

DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL

POLICY COMMITTEE

17TH SEPTEMBER 2013

At a Meeting of the Policy Committee held on 17th September 2013:

PRESENT Councillors V.J. Allan, T.C.N. Harries, G.M. Jones, Trevor Jones (Chairman), P.G. Mann, D.S. Roberts and the Mayor (Councillor E.S. Jones).

In attendance:
Councillor T.C. James

APOLOGY for absence was received from Councillor R.M. Biggs

11. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 16th July 2013, having been adopted by Council on 23rd July 2013, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

12. **MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS**

The Committee received and noted the Council's Management Accounts for the period 1st April to 31st August 2013.

In response to questions from Members the Financial Services Provider agreed to include information on outstanding debts in his next report. Further work would be undertaken to improve presentation of the report relating to use of reserves and budget profiling, and balance sheet reporting.

In response to a question Cllr P.G. Mann explained the nature of spending by the Heritage Committee.

13. **DORCHESTER TOWN YOUTH COUNCIL**

The Committee noted the report of the Deputy Town Clerk on positive progress towards the establishment of a Dorchester Town Youth Council.

14. **INDEPENDENT LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION REVIEW OF WEST DORSET DISTRICT COUNCIL MEMBER ARRANGEMENTS**

The Committee considered the Commissioner's consultation regarding ward boundaries, noting that he was minded to recommend that 43 councillors represent the district from 2015.

It was

RECOMMENDED

- (1) That the Town Clerk should respond to the boundary commissioner and propose that Dorchester be represented by 9 councillors
- (2) That, in order to minimise changes to existing voting arrangements, a third council seat be added to the North ward, with minor adjustments being made to other ward boundaries to maintain electorates within the required tolerances for the average for the district area

The Committee noted that once work had concluded on district ward boundaries, in spring 2014 work would commence on a review of town councillor numbers and boundaries.

15. **INTRODUCTION OF A COMMUNITY JUSTICE PANEL IN DORCHESTER**

Councillor T.C. James updated the Committee regarding progress on the implementation of a Community Justice Panel. The Committee were very supportive of the principle of the Community Justice Panel. Councillor V.J. Allan asked that discussions take place with Relate about their possible support for the Panel.

It was

RESOLVED

That Councillor T.C. James and the Town Clerk consider practical opportunities by which the Town Council could support the new Panel, including, if appropriate, a request for funding to the Grants Panel for training or hall hire costs.

16. **THE ROLE OF THE COUNCIL IN FUNDING CCTV IN DORCHESTER**

The Committee considered the report of the Town Clerk. It was

RESOLVED

That a task and finish group, comprising Councillors V.J. Allan, T.C.N. Harries and G.M. Jones, scrutinises the current contribution for CCTV, gathers evidence from our partners, and presents a report to the Policy Committee on 21 January 2014 recommending any proposed changes

17. **URGENT ITEMS**

The Town Clerk brought to the attention of members that he had held discussions with the Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant regarding his developing a greater understanding of the Council's civic responsibilities.

The Town Clerk identified the arrangements that had been put in place in relation to the management of the Council's services, noting that while it was the intention of the Town Clerk that either he or the Deputy Town Clerk would routinely be available during normal working hours, in exceptional circumstances the management role would be performed by the Council's Compliance Manager.

The Town Clerk identified that he was reviewing the need to register town councillors as Data Controllers with the Information Commissioners Office, and that he would only reregister councillors when he had clear evidence that their roles were covered by the Data Protection Act.

Chairman