

Dorchester Town Council

Dorchester Markets Informal Joint Panel

5 August 2026

Present: Councillors: P. Dickenson, S. Jones, K. Reid, M. Rennie, R. Tarr and S. Williams.

Officers: Charmaine Denny (Town Clerk - DTC), Graham Duggan (Head of Regulatory Services - DC), Nigel Hayes (Responsible Financial Officer – DTC), Daryl Chambers (Markets Officer – DTC) and Keira Lake (Finance Assistant)

Apologies: There were no apologies.

1. Declaration of Interests

No declarations of interest were declared.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Markets Informal Joint Panel held on 3rd June 202, were confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

3. Markets Operation Update

Members considered a report by the Markets Officer which updated the panel on the proposed improvements to the Fairfield Indoor Market and gave a summary of how the car boot and Cornhill market are trading.

An overview of the Cornhill Project was also given to the Panel.

Dorchester Town Council (DTC) have recently agreed a contribution of £35,000 towards the Fairfield Indoor Market improvements and members wished for their thanks to DTC to be noted.

Resolved

Proposer: Cllr S.Williams

Seconder: Cllr R. Tarr

It was unanimously agreed that:

- (1) Officers continue to work with Dorset Council and appoint a contractor for the improvement works for Fairfield Indoor Market
- (2) An energy professional to be appointed to complete and submit an application to Low Carbon Dorset for the procurement, installation and commissioning of a solar panel system for the indoor market at a cost of upto

£4,000. This is to also include an assessment for further car charging points in the future, as well as LED lighting for the whole site

4. Markets Future Vision

The Markets Officer presented a report regarding the importance of creating a masterplan document for the site.

The panel discussed the benefits of having the document and emphasised how the removal of the North Linney's needs to be seen in the wider context e.g. how the removal of them will benefit the wider site.

Once a draft Masterplan has been produced, it should be circulated to the panel in advance of the next meeting, and an additional meeting to be scheduled if needed. Officers also to undertake a public consultation before the document is finalised.

The Panel aspired for the covered area of the Fairfield Car Park to have the same opening times of the main car park in the future.

Resolved

Proposer: Cllr S.Jones

Seconder: Cllr P. Dickinson

It was unanimously agreed that the Panel agree for a contractor to be procured to produce a masterplan document for the markets site and for the costs of this to be paid for from the Market Panels budget.

5. Financial Outturn Report 2025/26

The Panel had before it a report from Dorset Council, presented by Graham Duggan which gave the financial outturn position of the Markets panel for 2025/26

Resolved

Proposer: Cllr S.Williams

Seconder: Cllr S.Jones

Members of the Panel unanimously approved the Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2026.

6. 2026 – 27 Financial Update

The Panel had before it a report presented by Keira Lake which gave the financial position of the Markets to date for 2026/27.

Resolved

Proposer: Cllr K.Reid

Seconder: Cllr S.Jones

Members of the Panel unanimously noted the current financial position as at the end of July 2026.

Chair.....