



# Dorchester Town Council

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You are summoned to a meeting of the **Dorchester Town Council** to be held in the Council Chamber, the Municipal Buildings, High East Street, Dorchester, DT1 1HF on **Monday 31 March 2025 at 7.00pm**, to conduct the business set out in the Agenda below.

## AGENDA

1. **Apologies**

2. **Declarations of Interests**

Members are reminded of their responsibility to disclose registerable interests where appropriate. A Member who declares a registerable interest must leave the room unless a dispensation has been granted. A Member who declares a registerable interest as a Council nominee to a partner organisation may first address the meeting as a member of the public.

3. **Minutes**

To confirm the Minutes of the meetings of the Council held on 27 January 2025 and 9 February 2025 (pages 3 and 15).

4. **Police Update**

To receive an update from Dorchester's Neighbourhood Police Sergeant Ian Schofield.

5. **Presentations, Communications and Motions**

- a) To receive a presentation from Matilda Manley, Tourism Development Officer.
- b) To receive communications from the Mayor and Town Clerk.
- c) To receive motions received from Members no less than 5 days before the meeting.

6. **Minutes of Committees**

To receive and consider the Minutes of the following Committees:-

Planning & Environment Committee	3 February 2025	Page 16
Planning & Environment Committee	3 March 2025	Page 21
Management Committee	17 March 2025	Page 26
Mayoral Selection Committee	24 March 2025	Page 32
Policy Committee	24 March 2025	Page 33

7. **Update from Dorset Council Members**

To receive updates from Councillors R. Biggs, A. Canning, S. Jones, L. Fry and R. Major  
Dorchester Ward Members of the Dorset Council.



Steve Newman  
Town Clerk  
26 March 2025

**At the conclusion of the Meeting members of the public will have the opportunity to  
address the Council or ask questions on matters of local concern.**

## **Dorchester Town Council**

### **Meeting of the Dorchester Town Council held in the Council Chamber**

**27 January 2025**

**Present:** The Mayor (Councillor R. Potter) and Councillors R. Biggs, S. Biles, A. Canning, P. Farmer, L. Fry, J. Germodo, W. Gibbons, J. Hewitt, F. Hogwood, G. Jones, S. Jones, D. Leaper, V. Lloyd-Jones, R. Major, K. Reid, M. Rennie, R. Ricardo and D. Taylor.

**Apologies:** Councillor F. Kent-Ledger.

**In Attendance:**

Police Sergeant Ian Schofield

Claire Meyers, The GAP project

**48. Declarations of Interest**

Councillor D. Taylor declared a non-pecuniary interest in respect of being a Trustee of The Gap project.

**49. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 25 November 2024 were confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

**50. Police Matters**

The Council welcomed Dorchester's temporary Neighbourhood Police Sergeant, Ian Schofield, to the meeting. Sergeant Schofield updated Members on the crime statistics and initiatives for Dorchester over the past two months. He also responded to Members detailed questions.

**51. Presentations, Communications and Motions**

The Council received a presentation from Councillor David Taylor and Claire Meyer in respect of the GAP project at Lubbecke Way. The representatives updated the Council on progress and asked that if any Member knew of any group that might benefit from attending to let them know. The representatives then responded to Members detailed questions.

The Mayor reported on the many events that he had attended over the past two months including the Holocaust Memorial event and the Gladiators exhibition at the Dorset Museum.

The Mayor also reported on a visit to the site of the Gorge Café fire, and whilst recognising the issues, expressed his desire that a walkway be opened up as soon as possible.

The Town Clerk reported the following upcoming events:-

- Honorary Citizens Ceremony – Sunday 9 February 2025, partners were invited, please RSVP.
- The Mayor would be leading a Covid moment of reflection from the Bandstand in the Borough Gardens at noon on Sunday 9 March 2025.
- The informal Annual Town Meeting would be held in the Corn Exchange on Friday 9 May 2025 between 11.00am and 1.00pm.
- The Leader of Dorset Council, would be available to speak with Council on Monday 31 March 2025, in the Council Chamber at 6.00pm (Full Council would then commence at 7.00pm).

No motions had been submitted.

52. **Planning and Environment Committee – 2 December 2024**

It was proposed and seconded that the minutes of the meeting be adopted.

**Resolved**

That the minutes of the meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee held on 2 December 2024 be adopted.

53. **Planning and Environment Committee – 8 January 2025**

It was proposed and seconded that the minutes of the meeting be adopted.

**Resolved**

That the minutes of the meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee held on 8 January 2025 be adopted.

54. **Management Committee – 13 January 2025**

It was proposed and seconded that the minutes of the meeting be adopted.

**Resolved**

That the minutes of the meeting of the Management Committee held on 13 January 2025 be adopted.

55. **Policy Committee – 20 January 2025**

It was proposed and seconded that the minutes of the meeting be adopted.

## **Resolved**

- (1) That the Medium-Term Financial Strategy and Revenue Budget 2025-26, as set out in the Appendices 1 to 4 of these Minutes, be adopted, to include: -
  - A Council Tax Band D charge of £214.54, an increase of £4.21 (2%)
  - A precept of £1,822,939, an increase of 5.5%
- (2) That the Calendar of Meetings 2025-26, as set out in Appendix 5 to these Minutes, be agreed.
- (3) That the informal Annual Town Meeting be held between 11.00am and 1.00pm on Friday 9 May 2025.
- (4) That the minutes of the meeting of the Policy Committee held on 20 January 2025 be adopted.

## **56. Update from the Dorset Council**

Dorset Councillors updated the Council on the following matters:-

- Dorset Council would learn some good lessons in respect of the Gorge Café fire, particularly in relation to a more pro-active response.
- No response had been received from Government from Dorset Council's devolution submission.
- It was hoped that the Beryl bike scheme would continue in Dorchester.
- Dorchester Family Hub was open based in the Library. Some signposting was required.
- Councillor L. Fry was starting to work with 1610 Sports Centre but communication was not easy.

Members noted that nighttime parking charges might be introduced across the County and felt that if that was to happen it was even more important that the Fairfield car park be provided with suitable lighting and requested the Town Clerk to write to Dorset Council urging progress on this matter

Council rose at 8.23pm.

Mayor

## APPENDIX 1

	2023/24	2024/25	2024/25	2025/26
	Actual	Budget	6 Months	Budget
	£	£	£	£
<b>CORPORATE &amp; DEMOCRATIC</b>				
Members Allowance	23,412	24,440	11,748	24,440
Members Training & Travel	27	2,500	470	500
Civic & Ceremonial Expenses	1,246	1,000	1,260	1,500
Mayoral Expenses	10,365	13,107	4,313	13,369
Town Crier	600	600	300	600
New Town Crier Expenses		5,000	4,598	0
Election Costs	6,353	15,000		0
Entertaining & Gifts	17	420	307	428
Youth Council & Democracy Day	629	1,000	1,838	1,000
Office Team	219,462	244,257	118,139	257,365
<b>Met by Precept on Taxpayer</b>	<b>262,111</b>	<b>307,324</b>	<b>142,973</b>	<b>299,202</b>
<b>OTHER SERVICES</b>				
Tourism Development	8,618	8,000	5,410	8,160
Sawmills rent	8,600	8,600	4,300	8,600
To Public Realm Reserve	10,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
To Arts & Cultural Reserve - DBC	20,000	0		0
Dorchester Heritage Joint Committee	3,130	3,000	3,000	3,000
Citizens Advice	8,471	9,065	8,793	9,246
Dorchester Youth & Community Centre	21,200	21,200	10,600	28,000
Dorchester Ballet Club	0	0	10,894	
Apprenticeships	14,807	12,000	3,708	0
Videographer	551	5,500	1,335	2,000
Footfall Counter				3,400

Debt Charges	16,752	16,104	7,000	15,457
Staff - Tourism/Community/Assistant	108,956	126,068	60,975	160,780
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>221,084</b>	<b>214,537</b>	<b>121,015</b>	<b>243,643</b>
Treasury Interest	-94,005	-50,000	-50,305	-65,000
Sawmills rent recharged	-4,300	-4,300	0	-4,300
Market Income	-25,978	-25,000	-25,698	-26,000
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>-124,283</b>	<b>-79,300</b>	<b>-76,003</b>	<b>-95,300</b>
<b>Met by Precept on Taxpayer</b>	<b>96,801</b>	<b>135,237</b>	<b>45,012</b>	<b>148,343</b>

**APPENDIX 1 (Continued)**

	2023/24	2024/25	2024/25	2025/26
	Actual	Budget	6 Months	Budget
<b>OFFICES TEAM</b>	£	£	£	£
Salaries	291,564	318,853	147,615	356,773
Employers National Insurance	28,323	32,523	14,264	45,266
Employers Superannuation	64,144	70,148	32,647	78,490
Training Courses	8,309	8,000	6,283	9,000
Travel & Subsistence	1,356	3,000	1,189	3,000
Subscriptions (Professional Bodies)	3,155	3,800	2,298	3,800
Cleaning Materials	564	750	101	500
Rates	5,614	5,614	5,614	5,614
Electricity	4,404	4,500	2,056	4,500
Gas			-227	0
Water	381	550	336	600
Repairs & Maintenance	4,531	3,400	906	3,400
Financial Services inc Audit, Bank & Sage	7,921	8,843	6,170	9,020
Employment Law and H & S	3,701	3,800	3,907	4,000
Legal & Professional Fees, Advertising	1,279	500	656	500
Insurance	32,466	35,000	21,321	40,000
Stationery & Equipment	1,156	1,000	1,385	1,200
Newsletter	4,804	5,415	2,218	5,415
IT, Printing & Copying	9,627	12,000	632	12,000
New Website	3,000	0	0	0
Mobile Phones	1,925	2,000	793	600
Photocopier Charges	907	600	501	0
Postage	950	600	402	600



<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>480,082</b>	<b>520,896</b>	<b>251,069</b>	<b>584,278</b>
Recharge to Dorchester Markets Panel	-1,688	-1,800	0	-1,800
<b>Net Expenditure recharged to Services</b>	<b>478,394</b>	<b>519,096</b>	<b>251,069</b>	<b>582,478</b>
Recharged to				
Corporate & Democratic Management	219,462	244,257	118,139	257,365
Allotments	11,878	12,924	6,251	16,307
Development	108,956	126,068	60,975	160,780
Cemeteries	42,521	45,654	22,081	50,477
Parks & Open Spaces	61,111	56,156	27,161	60,117
Municipal Buildings	19,319	17,565	8,496	19,252
Cultural Activity & Twinning	15,154	16,472	7,967	18,181
	<b>478,401</b>	<b>519,096</b>	<b>251,069</b>	<b>582,478</b>

<b>REVENUE BUDGET 2025/26</b>	2023/24	2024/25	2024/25	2025/26
	Actual	Budget	6 Month	Budget
	£	£	£	£
Parks & Open Spaces	665,348	724,429	406,908	807,390
Allotments	17,492	22,598	17,760	28,477
Municipal Buildings	427,558	400,308	345,617	382,509
Cemeteries	44,555	55,855	39,074	67,898
Cultural & Twinning Activities	77,328	80,019	44,142	89,029
Corporate & Democratic	262,111	307,324	142,973	299,202
Other Services	96,801	135,237	45,012	148,343
<b>Operational Budget</b>	<b>1,591,193</b>	<b>1,725,770</b>	<b>1,041,487</b>	<b>1,822,848</b>
Precept	1,668,507	1,726,115	1,726,115	1,822,939
<b>Transfer to General Reserves</b>	<b>77,314</b>	<b>345</b>	<b>684,628</b>	<b>91</b>
<b>Subjective Analysis of Revenue</b>				
Employees	893,690	965,728		1,069,658
External Payments	549,695	597,503		610,536
Transfers to Earmarked	365,100	345,600		343,582
Capital Financing Costs	16,752	16,104		15,457
Income	-234,045	-199,166		-216,385
Transfer from Earmarked	0	0		0
<b>Operational Budget</b>	<b>1,591,193</b>	<b>1,725,769</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,822,848</b>
<b>General Reserve</b>				
Opening Balance at 1 April	132,065	177,000		100,000
Transfer from Ops Budget	77,000	345		91
To Corporate Projects Reserve	32,065	77,000		0
<b>Closing Balance at 31 March</b>	<b>177,000</b>	<b>100,345</b>		<b>100,091</b>
<b>Earmarked Reserves</b>				
Opening Balance at 1 April	1,304,510	1,379,688		1,157,365
Transfer from Revenue	434,165	345,600		343,582
Other Income & Transfers	35,371	0		0
Expenditure from Reserves	285,661	386,087		512,422
<b>Closing Balance 31 March</b>	<b>1,488,384</b>	<b>1,339,201</b>		<b>988,525</b>
<b>All Reserves held at year end</b>	<b>1,665,383</b>	<b>1,439,546</b>		<b>1,088,615</b>
Tax Base	8,091.30	8,206.70		8,497.10
Band D Charge	206.21	210.33		214.54
O/s PWLB Debt at 31 March	70,000	42,000		28,000

<b>Medium Term Financial Strategy</b>	23/24	24/25	25/26	26/27	27/28
	Actual	Budget	Budget	Forecast	Forecast
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
<b>Revenue Budget</b>					
Employees	894	966	1,070	1,091	1,113
External Payments	550	598	611	623	635
Transfers to Earmarked	365	346	344	353	360
Capital Financing Costs	17	16	15	15	16
Income	-234	-199	-216	-221	-225
<b>Operational Budget</b>	<b>1,591</b>	<b>1,726</b>	<b>1,823</b>	<b>1,862</b>	<b>1,899</b>
Precept	1,669	1,726	1,823	1,859	1,897
<b>Transfer to General Reserves</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-2</b>	<b>-2</b>
<b>General Reserve</b>					
Opening Balance at 1 April	132	177	100	100	100
Transfer from/to Operational Budget	0	0	0	0	0
Transfer to Corporate Projects Reserve	32	77	0	0	0
<b>Closing Balance at 31 March</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Earmarked Reserves</b>					
Opening Balance at 1 April	1,305	1,488	1,157	989	1,042
Transfers/Payments in to Reserves	470	1,068	344	353	360
Payments/Transfers out from Reserves	286	1,399	512	400	200
<b>Closing Balance 31 March</b>	<b>1,488</b>	<b>1,157</b>	<b>989</b>	<b>942</b>	<b>1,202</b>
<b>All Reserves held at year end</b>	<b>1,588</b>	<b>1,257</b>	<b>1,089</b>	<b>1,042</b>	<b>1,302</b>
Corporate Project Unallocated at Year End	755	755	505	255	255
Outstanding Debt at Year End      £k	56	42	28	14	-
Council Tax                              £k	206	210	215	219	223
Tax Base	8,091	8,207	8,497	8,497	8,497

## Notes

1. Precept assumes Council Tax rises @ 2.00% from 2026/27, no Tax Base growth
2. Any operational surplus and CIL receipts credited to Corporate Projects Reserve to pay for the front of house works.
3. 26/27 includes a contribution to a new earmarked reserve for Election Costs, £3k a year.
4. Best estimate of new or transferred services, driven by cuts in other tiers
5. Earmarked Reserves expenditure reflects best available knowledge
6. General Reserve set at £100k
7. Further limited savings may be identified in budgets during review processes

RESERVES	Cttee	Balance Mar 24 £	Paid In 24/25 £	Spend 24/25 £	Balance Mar 25 £	Paid In 25/26 £	Spend 25/26 £	Balance Mar 26 £	Reason for holding Reserve
<b>Earmarked Reserves</b>									
<b>Infrastructure &amp; Equipment</b>									
Cemeteries	Man	87,326	6,100	93,000	426	10,000	0	10,426	Buildings/infrastructure
MB Repairs & Maintenance	Man	49,653	12,500	50,192	11,961	20,000	0	31,961	Building works/refurb
MB Front of House works	Man	238,167	587,000	825,167	0	0	0	0	
Parks Premises	Man	12,789	9,000	11,735	10,054	19,000	0	29,054	Buildings/infrastructure refurb.
Play Equipment	Man	18,715	11,000	0	29,715	1,000	0	30,715	Equipment replacement
Great Field Reserve	Man	0	2,000	0	2,000	2,500	0	4,500	
Tree Reserve	Man	8,598	20,000	20,000	8,598	20,000	10,000	18,598	Tree Works
Tennis Courts Reserve	Man	7,000	0	0	7,000	0	0	7,000	
19 North Square Refurb	Pol	11,000	0	0	11,000	0	11,000	0	
Public Realm	Pol	435,310	5,000	5,000	435,310	5,000	200,000	240,310	Infrastructure refurb
Vehicles & Equipment	Man	97,007	20,000	60,000	57,007	22,000	40,000	39,007	Fleet & equipment replacement
<b>Cultural</b>									
Arts & Culture	Man	42,933	11,335	54,268	0	0	0	0	
Christmas Lights	Man	4,420	0	0	4,420	0	0	4,420	Replace lights
DTC Website & IT	Man	10,000	0	10,000	0	0	0	0	£3k DTC Website, £4,651.87 IT
Tourist Information	Pol	5,599	0	4,207	1,392	0	1,392	0	TIC Replacement Projects
<b>Miscellaneous Reserves</b>									
Corporate Projects	Pol	385,165	369,794	239,000	515,958	244,082	250,000	510,040	Own or partner capital projects

Apprenticeship Reserve	Pol	16,565	0	0	0	16,565	0	0	16,565	
Planning Advice Reserve	Pol	18,499	0	20	0	18,479	0	0	18,479	Local Plan & other advice
Climate Emergency Reserve	Pol	25,609	13,790	25,909	0	13,490	0	0	13,490	Own or partner Climate projects
Graves In Perpetuity	Man	14,019	0	30	0	13,989	0	30	13,959	Maint. and flowers on 6 graves
<b>Total Earmarked Reserves</b>		<b>1,488,374</b>	<b>1,067,519</b>	<b>1,398,528</b>		<b>1,157,365</b>	<b>343,582</b>	<b>512,422</b>	<b>988,525</b>	
General Reserve	Pol	177,314	0	77,314	0	100,000	0	0	100,000	General Emergency Fund
<b>Total Reserves</b>		<b>1,665,688</b>	<b>1,067,519</b>	<b>1,475,842</b>		<b>1,257,365</b>	<b>343,582</b>	<b>512,422</b>	<b>1,088,525</b>	

## CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2025-26

	2025								2026				
	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY
COUNCIL	19 MM 20 (Tu)		28		29		24		26		30		18 MM 19 (Tu)
POLICY	12		21		22		17		19		23 MS@ 1830		11
MANAGEMENT	6 (Tu)		14		15		10		12		16		5 (Tu)
PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT	28 April	2	7	4	1	6	3	1	7 (Wed)	2	2	7 (Tu) & 27	-
MARKETS JOINT PANEL	29 1400												
HERITAGE JOINT			22 (Tu) 17.30			14 (Tu) 17.30			20 (Tu) 17.30			14 (Tu) 17.30	
SITE VISITS		3 (Tu) 09.30			2 (Tu)								
CIVIC EVENTS	20 ATM 31 (Sat) Hardy 17.00						Remem Sunday 9						19 ATM
BANK HOLIDAYS	5, 26			25				25, 26	1			3, 6	4,25

MM Mayor Making MS Mayoral Selection Committee

ATM Formal Annual Town Meeting (it is proposed to hold an 'informal' ATM on a date to be agreed prior to the formal ATM)

Meetings will ordinarily take place at 19.00 in the Council Chamber, Municipal Buildings.

\* The dates and timing of Markets Joint Panel meetings are still to be agreed.

## **Dorchester Town Council**

### **Special Meeting of the Dorchester Town Council held in the Council Chamber**

**9 February 2025**

Present: The Mayor (Councillor R. Potter) and Councillors S. Biles, A. Canning, P. Farmer, J. Germodo, W. Gibbons, J. Hewitt, G. Jones, S. Jones, V. Lloyd-Jones, R. Major, K. Reid and M. Rennie.

Apologies: Councillors R. Biggs, L. Fry, F. Hogwood, F. Kent-Ledger, D. Leaper, R. Ricardo and D. Taylor.

#### **57. Honorary Citizenships**

The Council considered proposals to confer the Honorary Citizenship of Dorchester on Mr Alistair Chisholm, Mr Tim Harries and Mr Dennis Holmes.

Members received speeches in support of the proposals, and it was unanimously

#### **Resolved**

That Dorchester Town Council confer the Honorary Citizenship of Dorchester on Mr Alistair Chisholm, Mr Tim Harries and Mr Dennis Holmes.

The new Honorary Citizens were each presented with a casket and scroll and each addressed the meeting in their capacity as an Honorary Citizens of the town, following which the Mayor closed the meeting.

Council rose at 1.22pm.

Mayor

**Dorchester Town Council**  
**Minutes of the Planning and Environment Committee**  
**3 February 2025**

**Present:** Councillors R. Potter (the Mayor ex-officio & Vice Chair), R. Biggs, S. Biles, P. Farmer, J. Hewitt, F. Hogwood, S. Jones, , D. Leaper, V. Lloyd-Jones, R. Major, K. Reid, M. Rennie and R. Ricardo (Chair).

**Apologies:** Cllrs L. Fry, F. Kent-Ledger and D. Taylor

Also in attendance: Cllr William Gibbons and members of the public with concerns regarding application P/HOU/2024/05670.

**46. Declarations of Interest**

Councillor R. Major stated that as a member of Dorset Council's Northern Area Planning Committee, he would keep an open mind on the planning applications and consider all information available at each stage of the decision process. He would take part in the debate but not vote on planning applications at this meeting.

Councillor J. Hewitt declared a non-pecuniary interest in planning application P/HOU/2024/05670 134 Coburg Road Dorchester DT1 2HT, she stated that she would take part in the debate but not vote on planning applications.

**47. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 7 January 2025 were signed by the Chair.

**48. Lower South Street - Gorge Fire Update**

The Committee noted an update that Dorset Council had shared with the public.

**49. Planning Applications for Comment**

The Committee was addressed by a member of the public with their concerns regarding application P/HOU/2024/05670.

The Committee considered the planning applications referred by Dorset Council to the Council for comment.

**Resolved**

That the comments on the various planning applications, as set out in Appendix 1, be submitted to Dorset Council.



50. **Minute Update Report**

There were no minute updates to report.

51. **Planning Issues to Note**

There were no planning issues to note.

Dorchester Town Council

Planning & Environment Committee – 3 February 2025

Planning Applications for Comment

East Ward (Councillors P. Farmer, S. Jones, F. Kent-Ledger, R. Major and K. Reid)

**E1. P/HOU/2024/06157 42 Alington Avenue Dorchester DT1 2AB**

Install dropped kerb & form vehicular access.

***Additional information has been received for consideration.***

(Previously considered at the Dorchester Town Council Planning and Environment Committee meeting held on 4 November 2024. The committee objected to this application on the basis of its impact on the safety of pedestrians and other road users and its detrimental affect on an attractive boundary wall.)

Objection.

The committee remained concerned about the safety of pedestrians and other road users due to the proximity to the industrial estates adjacent and opposite the site. The Committee felt that the application contravened COM7 of the adopted local plan as it would have severe detrimental effect on road safety.

**E2. P/FUL/2025/00384 Maen Maen Gardens Dorchester DT1 1QQ**

Replace existing roof.

No objection.

**E3. P/FUL/2023/01247 & P/LBC/2023/01251 (Listed Building Consent) 10 High East Street Dorchester DT1 1HS**

Erect first floor extension to provide 1 No. unit of residential accommodation (**re-consult for amended scheme - First Floor extension only**).

No objection.

The Committee requested that a planning condition be made that the proposed extractor fan be maintained as per the recommendations stated in the Odour Assessment report submitted with the application.

**E4. P/LBC/2025/00495 15 High Street Fordington Dorchester DT1 1JZ**

Erect timber framed rear conservatory.

No objection.

**E5. P/HOU/2025/00211 95 High Street Fordington Dorchester DT1 1LD**

Re-render front and side elevation. Modify and re-cover garage roof.

No objection.

**North Ward (Councillors S. Biles, A. Canning, V. Lloyd-Jones & D. Taylor)**

**N1. P/FUL/2024/07377 Acland Court Linden Avenue Dorchester DT1 1AY**

Construction of pergola, mobility scooter storage unit & creation of opening/access within existing wall.

No objection.

**N2. P/FUL/2025/00010 9 Flat Princes Street Dorchester DT1 1TW**

Change of use of part ground floor from office to residential.

No objection.

**West Ward (Councillors L. Fry, J. Germodo, J. Hewitt and R. Ricardo)**

**W1. P/HOU/2024/05670 134 Coburg Road Dorchester DT1 2HT**

Retain 2m high fence along front & side boundaries. Erect 2m high fence on boundary with adjacent property.

Objection.

The Committee objected to this 'retrospective' application due to the severe detrimental effect on road safety (as per COM7 of the adopted local plan). The height of the fences severely reduce visibility. Concerns were heightened due to the proximity to the adjacent junction and schools.

The Committee felt that the fences were not in harmony with the adjoining buildings and the area as a whole (ENV12) and also had a severely detrimental effect on the neighbouring property by reducing their visibility as well as having a detrimental effect on their amenity (ENV16) through loss of light and excessive overshadowing.

**W2. P/HOU/2024/07626 22 Lorne Road Dorchester DT1 2LQ**

Erect single storey rear extension with roof lights.

No objection.

**W3. P/HOU/2025/00329 99 Weatherbury Way Dorchester DT1 2EE**

Erect single storey rear lean-to extension.

No objection.

**South Ward (Councillors R. Potter and M. Rennie)**

**S1. P/HOU/2025/00170 10 South Court Avenue Dorchester DT1 2BX**

Install domestic air source heat pump at the side/rear of the house.

Objection.

Whilst the Committee is usually supportive of similar applications, in this instance the Committee were concerned about the findings of the noise impact statement submitted with this application and the negative impact this would have on the neighbouring property through the noise generated therefore contravening ENV16 of the adopted local plan.

**Poundbury Ward (Councillors R. Biggs, F. Hogwood and D. Leaper)**

No applications received to date.

**Dorchester Town Council**  
**Minutes of the Planning and Environment Committee**  
**3 March 2025**

**Present:** Councillors R. Potter (the Mayor ex-officio & Vice Chair), S. Biles, A. Canning, P. Farmer, L. Fry, J. Hewitt, F. Hogwood, S. Jones, D. Leaper, M. Rennie and R. Ricardo (Chair).

**Apologies:** Cllrs R. Biggs, J. Germodo, F. Kent-Ledger, V. Lloyd-Jones and D. Taylor.

Also in attendance: Members of the public with concerns regarding application P/FUL/2024/05669 134 Coburg Road Dorchester DT1 2HT.

**52. Declarations of Interest**

Councillor L. Fry stated that as a member of Dorset Council's Northern Area Planning Committee, he would keep an open mind on the planning applications and consider all information available at each stage of the decision process. He would take part in the debate but not vote on planning applications at this meeting.

**53. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 3 February 2025 were signed by the Chair.

**54. Lower South Street - Gorge Fire Update**

The Committee heard that the site had been handed over to the contractors who were doing the safety work and removing the dangerous materials and erecting the safety scaffolding. The Committee noted that the Dorchester Town Council planters had been removed from the site and some additional access had been reinstated to the Gould department store.

The Committee implored that it was crucial that access be reopened to Hardy Arcade as soon as possible.

**55. Planning Applications for Comment**

The Committee considered the planning applications referred by Dorset Council to the Council for comment.

**Resolved**

That the comments on the various planning applications, as set out in Appendix 1, be submitted to Dorset Council.

56. **Minute Update Report**

There were no minute updates to report.

57. **Planning Issues to Note**

In light of an article posted in the local newspaper regarding residential parking in Dorchester, the Committee requested an update at the next meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee.

**Resolved**

That the Committee be provided with an update on residential parking in Dorchester at the next meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee.

## Dorchester Town Council

## Planning &amp; Environment Committee – 3 March 2025

## Planning Applications for Comment

**East Ward (Councillors P. Farmer, S. Jones, F. Kent-Ledger, R. Major and K. Reid)****E1. P/HOU/2025/00645 15 Came View Road Dorchester DT1 2AE**

Erect 2 storey rear extension and carry out external alterations.

No objection.

**E2. P/FUL/2025/00546 38 St Georges Road Dorchester DT1 1PA**

Erect two-storey dwelling with off-road parking.

No objection.

**North Ward (Councillors S. Biles, A. Canning, V. Lloyd-Jones & D. Taylor)****N1. P/FUL/2024/07405 1-10 School Close Colliton Street Dorchester DT1 1XS**

Install replacement windows and external doors.

No objection.

**N2. P/ADV/2025/00672 9 South Street Dorchester DT1 1BL**

Display 1no. non-illuminated fascia sign, display 1no. non-illuminated hanging sign.

No objection.

**N3. P/LBC/2024/06465 4 Cornhill Dorchester DT1 1BA**

Carry out internal alterations replace flat roof and remove rooflights.

No objection.

**N4. P/HOU/2025/01058 16 Arnhem Green Dorchester DT1 2PS**

Erect first floor side extension.

No objection.

**N5. P/FUL/2024/07331 The Forum Centre Trinity Street Dorchester**

Change of use from a shop (A1) to laundrette (SG)

No objection.

**West Ward (Councillors L. Fry, J. Germodo, J. Hewitt and R. Ricardo)**

**W1. P/FUL/2025/00345 Unit B Great Western House Great Western Industrial Estate Dorchester DT1 1RD**

Erect extractor flue & install illuminated signage to front.

No objection providing that the noise generated from the extractor flue is minimised.

**W2. P/HOU/2025/00411 38 Treves Road Dorchester DT1 2HE**

Erect front porch with rooflight, erect single storey rear extension and external alterations.

No objection.

**W3. P/FUL/2024/05669 134 Coburg Road Dorchester DT1 2HT**

Retain outbuilding & change of use to residential for use as holiday let. Form vehicular access & parking.

Objection.

The Committee strongly objected to this application as they felt that the holiday let in its position of the garden of 134 Coburg Road was an inappropriate use of the land in a residential area, contravening ENV15 of the adopted local plan and that it also construed as overdevelopment of the site.

The Committee were also aware of an additional building positioned in front of the property specified within the application. Due to this the Committee felt that any inhabitant would suffer loss of light and excess shadowing, contravening ENV16 of the adopted local plan.

The Committee were also concerned that the building within this retrospective application had had a significant adverse effect on the amenity of the neighbouring properties due to the excessive overshadowing and overbearing impact of the building.

The Committee were concerned about noise that would be generated from the building as a holiday let, due to guests whilst on holiday, coming and going at all times of the day, which would generate a level of activity and noise that would detract significantly from the character and amenity of the residential area and quiet enjoyment of residential properties thus contravening ENV16 of the adopted local plan.

The Committee objected to the proposed vehicular access and parking due to the severe detrimental effect on road safety (as per COM7 of the adopted local plan). The height of the fences would severely reduce visibility. Concerns were heightened due to the proximity to the adjacent junction and schools. The Committee queried if the size of the proposed access and parking area met legislative requirements.



**W4. P/PACD/2025/00777 47 Olga Road Dorchester DT1 2LY**

Change of use of hair salon (Class E) to 1no. residential dwelling (Class C3)

No objection.

**W5. P/ADV/2025/00680 Unit B Great Western House Great Western Industrial Estate Dorchester DT1 1RD**

Display 1no. Illuminated fascia sign.

No objection.

**W6. P/FUL/2024/07256 Former garage block site Garfield Avenue Dorchester**

Erection of 1no. dwelling, detached garage with gym. Creation of associated off road parking (demolition of existing garage blocks)

No objection.

**W7. P/FUL/2025/01029 Great Western Industrial Estate, Unit 4 Great Western Industrial Estate Access Road Dorchester DT1 1RD**

Retain Ministry of Transport (MOT) test bay within existing vehicle workshop.

No objection.

**South Ward (Councillors R. Potter and M. Rennie)**

**S1. P/HOU/2025/00359 5 Kingsbere Crescent Dorchester DT1 2DY**

Erect 2 storey front extension, 2 storey and single storey rear extension, extend existing entrance porch and replace roof with new hipped roof.

No objection.

**S2. P/HOU/2025/01043 1 Rothesay Road Dorchester DT1 2DT**

Replace garage with single-storey, lean-to "wrap round" extension.

No objection.

**Poundbury Ward (Councillors R. Biggs, F. Hogwood and D. Leaper)**

No applications received.

## **Dorchester Town Council**

### **Management Committee**

**17 March 2025**

**Present:** The Mayor (Councillor R. Potter) and Councillors P. Farmer, L. Fry, W. Gibbons, J. Hewitt, F. Hogwood, D. Leaper (Chair), R. Major and M. Rennie.

**Apologies:** Councillors F. Kent-Ledger and S. Jones.

In attendance:

Councillors S. Biles, R. Biggs and K. Reid.

Officers: Tony Hurley (Assistant Town Clerk – Corporate) and Carl Dallison (Assistant Town Clerk – Outdoor Services).

**54. Declaration of Interests**

There were no declarations of interest.

**55. Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 13 January 2025, adopted by Council on 27 January 2025, were taken as read and were confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

**56. Louds Mill Allotments**

The committee received a report from the Assistant Town Clerk (Corporate) on the current status of the council's Louds Mill allotment site. Cllr Major was concerned that vacant plots were not being let out as any potential housing redevelopment could be many years away. Cllr Reid also considered that the vacant plots could be rented out even in the short-term and reviewed in a year. Cllr Hogwood was concerned that the vacant plots had not been advertised. Cllr Biggs stated that under emerging Dorset Council planning policy, there would be a greater drive to deliver new housing at pace and so the Louds Mill site might be of interest.

Julie Booker, the allotment representative for the Louds Mill site, was invited to speak and expressed the view that any housing development could be many years away and the vacant plots should be made available with some sub-divided to create more opportunities.

Members requested that Policy Committee provide direction as to the short and long-term management of the Louds Mill allotment plots following consideration of any redevelopment of the site.

**Resolved:**

That Policy Committee be requested to review the future use of the Louds Mill allotment site with regard to the provision of affordable housing.

**57. Outdoor Services – Update Report – Late Winter**

The committee received the update report from the Assistant Town Clerk (Outdoor Services). The picnic bench to be installed at The Great Field had been delivered and would be installed within the coming days. Members expressed their gratitude for all the hard work of the Outdoor Services team.

The Assistant Town Clerk also provided an update on the Fordington Cemetery Wall and stated that fifteen companies had submitted expressions of interest for the contract to reconstruct the wall and that, following shortlisting, six shortlisted companies would be invited to bid for the work. The decision on the appointment of the contractor would be taken by Policy Committee.

**Resolved:**

That the Outdoor Services update report be noted.

**58. Location of VE & VJ Day 80<sup>th</sup> Commemorative Bench**

The committee received a report from the Assistant Town Clerk (Outdoor Services) on potential locations for a bench with plaque to commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE and VJ days. Members discussed locations and expressed a preference of Salisbury Field and for the plaque to commemorate both VE and VJ days. Members requested that the bench be installed in time to be unveiled at the 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025 for the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary beacon lighting event.

**Resolved:**

That a bench to commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of both VE and VJ days be located on Salisbury Field.

**59. Tennis Coaching Fee Proposals**

The committee received a report from the Assistant Town Clerk (Corporate) on proposals for a fee structure for those wishing to coach tennis on the Borough Gardens' courts. Cllr Major queried whether the fees could be enforced if coaches decided to operate on the courts without council consent and Cllr Reid queried whether the fees applied to the coaching of groups over several courts. The Assistant Town Clerk undertook to provide a review of the effectiveness of the scheme and compliance after the first year of operation and report back to Committee. Cllr Rennie asked that the regular opening of the public toilets next to the courts be considered by a future meeting of the Committee.

**Resolved:**

That the council only allow tennis coaching on the Borough Gardens' courts on the basis of the following requirements:

- a) coaches will pay an annual membership fee of £35;
- b) coaches will pay the council a fee of £6.00 per hour for any coaching sessions;
- c) a maximum of ten 2-hour bookings for coaching in any 7-day period;
- d) anyone being coached by the coach must have annual membership.

**60. Adoption of Public Art**

The committee received a report from the Assistant Town Clerk (Corporate) on the proposal from Visible Women UK for the installation of a statue to the writer Sylvia Townsend Warner on South Street. Cllr Fry did not support the proposal as the author did not have strong links with Dorchester.

**Resolved:**

- a) That the Committee agrees in principle to accepting both ownership and responsibility for maintenance of the proposed Sylvia Townsend Warner statue subject to the project securing all necessary consents and following a two-year initial period when the statue would remain the responsibility of Visible Women UK.
- b) That the transfer of ownership of the statue to the Town Council must be accompanied by a suitable financial contribution to assist with long-term maintenance costs.
- c) That the Town Clerk be given delegated authority to agree the terms of the transfer of the statue from Visible Women UK.

**61. Appointment of operator for Borough Gardens' refreshment kiosk**

The committee received a report from the Assistant Town Clerk (Corporate) on the appointment of the company Temple of Refreshment to operate the Borough Gardens kiosk. The company were selected following an open process. Cllr Hewitt hoped that the prices charged by the new operator would be affordable.

**Resolved:**

That the appointment of the new operator for Borough Gardens refreshment kiosk is noted.

62. **Grant Applications**

The Committee considered various requests for financial assistance and it was

**Resolved:**

- (a) That a grant of £250 be awarded to Weymouth & Dorchester Parkinsons Group towards the cost of an outing.
- (b) That a grant of £500 be awarded to Visible Women UK towards the cost of the Sylvia Townsend Warner statue.
- (c) That a grant of £500 be awarded to Dorchester Cricket Club towards the cost of new cricket nets and surfacing.
- (d) That a grant of £500 be awarded to Kushti Bok towards the cost of the Gypsy Roma & Traveller History event in Borough Gardens.
- (e) That no grant be awarded to Bean on the Green Café for a new noticeboard.
- (f) That a grant of £410 be awarded to the South West Dorset Multi-Cultural Network towards the cost of security and first aid at the One World Festival in Borough Gardens.
- (g) That a grant of £300 be awarded to the Hardy Har! Comedy Festival towards the cost of a sound technician.
- (h) That a grant of £360 be awarded to the Vinyl Van Ltd towards the cost of printing and security for the Pride Picnic event in Borough Gardens.

With regard to the application from Visible Women UK, members indicated that they might consider a second application later in the year for other elements of the project – perhaps the cataloguing of the author’s archive at the Dorset History Centre.

63. **Notes of Twinning & Cultural Activities Panel meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2025.**

The minutes of the Panel were considered by members.

**Resolved:**

That the minutes of the Panel be noted.

64. **Minutes of Dorchester Arts annual general meeting.**

The minutes of the Panel were considered by members.

**Resolved:**

That the minutes of the Panel be noted.

65. **Minutes of the Dorchester Arts board meeting.**

The minutes of the Panel were considered by members.

**Resolved:**

That the minutes of the Panel be noted.

66. **Cemetery Matters.**

**(a) Exclusive Right of Burial and Interments and Burial of Ashes**

The report which detailed the Grants of Exclusive Right of Burial for grave spaces and the number of interments and burials of ashes, and the use of the South Chapel, at Dorchester Cemetery since the last meeting of the Committee had been circulated with the agenda.

**Resolved:**

That the report on the Grants of Exclusive Right of Burial and Interments and Burial of Ashes since the last meeting of the Committee be noted.

**(b) Headstones and Inscriptions**

The Committee received and noted applications for the design of headstones and inscriptions.

**Resolved:**

That the action of the Town Clerk in approving designs numbered 5456 – 5461 be confirmed and the Register of Memorials be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

67. **Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960**

**Resolved:**

That in view of the fact that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the following matters the public and representatives of the press be excluded from this meeting during their discussion.

68. **Draft Heads of Terms for leasing of The Duke of Edinburgh Gardens and associated greenspace.**

The Assistant Town Clerk (Outdoor Services) outlined concerns about the quality and condition of planting and general infrastructure in the Gardens and the need for remedial work before the site would be in condition to be accepted by the Council.

**Resolved:**

The Committee:

- a) agrees the draft Heads of Terms subject to the exclusion of the bust of Prince Philip from the requirement to replace and insure;

- b) gives delegated authority to the Town Clerk to finalise the lease in accordance with the Heads of Terms and to ensure that the site is in an acceptable condition prior to completion of the lease.

Chair.....

## **Dorchester Town Council**

### **Mayoral Selection Committee**

**24 March 2025**

**Present:** The Mayor (Councillor R. Potter) and Councillors R. Biggs, A. Canning, J. Hewitt (Chair), S. Jones, M. Rennie and D. Taylor.

**Apologies:** Councillor G. Jones.

**1. Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 30 September 2024, adopted by Council on 25 November 2025, were taken as read and were confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

**2. Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960**

**Resolved**

That in view of the fact that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the following matters the public and representatives of the press be excluded from this meeting during their discussion.

**3. Selection of Town Mayor – 2025-26**

The Deputy Mayor reported verbally to the meeting.

**Recommended**

That the Members named at the meeting be invited to prepare to fill the offices of Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor of Dorchester during the 2025-26 Council Year.

Chair.....



# **Dorchester Town Council**

## **Policy Committee**

**24 March 2025**

**Present:** The Mayor (Councillor R. Potter) and Councillors R. Biggs, S. Biles (Chair), V. Lloyd-Jones, K. Reid and D. Taylor.

**In Attendance**

Councillors J. Hewitt, F. Hogwood, P. Farmer, L. Fry, D. Leaper, S. Jones and M. Rennie.

J. Booker, Allotment Representative, Louds Mill and St Georges for Minute No 55.  
Various members of the public in respect of Minute No 56.

**Apologies:** Councillors J. Germodo, G. Jones and R. Ricardo.

**52. Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 20 January 2025, adopted by Council on 27 January 2025, were taken as read and were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**53. Declaration of Interests**

Councillor D. Taylor declared an interest in respect of Minute No. 61, Keep 106, and left the meeting during consideration of that matter.

**54. Finance Update**

Members considered a report by the Finance Officer which updated them on the financial position of the Council as at end of February 2025, the level of debt over 30 days and gave details of the payments list from 1 January 2025 to 28 February 2025.

The report also set out the outcome of the internal auditor's second of three audits held in January 2025. The recommendations of the internal auditor and officers responses to them were noted.

**Resolved**

- (1) That the payments list, totalling £540,037.19 be approved.
- (2) That the report of the internal auditor and the officer responses to them be noted.
- (3) That the report as a whole be noted.

55. **Management Committee Extract – Louds Mill Allotment Site**

The Committee had before it a report by the Assistant Town Clerk on the current status of Louds Mill Allotment Site. This report had been considered by the Management Committee which had requested that the Policy Committee review the future use of the site in regard to the provision of affordable housing.

Members felt that it would be useful for the Town Clerk to explore with Dorset Council Planners, the possibility of the site being used for affordable housing at some point in the future. It was felt however that any decision to develop, if that was indeed a possibility, would be a matter for the new Council post 2029. In the meantime it was hoped that the plots could be let. It was noted that allotment vacancies had been advertised on social media and in the latest edition of Dorchester News.

The Allotment Representative reported that the existing allotment holders at Louds Mill and St Georges would help clear the plots ready for new tenants which the representative was confident they would be able to find.

**Resolved**

That the Town Clerk explore, with Dorset Council Planners, the possibility of Louds Mill allotment site being used for affordable housing. The decision to develop, if that was indeed a possibility, to be a matter for the new Council post 2029.

56. **Catering at Council Events**

Further to Minute No. 37/2024, Members considered a report by the Town Clerk which suggested a mix of healthier foods, including an increase in the amount of plant based foods, to be provided at Council events where catering was required.

The Committee felt that the proposed revised menu was a good starting point which provided a reasonable mix of foods. The menu could be reviewed and adapted in the future. Members felt that as well as fruit salad some cake and plant based milk (at events where hot drinks are served) should also be offered.

Members of the public addressed the Committee on the benefits of eating plant based foods and how the Council was in a position to lead the way by moving to plant based catering.

**Resolved**

That catering at future Council events be changed as set out in the report to include an increase in plant based options and healthier food.

57. **Draft Corporate Plan 2025-2029**

The Town Clerk presented his report which proposed extending the consultation period on the draft Corporate Plan so as to enable some face to face consultation at the informal Annual Town Meeting to be held in May. This would mean that final approval of the Plan would move from May to July 2025.

**Resolved**

That the consultation period for the draft Corporate Plan be extended so as to allow some face to face consultation at the informal Annual Town Meeting to be held in May 2025.

58. **New Council Website**

The Committee had before it a report from the Assistant Town Clerk on the progress of the Task and Finish Group which had been established to create a new updated website for the Council.

**Resolved**

That the progress made by the New Website Task and Finish Group be welcomed.

59. **Dorchester Markets Transfer**

Members considered a report by the Town Clerk which updated them on the progress with transferring the operation of the Dorchester Markets to the Town Council.

The Chairman of the Joint Markets Panel reported that the sub group would be meeting again shortly and clarified that the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Panel would be two of the Members on the Sunday car boot fund distribution panel.

**Resolved**

That the update on the progress of transferring the operation of the Dorchester markets to the Town Council be welcomed.

60. **Wessex Watermark Town Award**

The Committee considered a report by the Development Assistant (as set out in the Appendix to these minutes) on a proposal for the Council to work towards achieving Watermark Town status in 2025.

Members were supportive of the proposal which encouraged towns to value their water resources, understand their supply and waste systems and take action to protect the environment.

**Recommended**

That the Council commits to becoming a Watermark Status town.

**61. Keep 106 Community Radio Funding Request**

Members were reminded that the Committee had previously agreed an annual grant of £5,000 to Keep 106. The grant was in recognition of the provision of PA equipment at a number of Council and Community events plus technical advice to the Council. The Committee considered correspondence from Keep 106 requesting an increase in its annual grant which had remained unchanged, other than a CPI uplift, for the last two years.

**Resolved**

- (1) That a 2025-26 grant of £10,000 be awarded to Keep 106.
- (2) That Keep 106 be requested to submit future grant requests prior to the Council setting its budget for the following year.

**62. Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960**

**Resolved:**

That in view of the fact that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the following matters the public and press representatives be excluded from this meeting during their discussion.

**63. Shire Hall Historic Courthouse Museum**

The Committee considered a report by the Town Clerk on the future direction of the Museum and a proposal to increase the profile of Tourism Information Point presently housed in the Museum. It was suggested that Shire Hall might wish to approach the Dorchester BID for support.

**Resolved**

- (1) That the update be noted.
- (2) That no contribution be made towards the proposal for an improved Tourist Information Point at the Museum.

Chair.....



## DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL

## POLICY COMMITTEE – 24 MARCH 2025

## WESSEX WATER WATERMARK TOWN AWARD 2025

1. The Council has been approached by Wessex Water and invited to become one of five local councils working towards Watermark Town status in 2025.
2. The Watermark Town initiative encourages towns to value their water resources, understand their supply and waste systems and take action to protect the environment. Safe and reliable water and wastewater services are essential for our day-to-day lives, our wellbeing and our natural world. We need a world where communities value water and understand their water supply and waste systems so we can protect the environment for all. We must work together with local people to help tackle climate and nature emergencies and respond to the need for carbon neutrality and to build a sustainable future.



Further details of the Watermark Town Award scheme can be found at: <https://www.wessexwater.co.uk/become-a-watermark-town>

3. Bridport Town Council took part in a pilot project of the Watermark Scheme last year. This led to a garden project with two schools, a river water Citizen Science scheme with Dorset Wildlife Trust and Dorset National Landscape, signage around meadows, and three additional water fountains throughout the town. Feedback from Bridport Town Council indicates that local engagement was successful, particularly by allotment holders thanks to the provision of 100 free water butts.
4. To gain Watermark Town status, the Council will need to commit to the promotion of 'Raising Awareness' activities and undertake at least three 'Taking Action' activities over a 12-month period. Examples of such activities include:

**Raising Awareness:** These will be promoted over the year, through the Council's various communication channels.

- Save Water, Save Money
- Bin the Wipe
- Stop the Block
- Customer Support
- National Refill Day (*DTC already supports*)

### Taking Action:

- Rain Savers – installing water butts and rain gardens and helping to reduce rainfall run-off.
- Water Audits – holding water-saving interventions at council and community buildings
- Water Guardians – keeping a watchful eye on local waterways and spotting pollutions
- Water Drop-Ins – a regular time for customers to meet Wessex Water in person in their community (*already in place*).
- Only Rain Down the Drain – national Yellowfish campaign to let people know which public drains lead directly to rivers and waterways
- Education – signing local schools up for a free education visit
- Water Refill Points – installing public water refill point (*already in place*).

‘Taking Action’ steps would be decided based on the needs of Dorchester’s community and can include any type of beneficial project.

5. Dorchester’s key areas of interest/engagement currently include: know your area, where drinking water comes from and where wastewater goes; rainwater management for households and organisations; support for lower-income households; river pollution information/Water Guardians.
6. The Watermark Town scheme can:
  - a. include financial, administrative, and marketing support from Wessex Water throughout, reducing reliance on council funds. This includes:
    - providing funding **up to £5,000** from Wessex Water for local projects and events;
    - bespoke 'Watermark Town' marketing materials;
    - local data and information;
    - free school sessions by the Wessex Water education advisers;
    - free water butts and water saving advice;
    - training for local support groups (social support tariff training);
    - comprehensive water audit for council owned buildings (also finding and fixing water leaks for free).
  - b. support the Council’s climate and resilience goals. The scheme aligns with the Climate Action Plan, particularly in reducing water use, and contributes to the Community Resilience Plan, helping prepare for climate-related challenges like flooding.
  - c. deliver practical environmental benefits by helping to reduce water wastage across the town, raise awareness of water conservation and pollution prevention;
  - d. create opportunity for collaborative projects;
  - e. encourage community action towards sustainability, encouraging local groups, businesses, and residents to take an active role in water conservation.

7. If the Council secured Watermark Town status, then it would be joining a network of concerned and responsible communities across the region, with public recognition from Wessex Water highlighting the Council as a leader in sustainability.
8. If members wish to pursue the achievement of Watermark Town status, then the timetable could be as follows:
  - Full Council considers Policy Committee's recommendation.
  - Early April: Public announcement of Dorchester's involvement.
  - Mid/late April: Community workshop to understand priorities (e.g., water saving, waste, cost of living, resilience) and engage groups.
  - Throughout 2025: Implementation of water-related projects, engaging local groups and residents.
9. **Recommendation:** That the Committee recommends to Full Council that Dorchester Town Council applies to Wessex Water for Watermark Town status.

**Connie Hollings**

**Development Assistant**

## **2025/2026 DRAFT TIMELINE**

An action plan has been created by DTC officers and Wessex Water.

### **March:**

Council Resolution, committing to becoming a Watermark Status town, a public demonstration of commitment to lead the change.

Water audit of council properties.

WW to produce a map of local area to show where Dorchester's water comes from, how much is used and what happens after it goes down the drain. This map and local statistics will be use in school and outreach events.

### **April:**

Community morning or afternoon workshop for groups to shape and engage with scheme.

Public launch of scheme to include results of council water audit.

Press release and community call to action to take part.

Watermark towns network meeting for shared learning between councils.



**May:**

Train the Trainer – social support tariff training offered for local groups to support low-income households with cost of living.

Priority Service Register Awareness.

WW Education outreach to local schools.

Water butts for gardens/allotments.

**June:**

The Big Help Out (Volunteer Week) – Litter picks along Dorchester's waterways.

Promotion of water refill points and reducing single-use plastics for World Refill Day.

**July-November:**

Campaign promotions – Stop the Block, Only Rain Down the Drain, Water Saving / Recycling, Get Ready for Winter.

**September:**

Start of term WW Education outreach to local schools.

**November:**

Watermark Town Civic awards presentation.

**January, February, March 2026:**

Collated reporting on activities (to include engagement stats).

Overview of reporting and feedback for Watermark Town network.