

Monthly bulletin from Dorset Council October 2019

Dear Clerks, Chairmen & Members,

As well as attending the regular Parish & Town meetings in the ward I thought I would include the work of Dorset Council Cabinet. The content may not necessarily apply to the ward of Stalbridge & Marnhull directly, however It may have a wider interest for the Community.

Please let me know if this is useful and or interesting for future monthly updates.

Fund to support community organisations in Dorset opens for applications

Dorset Council has opened its Community Impact fund to back community projects that help improve the lives of local people.

There is a total of £75,000 available to help community organisations and charities, with a turnover of less than £500,000, deliver services that improve the lives and well-being of people in the Dorset Council area.

Local community groups can apply for grants of up to £6,000. To make sure the fund reaches all parts of Dorset's communities, applications for smaller amounts (up to £1,000), via the Micro grants pot are also welcome.

Projects supported will target those whose needs are greatest and will support the council's ambition of reducing demand for its services by connecting people to the right help, support and early intervention to improve resident's lives. <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/your-community/support-for-voluntary-and-community-organisations/funding/dorset-community-impact-fund.aspx>

Dorset Council is seeking the views of local residents, community groups and local charities on the proposal to run a Community Lottery for local good causes in the Dorset council area. In order to determine if there is a willingness for this to happen, we want to ask people to complete a short online survey. The survey only takes 5 minutes to complete. Please note that no decision to run a Community Lottery has yet to be made. We simply want to measure people's thoughts (good and bad) about having one.

. The Survey is live from midnight Thursday 12th September and closes at 4pm on Sunday 13th October.

Survey Link

<https://www.snapsurveys.com/wh/s.asp?k=156328632851>

DECISIONS OF THE DORSET COUNCIL - CABINET 3 SEPTEMBER 2019

CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL PROVISION Decision (i) That the Executive Director for People (Children) takes action, as outlined in the report to Cabinet of 3 September 2019, to increase the sufficiency of residential care for children in Dorset. (ii) Once options have been identified, the lead cabinet member for Children, Education and Early Help, in consultation with cabinet colleagues and corporate parenting board, be delegated powers to approve preferred sites. (iii) That consultation takes place with local residents and stakeholders about preferred sites. Reason for Decision For Dorset Council to make the best use of resources and securing the best outcomes, for children in care who require residential care.

LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN REDUCTION CASE FOR CHANGE Decision (i) That the Executive Director for People (Children) will develop a strategy and detailed roadmap to reduce the number of children in care, taking a rights-based approach, which develops services to support children to be able to grow up in a family setting. (ii) That a further report be present to Cabinet in December 2019. Reason for the Decision: The reduction of the number of children in care in Dorset would:- 1. Promote the rights of children 2. Improve the outcomes for children 3. Enable services to be sustainable

PROCUREMENTS OVER £5 MILLION IN RESPECT OF: HIGHWAYS CONTRACTOR RESOURCE Decision That the procurement and award of a Dorset Highways Contractor Resource (Labour TopUp) Framework (re-procurement exercise) be approved. Reason for the Decision Cabinet is required to approve all key decisions with a financial consequence of £500k or more, and procurements over £5m are subject to individual reports (Cabinet 04-06-19 refers). The technical summary for reasons for the recommendation is as follows: • The pre-agreed rates and contract conditions allows Dorset Highways to respond to changing demands / circumstances quickly and efficiently. • The quick procured method - call off, is far quicker than the traditional quote, tender and mini-competition methods of procurement. This reduces administration and back office costs • The multi supplier lots provide

resilience if the preferred supplier cannot fulfil the coloff • The multi supplier lots provide technical expertise in a variety of specialist areas • The multi-supplier framework has worked for the last eight years

POLICY FOR THE AWARDING OF DISCRETIONARY RATES RELIEF TO CHARITIES AND NOT FOR PROFIT

ORGANISATIONS Decision That the discretionary rate relief policy, as set out at Appendix 3 of the report of 3 September 2019, be adopted. Reason for the Decision To ensure that a consistent approach is taken in relation to the award of discretionary rates relief.

SUPERFAST BROADBAND - TO INVEST FUNDS, MADE UP FROM GRANT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS (DEFRA) AND CONTRACT OUTTURNS Decision (i) That authority be delegated to the lead member for Economic Growth & Skills in consultation with the lead member of Corporate Development & Change and the Executive Directors for Place and Corporate Development to approve Change Control(s) under the Superfast Dorset Phase 3 Ultrafast contract to incorporate funding derived from the DEFRA Rural Broadband Infrastructure grant award, released from in life contractual changes and from current programme underspends into the existing contract, to the contracted maximum public funding contribution of £8.9m (ii) Note that the Change Control process requires that the proposal(s) from BT (Openreach) described above would be subject to central government assurance (Building Digital UK and Rural Payments Agency for DEFRA) and Dorset Council's own assurance (to include Superfast Dorset, Finance and Legal consultation) prior to seeking to enter into contract. (iii) Notes that the values presented within the report to Cabinet on 3 September 2019 were subject to finalisation within the contractual limits specified under recommendation (i) above. Reason for the Decision To further the Council's corporate plan focus on Enabling Economic Growth through maximising the level of external funding drawn into Dorset to extend the provision of superfast broadband services to rural areas. Central government commissioned research suggests that a £1 investment in NGA broadband returns a £20 increase in GVA for the local economy

Empty Homes Week, 23-29 September, in conjunction with the Empty Homes Network.

Throughout the week the council highlighted the issue of empty homes and showed examples of how homes that have been left empty for a long time have been brought back into use.

Properties can be left empty for a number of reasons and there are estimated to be around 600 long-term empty properties in Dorset. Housing is in short supply in the county and, for this reason, Dorset Council takes action in a number of ways to help bring them back into use. The council offers advice, guidance and financial assistance (in the form of loans) to the owners of empty properties to help bring them back into use or sell them. A leasing scheme is also available where the council manages the property and rents it back to local people in housing need. Other powers include the use of compulsory purchase and empty dwelling management orders.

"It's difficult to understand why some properties are left empty for long periods of time, often getting into a state of disrepair when they could be providing an income to their owner and much needed accommodation to people living in Dorset.

"If you know of a property that has been left empty for a long time, let the council know about it by registering it on the website www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/emptyhomes."

The following items were concluded by Dorset Council Cabinet on October 1st

See the link for the decision sheet:

Dorset Councils Plan 2020-2024 **Already circulated to Town/ Parish Clerks**

Council Tax - Support for Care Leavers

Report of the Monitoring Officer on an Investigation by the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman

Adoption of the Dorset and BCP Mineral Sites Plan

Making of Broadwindsor Neighbourhood Plan 2018 to 2031

Milborne St Andrew Neighbourhood Plan 2018 to 2033

Youth Justice Plan

Domestic Violence and Abuse Services in Dorset

Wareham Gateway Development

<https://moderngov.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/ielistDocuments.aspx?CId=152&MId=225&Ver=4>

Cllr. Graham Carr-Jones:

Ward Member Stalbridge & Marnhull

Cabinet Member Housing & Community Safety.