.

263.14 That the current position against each of the Prudential Indicators set out in Appendix 3 to the report be noted.

Reasons for Decision

264.1 A well managed Council ensures that the best use is made of its assets in terms of service benefit and financial return in order to be fit for the future. The Council's Capital Strategy provides for quarterly monitoring of capital projects in terms of spending against approved budgets and delivery in accordance with projected timescales.

264.2 Management of the asset base is an element of the use of resources block within the Audit Commission's Comprehensive Performance Assessment of local authorities. Publication and monitoring of prudential Indicators is also a requirement of the CIPFA Prudential Code.

264.3 The projects included in the Council's capital programme contribute to all of the Council's corporate aims, including improving Dorset's infrastructure, strengthening Dorset's economy and improving the life chances of children and young people.

Children's and Young People's Plan 2007

265.1 The Cabinet considered a report by the Director for Children's Services on the latest position regarding the refresh of the Children and Young People's Plan.

265.2 The Plan had been discussed by the Children and Young People's Partnership and by the Community Overview Committee. The Head of Partnership Development, Children's Services informed the Cabinet of the comments made. There was general support for the Plan. The Overview Committee had suggested that it should focus on those priorities which were likely to be included in the Joint Area Review. They had also highlighted a range of activities for young people.

265.3 It was important that all partners involved with Children's Services were involved in both the preparation and implementation of the Plan. This had been the basis of the consultation exercise.

265.4 The final plan was due to be submitted to OFSTED by 14 June 2007.

Resolved

266. That the priorities in the review of the Children and Young People's Plan be supported and that the revised Plan be adopted.

Reasons for Decision

267.1 As the single overarching strategic plan for Children and Young People in Dorset it is vital that all our partners contribute to the consultation and then work to achieving the agreed priorities.

267.2 To support our corporate aim of improving the chances for children and young people.

Finding Sanctuary Project - Memorandum of Understanding

268.1 The Cabinet considered a report by the Director for Environment.

268.2 The Finding Sanctuary Project was a unique and innovative project for the UK, piloting the establishment of a network of Marine Protected Areas in the SW region. The intention was to seek widespread support for the development of these areas from all marine sectors including the commercial fisheries. Although the County Council had been involved with this project over the last two years, the partnership now wished to formalise administrative arrangements by having all partners sign a Memorandum of Understanding.

Resolved

269. That the signing of the Finding Sanctuary Project Memorandum of Understanding be endorsed.

Reason for Decision

270. The Finding Sanctuary project plan is underpinned by a long, in depth, iterative and broad consultation process which includes all marine and coastal stakeholders. Because of this, it is felt that the project outcomes will reflect local and regional views on Marine Protected Areas. This project has the potential to affect significantly the people of Dorset, particularly coastal communities, and supports the Council aim of safeguarding Dorset's unique environment. Dorset County Council's continued involvement will allow us to influence the process and ensure that Dorset's interests are being addressed.

UK Marine Bill White Paper

271.1 The Cabinet considered a report by the Director for Environment on a proposed response to the government consultation on the UK Marine Bill White paper.

271.2 The County Council member for Portland Tophill, who was one of the County Council representatives on the Southern Sea Fisheries Committee, had expressed his support for the proposed response by the County Council. He had consulted the Chairman of the Southern Sea Fisheries Committee and the Chief Fishery Officer who also supported the proposed response.

271.3 In answer to a member's question about any possible increase in the levy, officers emphasised that this was a consultative exercise and it was not possible to predict any increase. The Chief Financial Officer confirmed that levies were normally regarded as commitments for County Council budgeting purposes.

Resolved

272. That the proposed response be endorsed.

Reason for Decision

273. The proposed Marine Bill is an important new piece of legislation governing management of the marine environment. The Bill is both ambitious and unique, encompassing marine planning, fisheries, activity licensing, nature conservation, and oversight of these issues. It has the potential to significantly affect the people of Dorset, and is linked to our corporate aim to safeguard Dorset's unique environment.

Other Business**Weymouth, Portland and Chickerell Integrated Transport Strategy**

274.1 The Cabinet considered a joint report by the Directors for Environment and Corporate Resources providing an update on the current position with the planning, procurement, land acquisition and construction of the Weymouth Relief Road. It also provided the latest position on the preparations for the Olympic Transport Package for hosting the sailing events for the 2012 games. In addition, it outlined the funding proposals in line with the Department for Transport major scheme protocol for both schemes.

274.2 The Director for Environment reported a letter from the Regional Assembly confirming that the Relief Road was in conformity with both the existing regional strategy RPG10 and the Regional Spatial Strategy, currently the subject of an examination in public. This was directly relevant to the further intended grounds of challenge set out by Friends of the Earth.

274.3 In answer to a member's question, the Director for Environment confirmed that in the event of a public inquiry into the Compulsory Purchase and Side Road Orders preparatory work for the road scheme would not be delayed. Also, the possibility of blight was less of an issue for the Relief Road Scheme than for other major schemes.

Resolved

275. That the current situation in connection with the planning, procurement, land acquisition and construction for the Weymouth Relief Road be noted and that the letter from the Regional Assembly be welcomed.

Reasons for Decision

276.1 To allow members to monitor progress and costs of the Weymouth Relief Road.

276.2 To secure best value in the procurement process for providing the Weymouth Relief Road, supporting the corporate aims to improve Dorset's infrastructure and strengthen Dorset's economy.

Business Continuity Management

277.1 The Cabinet considered a report by the Director for Adult and Community Services on proposals for a revised Business Continuity Management policy.

277.2 Members asked about their involvement in the event of disruption to business continuity, in particular in relation to dealing with enquiries from the media and public generally. The Head of Regulatory Services suggested it might be helpful to include an elected member on the Business Continuity Steering Group. In addition, steps would be put in place to ensure that specific plans included a linkage to the role of elected members.

Resolved

278. That, subject to minute 277.2, the revised Dorset County Council Business Continuity Management Policy be approved.

Reason for Decision

279. Business continuity management supports our corporate aim to build a Council fit for the future. The County Council has a duty under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 to put into place and maintain business continuity plans for its services and functions.

Voluntary and Community SectorSupporting the Third Sector

280.1 The Cabinet considered a report by the Chief Executive on the proposed allocations of existing resources totalling £97,000.

280.2 The Chief Financial Officer explained that £50,000 of the £62,500, allocated by the Cabinet in December 2006, to support aspects of the voluntary and community sector was ongoing funding, with the remainder being one-off support.

280.3 The Director for Corporate Resources informed members of a recent meeting between Dorset, Bournemouth and Poole Councils and the Dorset Racial Equality Council (DREC). DREC recognised the need for a business like approach and were seeking to achieve a service level agreement jointly with the three councils by April 2008. A sum of £7,500 from the overall total earmarked had been requested for payment for 2007-08 to restore parity between the County Council's support for DREC and Bournemouth and Poole.

Resolved

281. That the following allocations be approved:-

	£
Volunteer Centre, Dorchester	24,000
3 rd Sector Representation (Dorset Community Action)	41,000
Dorset Youth Association	4,000
Inclusion (Dorset Race Equality Council and others)	(up to) <u>28,000</u>
£7,500 to be paid in 2007-08 to DREC	
	<u>97,000</u>

Reason for Decision

282. To contribute to our corporate aim of improving health, community safety and well-being and the priority outcome that the capacity of the voluntary and community sector is increased.

Corporate Grant Making

283.1 The Cabinet considered a report by the Chief Executive outlining a number of options for the more strategic and efficient use of the voluntary sector grant budgets from April 2008.

283.2 This report had been considered by the Audit and Scrutiny Committee at their meeting on 22 May. The Committee had recommended that the Cabinet agree option 3, subject to it being made clear that the envisaged new post(s) would not necessarily be employed by Dorset Community Action.

283.3 The Cabinet welcomed the proposals for a more strategic approach to the grant making process and agreed that the corporate plan and its specific priorities should be paramount in determining applications. They agreed that the present approach was anomalous, and that a fresh one was needed. They therefore favoured the approach set out

in option 2 rather than option 3. Members recognised that further work was required in order to develop this approach.

Resolved

284. That option 2 be pursued as the Cabinet's preferred approach, and that a report be brought back as to how this should be achieved.

Reason for Decision

285. To support our corporate aims and particularly that of improving health, community safety and wellbeing, specifically the priority set out in Our role in Dorset 2006-09 "the capacity of the voluntary and community sector is increased" and to support our commitment to improve relations with the third sector.

Recommendations from Committees

Audit and Scrutiny Committee

Resolved

286. That the following recommendations from the meeting of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee held on 22 May 2007, be agreed:-

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| Recommendation 103 | - Public Rights of Way Extinguishment Provisions of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. |
| Recommendation 108 | - Dorset Strategic Partnership: Grants Funding Panel |
| Recommendation 111 | - Strategy for the Voluntary and Community Sector: Refresh and Review |

Sherborne House

287. Arising from Audit and Scrutiny Committee recommendation 96/2007, the Valuation and Estates Manager updated the Cabinet on the present position regarding negotiations with the Sherborne House Trust for the possible long leasehold of the property. He anticipated that he would be in a position to bring a full report to members early in the Autumn.

Resolved

288. That a full report be submitted to the meeting of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee and to the Cabinet in September/October.

Roads and Rights of Way Committee

Resolved

289. That the following recommendations from the meeting of the Roads and Rights of Way Committee held on 10 May 2007 be agreed:-

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| Recommendation 78 | - Proposed Disabled Parking Bay - Fairfield Road, Blandford |
| Recommendation 84 | - Proposed Disabled Parking Bay - Hampton, Portesham |
| Recommendation 87 | - Proposed Pedestrian Crossing - Worgret Road, Wareham |

Appointments to Various Bodies

290. The Cabinet considered a report by the Chief Executive.

Resolved

291.1 That the allocation of seats to political groups (as set out in paragraph 1.1 of the report, be approved.

291.2 The appointments be made to various bodies for the year 2007-08, as follows:-

Adult Placement Panel

Con Group (2)

Donald Hiatt

LD Group (-)

Marilyn Osner (Con Group nominee)

Adoption Panel

Con Group (1)

Sandra Brown

Children Out of School Management Committee

Con Group (2)

Philip Gaussen

Peter Gregson

LD Group (1)

Tim Cook

Christchurch Transportation Liaison Group

Con Group (3)

David J Fox

Philip Gaussen

Alan Havelock

LD Group (1)

Peter Hall

Reserve Member

Con Group (1)

Derek Burt

Corporate Parenting Panel

Con Group (3)

Sandra Brown

Peter Gregson

John Wilson

LD Group (1)

Susan Jefferies

Lab Group (1)

Claire Sutton

County Farms Liaison Panel

Con Group (3)

Hilary Cox

Philip Gaussen

John Peake

LD Group (2)

Barrie Cooper

David C Fox

Dorchester Transport and Environment Plan Joint Member Working Party

Con Group (2)

David Crowhurst

LD Group (1)

Richard Biggs

Trevor Jones (Con Group nominee)

Dorset Local Access ForumCon Group (1)

John Peake

Dorset Waste ForumCon Group (2)

Philip Gaussen

Lab Group (-)

Anne Kenwood (Con Group nominee)

*Reserve members*Con Group (2)

Hilary Cox

LD Group (-)

David C Fox (Con Group nominee)

Dorset Waste Management Liaison PanelCon Group (2)

Philip Gaussen

Lab Group (-)

Anne Kenwood (Con Group nominee)

*Reserve members*Con Group (2)

Hilary Cox

LD Group (-)

David C Fox (Con Group nominee)

Education Appointments Advisory PanelCon Group (4)

Sandra Brown

Philip Gaussen

Donald Hiett

Ann Warman

LD Group (2)

Tim Cook

Marilyn Osner

Lab Group (1)

Clare Sutton

Fostering Assessment PanelCon Group (2)

Donald Hiett

Ann Warman

LD Group (1)

Marilyn Osner

Governors' ForumCon Group (3)

Sandra Brown

Ronald Coatsworth

Don Mildenhall

LD Group (1)

Tim Cook

Joint Archives Advisory BoardCon Group (3)

Spencer Flower

David J Fox

John Wilson

LD Group (1)

Richard Biggs

Reserve Members (3)(To be nominated by
the Leader of the
Con Group)Reserve Member (1)

David Milsted

Learning Disability Partnership BoardCon Group (2)

Sandra Brown

Les Ames (Con Group nominee)

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North Dorset Countryside and Heritage Partnership PanelCon Group (2)

Andrew Cattaway

Hilary Cox

LD Group (2)

Tim Cook

David C Fox (Con Group nominee)

Poundbury Inter-Authority Joint Working GroupCon Group (4)

David Crowhurst

LD Group (-)

Richard Biggs (Con Group nominee)

School Provision/Effectiveness Consultative PanelCon Group (4)

Ronald Coatsworth

Donald Hiatt

Don Mildenhall

Ann Warman

LD Group (2)

Susan Jefferies

Marilyn Osner

Lab Group (1)

Clare Sutton

Standing Advisory Council for Religious EducationCon Group (2)

Sandra Brown

Donald Hiatt

LD Group (1)

Susan Jefferies

Weymouth and Portland Transportation Liaison GroupCon Group (3)

Philip Gaussen

Ron Nash

LD Group (2)

Peter Farrell

Lab Group (-)

Harry Burden

(Con group nominee)

Mike Byatt

(LD Group nominee)

*Reserve Member*Con Group (1)

Derek Burt

Wytch Farm Oilfield Consultative CommitteeCon Group (3)

Philip Gaussen

Donald Hiatt

Mike Lovell

LD Group (1)

David Budd

Joint Health, Safety and Welfare Committee (Overview Committee representatives- 2 from each)Con Group (3)

Sandra Brown

Andrew Cattaway

Malcolm Shakesby

LD Group (1)

Harry Burden (LD Group nominee)

291.3 That the membership of these bodies be kept under review in the light of the new Overview Committee arrangements.

291.4 That Anne Kenwood be appointed to take the place of Angus Campbell as the County Council's representative on the Dorset Archaeological Committee and that Angus Campbell take the place of Anne Kenwood as the substitute member, for the period up to the next County Council elections in 2009.

291.5 That Malcolm Shakesby be appointed to take the place of John Lofts as the County Council representative on the Environment Agency Regional Flood Defence Committee for the period up to the next County Council elections in 2009.

RECOMMENDED

292. That, subject to the views of the Standards Committee, the number of elected members on the Adoption Panel be reduced to one and that the Constitution be amended accordingly.

Reason for Recommendation

293. To comply with the Adoption Agency Regulations 2005 and the recommendation of the Commission for Social Care Inspection.

Poole Hospital NHS Trust - Council of Member Representatives

294.1 Following minutes 126 and 127/2007, the Poole Hospital NHS Trust had invited the County Council to appoint a member representative to serve on their Council of Member Representatives.

294.2 Members within the catchment area had been canvassed and expressions of interest had been received from three Liberal Democrat members.

Resolved

295.1 That the Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group be authorised to decide which of the three members should be appointed as the County Council's representative on the Poole Hospital NHS Trust Council of Member Representatives.

295.2 That the appointment be for the period up to the next County Council elections in 2009.

Exempt Business

Exclusion of the Public

Resolved

296. That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for the business specified in minutes 297.2 to 299.3 because it is likely that if members of the public were present there would be a disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Act and the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing that information.

Disposal of Surplus Property

297.1 Prior to the public being excluded from the meeting, the Cabinet heard from the District Councillor for Cam Vale in respect of the proposed disposal of the former Longburton Depot. He expressed his disappointment at the decision of the Director for Planning and Environment for West Dorset District Council, not to refer the new planning application to members and to refuse planning permission under the scheme of delegation. He felt that permission should now be sought for affordable housing on the entire site.

297.2 The Cabinet considered a joint report by the Directors for Adult and Community Services and Environment on the present position concerning four properties which were surplus to the County Council's requirements.

297.3 The County Council member for Sherborne Rural Electoral Division spoke on the situation concerning the former Longburton Depot site and on consultations with the Cam Vale Parish Council.

297.4 Members agreed that further exploration was required in respect of the Longburton site, including consultations with the District Council about the appropriate planning use(s) for the site, and valuation information.

297.5 Members agreed to the disposal of the three other properties mentioned in the report. The County Council members for Commons had expressed his agreement to the disposal of the old Avon View Care Home.

Resolved

298.1 That the sale of the site at the old Maiden Castle House care home in Dorchester to the Dorset Primary Care Trust be approved, subject to planning approvals and on terms to be agreed by the Director for Environment.

298.2 That the continuation of the joint project to develop a joint mental health resource on the site be agreed.

298.3 That the land at the old Avon View Care Home, Bronte Avenue, Christchurch and at 29-31 Damers Road, Dorchester be disposed of on terms to be agreed by the Director for Environment.

298.4 That consideration of the Longburton Depot site be deferred for further information.

Reasons for Decision

299.1 The sale of the site at Maiden Castle House care home in Dorchester will facilitate the development of a joint mental health resource for the Dorchester locality and provide enhanced accommodation for the joint community mental health team which includes Dorset County Council staff.

299.2 The declaration of the parcels of land and buildings at the old Avon View care home in Bronte Avenue in Christchurch and the old equipment store at 29/31 Damers Road in Dorchester as being surplus to the requirements of the County Council will enable their disposal and will relieve the County Council of its maintenance and third party liabilities. It will also generate significant capital receipts.

299.3 To contribute to our corporate aims of helping vulnerable people to maintain independent living, improving health, community safety and well-being and building a Council fit for the future.

