

Dorchester Town Council

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17 July 2024

Agenda for the meeting of the **Policy Committee**, which will be held in the **COUNCIL CHAMBER** at **THE MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, HIGH EAST STREET, DORCHESTER** on **MONDAY 22 JULY 2024** at **7.00pm**.

Steve Newman
Town Clerk

Public Attendance and Speaking at the Meeting

The Chairman has discretion to allow members of the public to speak at the meeting. If you wish to speak please **contact the Clerk by 9.00am on the morning of the meeting**. We ask speakers to confine their comments to the matter in hand and to be as brief as possible.

Member Code of Conduct: Declaration of Interests

Members are reminded that it is their responsibility to disclose interests where appropriate. A Member who declares any interest must leave the room. 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.

Membership of the Committee

Councillors R. Biggs (Vice-Chair), S. Biles (Chair), J. Germodo, G. Jones, V. Lloyd-Jones, K. Reid, R. Ricardo, D. Taylor and The Mayor ex-officio.

Agenda

1. Apologies

2. Declaration of Interests

3. Minutes

To read, confirm and sign the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 18 March 2024 (adopted by Council on 25 March 2024). A copy of the Minutes can be found at dorchester-tc.gov.uk/Committees/Policy+Committee/Minutes

4. Financial Update – Page 3

To consider a report by the Responsible Finance Officer (enclosed).

5. Sustainable Lifestyles – Page 9

To consider a report by the Town Clerk (enclosed).

6. Municipal Buildings Front of House Project – Page 11

To consider a report by the Responsible Finance Officer (enclosed).

7. Corporate Plan – Page 13

(a) Corporate Plan 2021-24 Review

To consider a report by the Town Clerk (enclosed).

(b) Corporate Plan 2025 – 29

To consider a report by the Town Clerk (enclosed).

8. Corporate Gifts / Tokens of Appreciation – Page 21

To consider a report by the Town Clerk (enclosed).

9. War Memorial - Additional Name – Page 23

To consider a report by the Town Clerk (enclosed).

10. Town Pump Project – Page 25

To consider a report by the Town Clerk (enclosed).

11. Community Implementation Plan – Page 33

To note the six month review by the Community Development Officer (enclosed).

12. Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960

To resolve “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”.

13. Dorchester Ballet and Dance Club – Page 53

To consider a report by the Town Clerk (enclosed).

DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL
POLICY COMMITTEE – 22 JULY 2024
FINANCIAL UPDATE

1. Financial Year End Position 2023-24

- Revenue out-turn (Appendix 1), £77,314 under budget:
 - +£16k under on Office Staff (not at top of scale)
 - +£13k up on Cemetery income
 - +£74k up on Treasury Interest (increase in interest rates and balance of reserve)
 - +£11k up on Market Income
 - -£6k Bi-election costs
 - -£8k Outdoor Staff due to sickness cover
 - -£19K Over on MB R&M (Clocktower repairs, brickwork repairs)
 - All other under and overspends net £5k under

- In line with 23/24 budget, £77K underspend transferred to Corporate Projects Reserve for Municipal Buildings works. Following the 24/25 contribution, this leaves £36,561.71 due:

Total Borrowed	£666,940.35
Underspend 22/23	£33,064.55
23/24 Contribution	£260,000.00
23/24 Underspend	£77,314.09
24/25 Contribution	£260,000.00
Balance Due	£36,561.71

- **Earmarked Reserves at 31/03/24:** balance £1,488,383 (Appendix 1a), £269,790 higher than Budget set in January 2023, mostly due to the Municipal Buildings front of house works not starting yet.

- Cash Position

Account	Balance as at 31/03/24	Balance as at 29/02/24	Movement	Interest
Lloyds	47,508	119,329	-71,821	0%
NS&i	6,791	6,739	52	0.60%
CCLA Deposit	1,650,000	1,800,000	-150,000	5.22%
	1,704,298	1,926,068	-221,770	

2. Internal Audit 2023-24

- Final internal audit report plus Officer comments at Appendix Two. **RECOMMENDED** that the internal audit report and officer response is noted.

3. Financial Position 30 June 2024

Revenue out-turn (Appendix 3), £46,598 under budget:

- £10k under on Office Staff (not at top of scale/pay award pending).
- £6k under on Outdoor Staff (pay award pending).

- £12k up on Treasury Interest.
- £10k underspend on MB Rates.
- £4k down on Bowls Club not being charged.
- £5k over on Parks Premises R&M due to Borough Gardens House refurbishment.
- All other under and overspends net £5k under.

- Cash Position

Account	Balance as at 30/06/24	Balance as at 31/03/24	Movement	Interest
Lloyds	93,663	47,508	46,155	0%
NS&i	6,791	6,791	0	0.60%
CCLA Deposit	2,050,000	1,650,000	400,000	5.17%
	2,150,454	1,704,299	446,155	

- **DC Business Rates** have now accepted the amended Municipal Buildings lease and issued a £24,614 refund relating to previous financial years. This reduces the balance owed to the Corporate Projects Reserve to £11,947. It also represents a £9,600 saving in the 24/25 budget.
- Debtors over 30 days at 30/06/24 = £410, one debtor (29 February no debtors).
- Payments list 1 March to 30 June 2024 on website. Supporting vouchers available from RFO
 - **RECOMMENDED** that the Payments list, totalling £782,463.93 is approved.

Nigel Hayes

Responsible Financial Officer

MANAGEMENT REPORT AT 31 MARCH 2024

By Spend Type	Budget	Profile	Actual	-Under/Over
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Staff	895	895	894	-1
Capital Financing/Debt	17	17	17	-0
Other Payments	534	550	550	-0
To Specific Reserves	345	345	365	20
Income	-138	-139	-234	-95
Net Budget	1,653	1,668	1,591	-77

By Service	Budget	Profile	Actual	-Under/Over
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Allotments	-11	-11	-8	3
Parks & Open Spaces	164	164	163	-1
Cemeteries	-12	-12	-35	-23
Corp. & Dem. Manage.	39	39	43	3
Cultural & Twinning	68	68	62	-5
Municipal Buildings	373	373	394	21
Other Services	58	58	-12	-70
Office Team	500	500	478	-21
Outdoor Services	489	489	506	17
Net Budget	1,668	1,668	1,591	-77

	Budget	Profile	Actual	-Under/Over	Balance
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Earmarked Reserves					
Tourist Information	5	5	11	6	5
MB Front of House	250	14	14	0	238
19 North Square Works	11	0	0	0	11
Municipal Buildings	46	13	13	0	50
Parks Premises	50	50	52	2	52
Planning Advice	10	0	0	0	18
Trees	0	0	21	21	9
Vehicles & Equipment	20	20	20	0	97
Play Equipment	0	0	4	4	19
Tennis Courts Refurb	0	0	0	0	7
Christmas Lights	0	0	0	0	4
Apprenticeships	0	0	0	0	17
Public Realm	0	0	28	28	435
Climate Emergency	50	50	117	67	26
DTC Website & IT	0	0	0	0	10
Corporate Projects	0	0	0	0	385

Cemeteries	30	1	1	0	87
Graves in Perpetuity	0	0	0	0	14
Arts & Cultural	16	16	16	0	4
Net Budget	488	169	297	128	1,488

APPENDIX ONE A

Earmarked Reserves

	Nominal Code	Balance 1 Apr 23 £	Contribution £	Reserve transfers	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance 31/03/24 £
Municipal Buildings	93150299	52,356.46	10,000.00			12,703.24	49,653.22
Front of House	92250399	247,370.00			5,187.56	14,390.99	238,166.57
Vehicles & Equipment Replacement	93150699	89,457.22	20,000.00		7,500.00	19,950.00	97,007.22
Parks Premises	93150399	56,831.38	8,000.00			52,042.46	12,788.92
Cemeteries	93152799	81,810.77	6,100.00			585.00	87,325.77
Play Equipment Replacement	93150799	11,525.35	11,000.00			3,810.70	18,714.65
Climate Emergency Reserve	93151899	142,266.87	0.00			116,658.14	25,608.73
Public Realm	93151799	453,280.02	10,000.00			27,969.55	435,310.47
Christmas Lights	93151399	4,420.45	0.00				4,420.45
Arts & Cultural Reserve	93153199	15,665.76	21,000.00	-11,000.00	21,933.00	4,665.76	42,933.00
Apprenticeship Reserve	93151599	7,565.43	9,000.00				16,565.43
Planning Advice Reserve	93150427	18,793.17				294.55	18,498.62
Trees Reserve	93150499	0.00	30,000.00			21,402.20	8,597.80
Tennis Courts Refurb	93151199	0.00	7,000.00				7,000.00
Tourist Information Reserve	92250299	16,007.89	0.00		750.00	11,158.80	5,599.09
19 North Square	93100299	0.00		11,000.00			11,000.00
DTC Website & IT	93154199	0.00	10,000.00				10,000.00
Corporate Projects Reserve	93152199	93,100.04	292,064.55				385,164.59
Graves in Perpetuity	93153099	14,059.00				30.00	14,029.00
Total		1,304,509.81	434,164.55	0.00	35,370.56	285,661.39	1,488,383.53

2023/24 INTERNAL AUDIT OF DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL - FINAL REPORT VISIT 3 OF 3: 10th APRIL 2024
 Appendix 1 – Recommendations and Action Plan

Recommendation number	Detail	Pr	Management Response	Resp Off	Due Date
3.3 – Ensure all minutes signed and remove duplicate set	<p>I reviewed the minutes to confirm that there was no unusual financial activity. I noted no such activity, but noted that: Council minutes 27/11/23 - only the back page has been signed Management Committee minutes 15/01/24 - two copies of the signed minutes are on the minutes folder</p> <p>I recommend that all pages of the minutes of the meeting of 27/11/23 are initialled/signed, and that the duplicate set of minutes is removed. This will ensure that a complete record of approved Council business and decisions is held.</p>	L	Agreed	NH	April-24

By Spend Type	Budget £000	Profile £000	Actual £000	-Under/Over £000
Staff	991	284	264	-20
Capital Financing/Debt	16	7	7	0
Other Payments	577	214	203	-11
To Specific Reserves	341	341	341	0
Income	-199	-37	-53	-16
Net Budget	1,726	808	762	-47

By Service	Budget £000	Profile £000	Actual £000	-Under/Over £000
Allotments	-11	1	0	-0
Parks & Open Spaces	173	98	95	-3
Cemeteries	-28	4	4	-0
Corp. & Dem. Manage.	63	16	16	0
Cultural & Twinning	64	19	19	-0
Municipal Buildings	375	338	321	-16
Other Services	9	25	13	-12
Office Team	519	153	144	-9
Outdoor Services	562	155	149	-6

Net Budget	1,726	808	762	-47	
	Budget £000	Profile £000	Actual £000	-Under/Over £000	Balance £000
Earmarked Reserves					
Tourist Information	0	0	3	3	3
MB Front of House	235	32	32	0	206
19 North Square Works	11	0	0	0	11
Municipal Buildings	0	0	0	0	62
Parks Premises	0	0	12	12	10
Planning Advice	0	0	0	0	18
Trees	10	6	6	0	23
Vehicles & Equipment	70	0	0	0	117
Play Equipment	0	0	0	0	30
Tennis Courts Reserve	0	0	0	0	7
Great Field	0	0	0	0	2
Christmas Lights	0	0	0	0	4
Apprenticeships	0	0	0	0	17
Public Realm	0			0	440
Climate Emergency	0	0	7	7	19
Corporate Projects	0	0	0	0	747
Cemeteries	60	0	0	0	93
Arts & Cultural	0	0	34	34	9
DTC Website & IT	0	0	2	2	8
Net Budget	386	38	94	56	1,826

DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL

POLICY COMMITTEE – 22 JULY 2024

SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLES PROJECT

1. The Council has been approached by the Duchy of Cornwall's Head of Sustainability to see if it would wish to partner with the Duchy on a sustainable lifestyles project across the whole of the town.
2. Climate change and the environment is consistently identified as one of the top issues affecting the country. Also, a majority of people say that environmental sustainability affects their decisions around general household purchases to 'a large extent' or 'a fair amount'. There is however an issue around the knowledge and insight that people have to help them make more environmentally sustainable choices.
3. This project aims to help residents understand the environmental impact of different elements of their lifestyle and offers them the opportunity to make choices that can reduce those impacts and provides anonymised data which will help the Duchy and the Council understand what areas of impact might be best addressed at a community level.
4. The Duchy of Cornwall has identified an accredited social enterprise established in 2017 called Giki Zero to support this work and help people take more climate action. Giki provides a web based platform that allows people to measure their carbon footprint and then gives them hints and tips on things they can do to reduce their impact.
5. Giki is unique in having a robust calculation methodology behind their carbon footprint calculations, a friendly and positive outlook that encourages engagement and lots of ideas to help people.
6. The proposal is that every Dorchester resident will be offered the opportunity to join the Giki community for free, be provided with support so they can confidentially measure their carbon footprint and receive hints and tips on how to reduce their impact.
7. The outcomes for the Council and the Duchy are that both will be seen as demonstrating a leadership role in the community on this issue, plus they will gain access to anonymised and aggregated data on carbon footprints of residents which will enable hot spots in terms of emissions sources that can best be addressed at a whole community level.
8. For these outcomes to be achieved it will be necessary to take the following steps:-
 - Agree data collection approach from residents, working with Giki who will provide the data insights and analysis from their web based calculator.
 - Start to communicate with residents to raise the awareness of this initiative through existing channels – established community events, newsletter, social media etc

- Identify community leaders who will be able to promote the activity to their community members (underway)
 - Train community leaders in the Giki web based calculator so they can help people complete the required inputs
 - Have a launch week, anchored to an existing community wide free access event (most likely Anonymous Festival on August bank holiday Monday), plus a series of events hosted by the Town Council, the Duchy and Community Leaders to create multiple community based opportunities for residents to come together at 'footprint parties'
 - Continue to communicate through existing channels to keep engagement high
 - Collate the anonymised data, analyse the results and communicate the headlines back to residents.
9. The Duchy of Cornwall has allocated resources to this project which will cover the cost of engaging Giki plus some additional budget for communications, footprint parties etc. The main resource from the Town Council is likely to be officer time of the Town Clerk and the Development Assistant.
10. The Committee is asked if it wishes to support this project.

Steve Newman
Town Clerk

DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL

POLICY COMMITTEE – 22 JULY 2024

CORN EXCHANGE – FRONT OF HOUSE PROJECT

1. At the last Council meeting Members accepted the tender from Greendale Construction Ltd, Poole to undertake the works to the front of the Corn Exchange which includes opening up the space, relocating the toilets and creating a new bar.
2. The tender also includes some of the work recommended by the Council Chamber and Town Hall Improvement Task and Finish Group. This work includes full redecoration of the stairwell and the Town Hall and the fitting of a second door up against the original door between the Council Chamber and the Town Hall so as to reduce the noise intrusion between the rooms.
3. The cost of the works as specified in the tender is £700,000. Excluded from the tender is the supply and install of the bespoke bar and equipment which is estimated to be a maximum of £30,000, most likely less. Also excluded from the tender cost is professional fees estimated at 11% of contract value - £77,000.
4. The total cost of the project, including the stairwell, Town Hall, bar and professional fees is £807,000.
5. Disappointingly a recent application to the Shared Prosperity Fund for £100,000 was unsuccessful. Therefore the funding approved for the project stands at £598,000 as follows: -
 - Town Council earmarked contribution £250,000
 - Section 106 £238,000
 - CIL £100,000
 - Capital Leverage Fund £10,000
6. The funding gap is £209,000. At present the Council has sufficient reserves to close this gap by allocating the necessary funding from the Corporate Projects reserve which presently holds £722,478.
7. Members should also be aware that the internal borrowing the Council previously agreed to fund the first phases of the Municipal Buildings refurbishment, £260,000 per year, ends on the 1 April 2025 with a final payment of £11,000. This means that the Council can return the Corporate Projects reserve back to its original level at that time.
8. In addition, the Committee may also wish to consider allocating a £30,000 ‘opportunity wins’ budget to this project. This fund would be used to undertake any additional improvements that might be identified during the course of the project which would benefit the building and be more efficiently undertaken at that time.
9. The works are due to commence at the start of August and the Committee will be provided with financial monitoring reports at every meeting through to completion.

10. The Committee is asked to agree:-

- (a) That £209,000 be allocated to the project from the Corporate Projects reserve.
- (b) That a £30,000 opportunity wins budget be allocated from the Corporate Projects reserve.

Steve Newman
Town Clerk

Nigel Hayes
Responsible Finance Officer

DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL

POLICY COMMITTEE – 22 JULY 2024

CORPORATE PLAN - 2019-24

1. The Committee last reviewed its high level 2019 – 2024 Corporate Plan at its January 2024 meeting.
2. The attached Plan has been amended to take account of changes and updates since the last review and gives the latest information regarding projects and aspirations.
3. Some highlights below:-
 - The Municipal Buildings front of house project is due to start at the beginning of next month.
 - Following the revision of the lease with Dorchester Arts in respect of the Municipal Buildings and the Council having no office space in the building, previous year's business rates (£24,600) have been refunded to the Council.
 - The Borough Gardens House Community Room will be brought back into use very shortly following an extensive refurbishment including painting and decorating, new carpet and a new kitchen.
 - Hanging baskets have been re-introduced to South Street. This was only possible due the Town Council providing funding for the existing street lights to be replaced with new lampposts with sufficiently strong 'arms' for the baskets to be hung from. The social media post on this subject had a reach of 5,000 with 733 likes.
 - Further actions under the Council's Climate Emergency Plan have been completed with the installation of Air Source Heat Pumps and Solar at the Borough Gardens House and Greenhouses. The Town Council offices have also had Air Source Heat Pumps fitted and a planning application for Solar has been submitted. This project has been supported with a grant from Low Carbon Dorset. Additionally, a new electric vehicle is being purchased to replace one of the old outdoor services vehicles.
4. The Committee is invited to review the Plan and make any comments or changes that it wishes to make.

Steve Newman
Town Clerk

HIGH LEVEL FOCUS OF THE CORPORATE PLAN – JULY 2024 UPDATE

High Level Focus	Projects	Milestone	Current Progress	😊😊😊
Affordable Housing				
Deliver sites	Tennis Courts	Planning Application agreed Jul 21	Awaiting DC Planning	😊
	19 North Square	Feasibility Study rec'd Sep 21	Decision not to proceed made at Council Nov 21	
	Poundbury Cemetery	Preliminary evaluation Nov 21	Not feasible, agreed to remove from list July 2023	
	<u>Other Sites</u>			
	Potential new site Garfield Avenue	Submit EOI June 22	DC disposed of the site elsewhere	😊
Community Culture Health & Wellbeing				
Understand residents needs	Residents feedback	Comments received Apr 21	Completed.	-
	Review Community Register of Projects	New Register of Projects Dec 21	Directory of Community Priorities 2023 - 2028 agreed by Council – September 2023	😊
Maintain and adapt our services	Programme of Revenue Projects	Special Items in Budget Jan 21	Completed Ongoing	-
	The Great Field	Support infrastructure Dec 21	Play Equipment installed March 22 Lease signed and completed April 22	😊
		Take full operational responsibility for the Great Field Apr 24	Ongoing snagging / neighbour issues	😊
	Kings Road & Lubbecke Way Open Spaces Project	GAP Project at Lubbecke Way Oct 21 June 23	Planning application approved. S106 funding approved. Planning Permission received and works commenced Jan 24, now complete	😊
	Park ideas developed	Mar 22		

	<p>Extension to Gardeners Facilities building so as to enable the BGH to be freed up as a bookable community space</p> <p>Borough Gardens House refurbishment</p>	<p>Planning Permission to be received June 23</p> <p>Works Completed March 2024</p> <p>Paint and Decorate, new carpet and kitchen – open back up as a hire space</p>	<p>Prelim. Discussions with DC re s106/CIL and EA re bridge. Initial request for s106/CIL funding for a bridge rejected. Tree planting completed. Still awaiting lease from Duchy.</p> <p>Facilities building work completed – May 2024.</p> <p>Work in progress due to be complete August 2024</p>	<p>☹️</p> <p>☺️</p> <p>☺️</p>
Municipal Buildings	<p>Refurbish Municipal Buildings</p> <p>Work with Dorchester Arts to develop use of the site</p> <p>Work with Dorchester Arts to improve front of Building Ph5</p>	<p>Phase 1-4 works completed Jan 22</p> <p>Operating Agreement signed Sep 21</p> <p>First review meeting Mar 22</p> <p>Planning Application submitted June 23 Works to commence Summer 24</p>	<p>Ph1 (Roof) completed</p> <p>Ph2/3 (Biomass/Offices) commenced, due Jun 22, Ph4 (Corn Ex) completed Sept 2022</p> <p>Lease signed. First review meeting due Jun 22 – meeting being arranged for Nov/Dec 22 Review meetings established and regular.</p> <p>Lease being revised – new lease signed Business rates refund received £27k</p> <p>Planning Permission received, contractor appointed, work to commence August 2024</p>	<p>☺️</p> <p>☺️</p> <p>☺️</p> <p>-</p> <p>☺️</p> <p>☺️</p>

	Update / Refurbish Council Chamber / Town Hall	Establish T&F Group Refurb plan	Nov 22 Nov 23	T&F Group met a number of actions agreed, work to be timetabled around front of house works – decorations to Town Hall, Stairwell now part of the front of house works as is the secondary door between Town Hall and Council Chamber. Hearing loop meeting scheduled for July 24	😊
The Environment					
Climate Emergency Programme	Municipal Buildings	Phase 1 – 4 works completed	Jan 22	Ph2(Biomass) commenced , Completed Sept 22 – EV charger still to be installed in car park	😊 -
	Vehicles & Equipment Partner Programme	Grounds equipt purchased	Mar 22	New electric vehicle on order Apr 24	😊
		Identify new partner project	Mar 22	Major grant rec'd from Forestry Commission for Tree Planting in Kings Road, completed	😊
		Weymouth Ave Pav - Jan 23		Contract let – 50% grant received from ECB Solar Panels installed – March 23	😊
	New project Borough Gardens Hse / Greenhouses	Complete carbon reduction works	June 24	Air Source Heat pumps and solar carbon reduction works agreed May 23. Contractor agreed, LCD Grant submitted Dec 2023 work to commenced Feb and completed March 2024	😊
New project - 19 North Square	Implement carbon reduction works to the offices	Nov 23	LCD grant submitted and approved. Planning app for solar submitted. Air source heat pumps installed April 24	😊	

Local Economy Transport and Parking						
Tourism	Implement Tourism Development Strategy	App launched	Jun 21	Completed	-	
		Website launched	Sep 21	Completed Dec 21	😊	
		Front Desk training	Dec 21	Training package under development	😊	
	Opportunities to improve Markets	Present options to Markets Panel		Jan 22	Markets Panel sub group formed	😊
		Tender Market operation	2023-24		Discussions ongoing with the Markets Panel and Officers	😊
Market Charter	Open discussion with Markets Panel		Dec 23	Discussions ongoing with Markets Panel	😊	
New Independent Market for Dorchester	Supplement existing Market provision with a regular curated independent market			Agreed by Markets Panel and Council monthly artisan market to be held April to November 2024	😊	
Future Growth of Dorchester						
Local Plan DOR13	Respond to Local Plan consultations	Response to Options	Mar 21	Completed	😊	
		Monitor next phase	Mar 22	Dorset Council Local Plan process formally set back two years	-	
Town Centre Masterplan –	Prepare the ground for a new master plan to be recognised as part	Finalise internal scheme for Cornhill	Dec 21 23	Awaiting pre app discussions with DC and budget review by FERIA – pre app information now received. Next steps to be considered. T&F Group	😊	
					-	

Improvements, Transport, Economy, Parking	of the Local Plan or as a separate Neighbourhood Plan		established and meeting, hanging baskets re-introduced into the town centre	😊
		Develop Plan for Masterplan Aug 21 Consult on Masterplan ideas Jan 22	Completed Partner consultation complete and final version of the vision to be agreed at Nov 22 Council	😊
Internal Governance Arrangements				
Communications	Improve use of Social Media	Develop Social Media Policy Oct 21	Delayed by other projects. Complete - Comms Policy agreed. Social media presence increased significantly – a couple of recent posts have seen reaches of 46,000 and 55,000.	😊
	Develop a new Town Council website	Style and content protocols to be agreed - Aug 23 Decide on style, content, accessibility standards etc – August 2023	Funding agreed, T&F group established and meeting	😊
MTFS	Ability to respond to new threats and opportunities	Review MTFS Jan 23 24	Review completed. MTFS remains in strong position Due to national and international events it is suggested that the MTFS be reviewed again in Jan 25	😊

DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL

POLICY COMMITTEE – 22 JULY 2024

CORPORATE PLAN - 2025-2029

1. Now that there is a new Council in place for the next five years the time is right to review and refresh the Council's Corporate Plan. This new Plan will guide and shape the Council's activities over the next five years and is the Council's main strategic document.
2. It is proposed that the Plan will continue to set out the Council's priorities under the following headings:-
 - Affordable Housing
 - Community, Culture, Health and Wellbeing
 - The Environment and Addressing the Climate Crisis
 - Local Economy, Transport and Parking
 - Future Growth of Dorchester
 - Delivering Good Governance and Administration
3. With regard to the process for developing the Plan it is suggested that officers be requested to produce a draft for detailed examination by a Task and Finish Group consisting of the Mayor and one or two Councillors from the three Committees.
4. The next stage would be for the draft Plan to be examined by the Committees and Full Council and the necessary amendments made.
5. The Plan would then be subject to public consultation and the Task and Finish Group would be asked to consider the responses received with a revised Plan being presented to Committees and Council for final adoption.
6. If this process is agreed the target time line for producing the Plan would be:-

Activity	Target Date
Officers to produce first Plan draft	By 30 September 2024
Task and Finish Group to examine draft Plan / amend	By 31 October 2024
Committee and Full Council Scrutiny to agree first draft Plan for public consultation	25 November 2024
Public Consultation	1 December 2024 – 31 March 2025
Task and Finish Group to consider public response	By 30 April 2024
Amended draft Plan to be presented to Committees and Council for adoption	20 May 2025

7. It is important that the whole of Council owns this Plan and to that end if Members wish to have greater involvement in the initial drafting that can most definitely be accommodated.
8. The Committee is asked to consider the proposed timeline and process for the 2025-29 Corporate Plan.

Steve Newman
Town Clerk

DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL

POLICY COMMITTEE – 22 JULY 2024

CORPORATE GIFTS / TOKENS OF APPRECIATION

1. For many years the Council had a stock of Corporate gifts which could be used to present to children, individuals, local and visiting organisations, twinning, charities etc as a token of the Council's appreciation, friendship, or as a thank you and so on. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor were previously provided with a supply for use when on official duty.
2. The gifts were of relatively small monetary value and ranged from tin badges, pencils to small wooden shields. Some years ago these gifts were stopped from being purchased. A new supply of pin badges was however bought a couple of years ago and have been used often since then.
3. The recent visit to the town of soldiers from the US Army 1st Infantry Division as a part of the D-Day 80 Commemorations highlighted the limited supply of gifts / tokens of appreciation that could be given to them in exchange for the medals and tokens presented to the Mayor and other by the US Army.
4. Whilst not wishing to return to having too many different gifts it is felt that it would be beneficial to have a small number of quality gifts each of which could be used in different circumstances.
5. It is proposed that three corporate gifts be available for use as follows:-
 - Level 1 – The existing Town Seal pin badge.
 - Level 2 – A metal token / coin with the Town Seal on the front with the words 'The Seal of the Bailiffs of Dorchester' 'Dorchester Town Council' on the reverse. Approximately 40mm in diameter.
 - Level 3 – Reintroduce the aluminium cast medallion of the Town Seal. This can be standalone but could also be used mounted in a frame. Approximately 78mm in diameter.
6. The Level 1 and 3 gifts have been used by the Council previously. The Level 2 gift is a new addition. The photo below shows the pin badge and cast aluminium medallion with the 1st Infantry Division token representing the approximate size of the new Level 2 gift.



7. The Committee is asked to consider if it wishes to increase its stock of Corporate gifts / tokens of appreciation as set out in paragraph 5 of this report. If it does quotes will be sought with final approval to the cost and design being delegated to the Town Clerk following consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee.

Steve Newman
Town Clerk

DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL

POLICY COMMITTEE – 22 JULY 2024

WAR MEMORIAL – ADDITIONAL INSCRIPTION

1. The Policy Committee at its meeting held on 22 January 2013 resolved that any requests for additional names to be added to the War Memorial, including those received in respect of people with a strong Dorchester connection, be referred to this Committee for consideration.
2. The Council has received such a request from a local resident asking for an addition to the names listed on the War Memorial at South Walks.
3. The request is in respect of Captain Lionel Queripel VC. Captain Queripel was born in the manor house at Winterborne Monkton on 13 July 1920 and he spent his first six years growing up in Dorchester.
4. Captain Queripel was baptised at St Simon and St Jude Church at Winterborne Monkton and a plaque has been erected at the church. There is however no mention of Captain Queripel on any local War Memorial.
5. Captain Queripel of the Royal Sussex Regiment (1st Airborne Division) was evacuated from Dunkirk at the fall of France in 1940, fought in the western desert at the battle of El Alamein in 1942 and died in action at the Battle of Arnhem in 1944, he was 24 year old.
6. Captain Queripel was awarded a posthumous Victoria Cross, the highest and most prestigious medal for gallantry. He is buried in the Commonwealth War Cemetery at Arnhem.
7. The full citation for Captain Queripel's VC appeared in a supplement to The London Gazette on 1 February 1945 and reads:-

Captain Lionel Ernest Queripel (108181), The Royal Sussex Regiment (1st Airborne Division) (Dorchester).

In Holland on September 19, 1944, Captain Queripel was acting as Company Commander of a composite Company composed of three Parachute Battalions. At 14.00 hours on that day, his company was advancing along a main road which ran on an embankment towards Arnhem. The advance was conducted under continuous medium machine gun fire which, at one period, became so heavy that the company became split up on either side of the road and suffered considerable losses. Captain Queripel at once proceeded to reorganise his force, crossing and recrossing the road whilst doing so, under extremely heavy and accurate fire. During this period he carried a wounded sergeant to the Regiment Aid post under fire and was himself wounded in the face. Having reorganised his force, Captain Queripel personally led a party of men against the strong point holding up the advance. The strong point consisted of a captured British anti-tank gun and two machine guns. Despite the extremely heavy fire directed at him, Captain Queripel succeeded in killing the crews of the machine guns and recapturing the anti-tank gun. As a result of this, the advance was able to

continue. Later in the same day Captain Queripel found himself cut off with a small party of men and took up a position in a ditch. By this time he had received further wounds in both arms. Regardless of his wounds and of the very heavy mortar and spandau fire, he continued to inspire his men to resist with hand grenades, pistols and the few remaining rifles. As, however, the enemy pressure increased, Captain Queripel decided that it was impossible to hold the position any longer and ordered his men to withdraw. Despite their protests, he insisted on remaining behind to cover their withdrawal with his automatic pistol and a few remaining hand grenades. This is the last occasion on which he was seen. During the whole of a period of nine hours of confused and bitter fighting Captain Queripel displayed the highest gallantry under most difficult and trying circumstances. His courage, leadership and devotion to duty were magnificent, and an inspiration to all. This officer is officially reported to be wounded and missing.

8. If Members are minded to accede to this request there is space on the south side of the War Memorial for an additional cast bronze plaque. This is the location of the other plaques that have been added at a later date as per the photo below:-



9. The Committee is asked to give consideration to this request. The cost of producing a cast bronze plaque and fitting by an architectural stonemason is estimated to be no more than £1,000. The resident requesting the additional name has offered to contribute to the cost.

Steve Newman
Town Clerk

DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL
POLICY COMMITTEE – 22 JULY 2024

TOWN PUMP PROJECT

1. As well as the Town Council, 2024 is also the Dorchester Civic Society's fiftieth anniversary and the Society wishes to undertake a special anniversary project.
2. The project that the Society has alighted upon is to restore the water supply to the Town Pump and a briefing note prepared by the Chairman of the Civic Society is attached.
3. The idea has been presented to the Dorchester Joint Heritage Committee which was supportive of the project.
4. The Chairman of the Civic Society and the Town Clerk have met with Wessex Water who has confirmed that there would be no issue with connecting the Town Pump to the main water supply. However, due to public health issues around the use of drink water taps, Wessex Water would not be able to support its use going forward.
5. To enable it to be a drink water tap the unit and any associated fittings would need to comply with water fitting regulations and have a satisfactory cleaning, maintenance and testing regime.
6. The Town Pump is owned by the Town Council and is Listed Grade II.
7. Crickmay Stark Architects have offered to contribute their services to the project free of charge and will sketch out some initial design proposals and open discussions with the Dorset Council Conservation Officer. The design is hoped to reflect the tap and basins which were in place when the water supply was cut off in the 1930'3 or 1940's. A close up of the tap is below:-



8. This project could compliment the improvements being planned for the area by the Cornhill Improvement Task and Finish Group. Some new signing about the Town pump would also be useful.
9. At this stage the Committee is asked to give consideration as to whether it wishes to support the project and agree in principle to a water supply, tap and basin being connected to the Town Pump (subject to the appropriate permissions) and for the Town Council to take on responsibility for the ongoing maintenance and testing regime.
10. A further report will be presented to the Committee in due course with design proposals and estimate costs.

Steve Newman
Town Clerk

DORCHESTER TOWN PUMP

The Town Pump on Cornhill was erected in 1784, on the site of the cupola which served as the town's Market House. It takes the form of a tall tapering square stone shaft obelisk on a rectangular base, decorated with five horizontal vermiculated stone bands, and crowned by a ball finial. The date of its construction is inscribed on a small stone tablet on its north side. It is a Grade II Listed Building. When viewed from the north side the stone shaft appears to lean towards the west (see Photo 1)!

The stone tablet fails to inform passers-by that its construction was financed by Mr Bennett Harvey. Evidence of this act of benevolence by Mr Harvey is, however, revealed in a minute in the Town Corporation's Book for 29th August 1825 which states:

“Resolved that the Public Pump erected by Mr. B. Hervey, Sen., in consideration of his being allowed to extend his building on some part of the waste belonging to the Corporation, be repaired by them and the Town Steward is desired to lower the Bed of the pump to the same level with the street and to take out the initials B.H.”

Mr Bennett Harvey Senior was born in Iwerne Minster, Dorset in 1732 but settled in Melcombe Regis (now Weymouth) where he built Harvey's Library (now a restaurant; see Photo 2) in which he also traded as a silversmith. He moved to Dorchester in 1780 with his wife Elizabeth and one of his sons, also called Bennett, and continued to exercise his profession in the town, probably in South Street. The rest of his family remained in Melcombe Regis where another son, John, ran the library and traded as a clock maker. Mr Bennett Harvey senior died in 1807 and is commemorated by a stone monument in St George's Church, Fordington (see Photo 3).

His son, Bennett Harvey jnr. was admitted as a Freeman of Dorchester in 1803 and traded as an ironmonger in the town. He died in 1848 and is buried in St Peter's church. His own son, the third Bennett Harvey, appears to have continued the ironmongery. Bennett Harvey jnr. Gave an 8-day longcase clock to Dorchester Corporation, together with a copy of the Imperial Standard Weights and Measures (which unfortunately appear to have disappeared!).

When the pump was installed, there was no piped water supply in the town. Some of the bigger houses in South Street and other parts of the town had their own wells but most of the inhabitants would have made use of the town pump for their supply of water. The water from the pump would also have been used to clean Cornhill, in particular after the market had closed for the day, enabling the refuse to be sluiced down East Street!

Piped water was only introduced to the town after the completion of the Water Works off Bridport Road in 1854.

A print published in 1835 (see Photo 4) shows the market taking place round the pump and extending into the High Street behind, in front of St Peter's and the Town Hall. The long iron handle used to work the pump fixed on its west side is very much in evidence. A similar pump mechanism can be seen in the contemporaneous water pump in Cornhill in the City of London (see Photo 5). The Dorchester print shows that two lamps had been added to the top of the shaft, which in 1835 might well have been lit by gas since piped gas had just been installed in the Antelope Hotel, a stone's throw away, following its introduction in the town in 1834.

The water supply to the Town Pump is said to have been cut-off in the 1930s or 1940s. A drawing of the pump in the Dunlop Motorists Guide of about 1920 (see Photo 6) shows a tap and basin under

it. A photograph from the north taken in 1930 (see Photo 7) also shows a water tap on the stone base on that side, so it must be assumed that the pump was still in commission at the time it was taken.

A similar, but smaller, Town Pump had been erected on North Quay in Melcombe Regis in 1775 (see Photo 8) and was moved to its present position in Trinity Road in 1990 by Weymouth Civic Society. The iron fixtures for the pump mechanism are still in place.

A more elaborate Town Pump was donated in 1760 to the town of Blandford Forum by John Bastard, the architect and builder, to commemorate the Great Fire of 1731 (see Photo 9). It takes the form of a miniature classical temple with a pedimented canopy, supported by Roman Doric columns. The pump was replaced by a fountain in 1897 and is now listed Grade I. This has lately been restored.

A drinking water fountain has recently been installed by Wessex Water at the southern end of South Street. The Civic Society is calling for drinking water to flow once more from the pump to commemorate its 50th Anniversary this year and that of the Town Council in its present form. We are currently looking for backers for this renovation project!

*Ian Gosling,
Chair of Dorchester Civic Society*

Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3



Photo 4



Photo 5



Photo 6

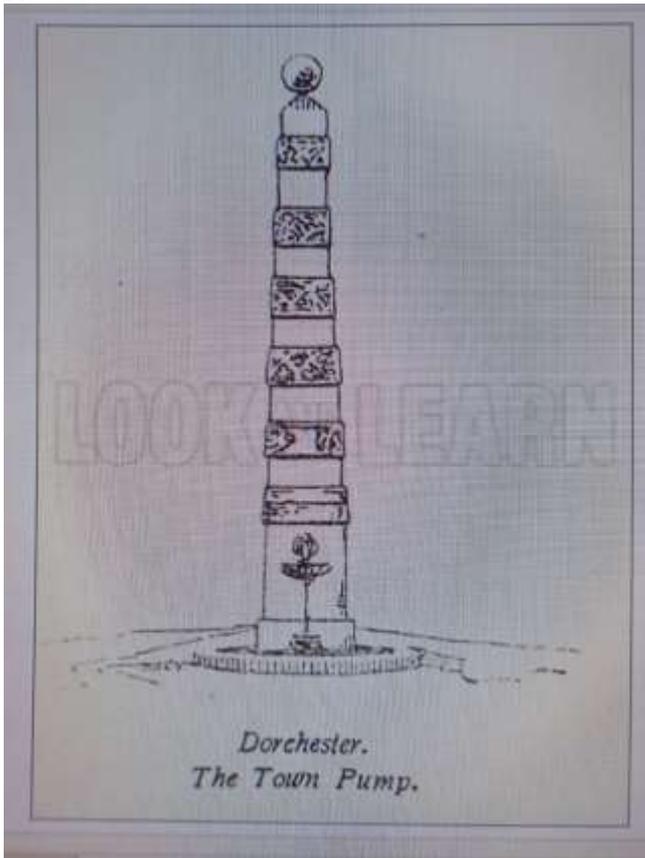


Photo 7



Photo 8



Photo 9



DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL

POLICY COMMITTEE – JULY 2024

COMMUNITY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN – PROGRESS REPORT

1. In September 2023, the committee agreed the council’s new Community Implementation Plan for the period 2023-2028.
2. The purpose of the Community Implementation Plan was set out the priorities of the local community (based on an extensive programme of engagement and consultation) and propose ways in which the town council could support the achievement of these priority actions. The plan was organised around the following themes:

Culture, Heritage, Tourism and Leisure
Transport and Access
Democracy and Local Voice
Good Health, Wellbeing and Safety
Housing
Economy, education, training and volunteering
Climate and environment
3. The report below provides a 6 month review of progress made by the council in pursuit of these priorities.

Emma Scott
Community Development Officer

Culture, Heritage, Tourism & Leisure

Priority 1 - Improved opportunities for recreation and leisure.

Aim	Lead Organisations & Partners	Suggested action: How will Dorchester Town Council contribute	Progress to July 2024
Improve range of activities for locals and visitors of all ages.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourism Partnership • Heritage Committee • Dorchester BID • Community organisations • Commercial/business partners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with partners to support development of new activities – providing advice, funding and help to promote joint working. • Continue to develop summer offer in Borough Gardens. • Promote opportunities for activities in other open spaces in town such as Salisbury Field and Maumbury Rings. • Develop a ‘how to put on events’ guide. • Develop programme of town centre events, especially during summer. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Dorchester Science Festival. • Annual Anonymous Festival. • Coordinating new events such as One World Festival. • Participation in partner events such as Street in the Park. • Ongoing support and promotion of partner activities and events.
Ensure leisure needs of diverse groups are catered for including young people, older people, and groups at risk of discrimination.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourism Partnership • Community organisations • Commercial/business partners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on needs of older people – including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Identifying new social spaces. ○ Support to develop IT skills. ○ Support for projects which help to reduce isolation. • Focus on needs of younger people – including: • Support for Youth Council led events. • Continued support of Dorchester Youth & Community Centre (DYCC) offer. • Developing more youth led projects and events. • Identifying safe spaces for young people to meet & socialise. • Support activities and events which celebrate diversity and inclusion. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing One World Festival in partnership with South West Dorset Multicultural Network and range of other local diversity groups. • Advice/guidance for Gypsy Roma Traveller History Month & Kushti Bok • Organising 3 x youth lead events with Dorchester Youth Council (DYC). • Organising Holiday Hangout for 9-14 year olds, particularly to support families on lower incomes. • Support for Youth Pride event with Shire Hall.
Support and develop opportunities for under-represented leisure opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community organisations • Commercial/business partners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help to establish a visual arts centre in town. • Help to develop more creative based activities. • Look to develop The Linney’s at Dorchester Market as a potential arts hub area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support and promotion of new Dorchester Craft Workshops CIC • Meetings with DA trustee to discuss developing visual arts center in town.

Priority 2 - Improved communication about events, activities and opportunities to get involved.

Aim	Lead Organisations & Partners	Suggested action: How will Dorchester Town Council contribute	Progress to July 2024
<p>Effectively utilise all communication streams available</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourism Partnership • Dorchester BID 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to promote Discover Dorchester website and app. • Improve or replace existing rotunda for displaying posters. • Install more community noticeboards. • Develop new Dorchester Town Council website – to include directory of local community organisations. • Make effective use of existing Town Council social media channels. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular monthly mailouts with wide range of information to 300 plus community contacts • Regular promotion of Discover Dorchester through monthly mailouts. • Regular posting to Town Council Facebook page. • Weekly updating of town rotunda • Press releases, radio and TV invitations to promote events.

Priority 3 - Capitalise on tourism and heritage offer

Aim	Lead Organisations & Partners	Suggested action: How will Dorchester Town Council contribute	Progress to July 2024
<p>Continue to develop arts, heritage & tourism offer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourism Partnership • Heritage Committee • Dorset Museum • Shire Hall Museum • Keep Military Museum • Dorchester Civic Society • Dorchester Arts • Community and arts organisations • Dorchester BID 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support continued collaboration and joint working. • Ensure projects and events are well evaluated. • Seek investment for local organisations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of partner events and support with planning and fundraising. • Development of new events such as One World Festival. • Support for colleague lead events.

Make Dorchester a more accessible destination and promote to a wider audience

- Dorchester Access Group
- Tourism Partnership
- Community organisations

- Ensure built environment is accessible as it can be in town.
- Aim to include information about all businesses accessibility on Discover Dorchester website and use this to launch project to promote Dorchester nationally as an access friendly town.

- Coordinate Dorchester Access Group, who contribute to consultations, early planning and campaigns such as bid to Access for All for a lift at Dorchester South station.
- Work regularly with Dorchester Transport Action Group (DTAG) to advise and help promote their work including supporting campaign to reinstate X51 bus route to Martinstown.

Travel and Access

Priority 1: Promote active travel.

Aim	Lead Organisations & Partners	Suggested action: How will Dorchester Town Council contribute	Progress to July 2024
<p>Support initiatives which promote active travel & reduce reliance on cars</p>	<p>Dorchester Transport Action Group Dorset Council</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with partners to develop projects and schemes that support active travel which might include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating new cycle routes – around town and to local parishes. • Building confidence in cycling – for all ages. • Enhancing the walking experience in town, particularly to support people with reduced mobility – for instance ensuring, where possible, benches are placed along main pedestrian routes and walking surfaces are maintained and levelled. • Continuing to improve wayfinding throughout the town. • Aiding projects such as Streets Alive promoting active travel especially to younger people. • Introducing a car sharing scheme • Developing an e-bike hire scheme. • Promoting community car share and lift share schemes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for DTAG including helping to organise and run Streets Alive event to promote going car free. • Promotion of cycle voucher scheme to encourage residents to get cycle proficiency training. • Conversations with Community Rail Partnership re introduction of E-bikes – linking to Dorset Council. • Work with Dorchester Access Group and DTAG to map walking routes and advise Dorset Council re improvements for consideration.

Priority 2 Make sustainable travel easier, safer and more accessible.

Aim	Lead Organisations & Partners	Suggested action: How will Dorchester Town Council contribute	Progress to July 2024
Safer travel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dorset Council • Dorchester Transport Action Group • Dorchester Access Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce '20's Plenty' scheme across town. • Continue to map need for dropped kerbs. • Identify highways issues and flag to Dorset Highways team. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mapping of dropped kerbs & recommendations to Dorset Council. • Meeting with Dorset County Hospital to improve access to and around the hospital.
Better, & more joined up transport solutions informed by local need	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dorchester Transport Action Group • Dorset Council • Network Rail • South Western Railway • Great Western Railway • Purbeck CRP • South Wessex CRP • Local Bus Companies • Friends of Dorchester West Station • Friends of Dorchester South Station • Tourism Partnership • Dorchester Access Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the Dorset Bus Service Improvement Plan which aims to significantly grow the number of people using local buses. • Support improvements to rail stations, especially Dorchester South Station. • Work with partners to help deliver Access for All project plans and other schemes at Dorchester South Station including enhanced access and waiting facilities and better tourist information. • Support Friends of Groups to enhance appearance of local stations at both Dorchester West and Dorchester South stations. • Champion initiatives to improve connectivity in town and with surrounding villages such as Demand Responsive Transport schemes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with partner organisations – for instance Friends of Dorchester West and Dorchester Access Group to improve signage to accessible ramp. • Convened meeting and correspondence with partners including DTAG, Network Rail, Friends of Grp, local MP and councillors to review plans for improvements to Dorchester South Station. • Work with Community Rail Partnership officer, for instance to add additional tiling/décor and other improvements to Dorchester South station.

Good Health, Wellbeing and Safety

Priority 1: Make more use of green open spaces and nature for health and wellbeing.

Aim	Lead Organisations & Partners	Suggested action: How will Dorchester Town Council contribute	Progress to July 2024
<p>Capitalise on increased affinity for nature as source of health & wellbeing (especially post pandemic)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statutory health providers • Health and Nature Dorset • Dorset Local Nature Partnership • Active Dorset • Community organisations supporting health and wellbeing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote local groups such as Strollers. • Support eco-therapy schemes. • Promote outdoor exercise and events. • Support local sports groups and events. • Support the development of more outdoor sport resources/activities potentially including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pump track ○ Parkour park ○ Climbing/bouldering area ○ Permanent orienteering course ○ Climbing wall ○ Pushchair/buggy walks • Encourage people to volunteer for local nature-based groups helping to care for our environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of groups like the Strollers and Cycling Without Age through social media and newsletters. • Support and funding advice for the Gap Project, help linking groups to them. • Support for People Need nature, helping to network and promote and advising re funding. • Participation in Health and Nature Dorset seminars. • Support for newly emerging buggy walk project in Poundbury.

Priority 2: Improve links between health and social care & community providers.

Aim	Lead Organisations & Partners	Suggested action: How will Dorchester Town Council contribute	Progress to July 2024
Better signposting to existing services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help and Kindness • Statutory health providers • Community organisations supporting health and wellbeing • Keep 106 Radio 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with local social prescribers. • Support schemes to train community connectors/health champions to signpost family, friends and neighbours to services. • Map health assets in the community through new Town Council website – will also help to identify gaps. • Develop events like Picnic in the Park designed to connect services and local communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meetings with social prescribers and Primary Care Network to discuss community opportunities and identify gaps in provision. • Wide promotion of social prescribers to local groups to make sure their offer is known about.

Priority 3: Improve health for different communities.

Aim	Lead Organisations & Partners	Suggested action: How will Dorchester Town Council contribute	Progress to July 2024
Focus on priority health & wellbeing needs of different communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help and Kindness • Statutory health providers • Community organisations supporting health and wellbeing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with the Integrated Care Board, the Primary Care Network, Public Health Dorset, Healthwatch & other health & wellbeing partnerships. • Stimulate new support where there are gaps in provision for instance through advice or seed funding. • Work with partners on initiatives to support people who need extra support including people who: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meetings with Public Health, PCN and other health partners. • Work with mental health partners including Dorset Mind to develop new service 'Waiting Well' for children and young people. • Promotion of Digital Inclusion projects, particularly Digital Champion scheme and digital inclusion sessions with PiPs Café and Age UK NSWD.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Have mental health issues – especially considering needs of young people. ○ Are obese &/or have diabetes. ○ Are at risk of isolation and loneliness. ○ Have dementia. ○ Have cancer. ○ Are carers. ○ Face health inequalities – for instance through poverty or digital exclusion. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for People First Dorset group (supporting people with a learning disability) with advice around fundraising. • In depth input to Mid Dorset Mencap project helping them to raise over £80,000 to develop their project and set up an employment training project for adults with a learning disability. • New project emerging to develop dementia support services locally. • Support for The Gap project. • Support for Dorset Mind to develop an ecotherapy project in Poundbury.
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Priority 4: Foster a community that is safe and welcoming for all.

Aim	Lead Organisations & Partners	Suggested action: How will Dorchester Town Council contribute	Progress to July 2024
Maintain low levels of crime and reduce anti-social behaviour.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dorset Police • Dorchester Locality • Housing Associations • Residents Associations • Community organisations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support projects which address domestic violence and abuse, prioritising support for girls and women who are considerably more likely to experience repeated and the most severe forms of abuse. • Ensure people experiencing hate crime receive support and information & are encouraged to report incidents. • Work with communities experiencing ASB to find creative solutions. • Reduce fear of crime – e.g. via initiatives such as intergenerational projects and highlighting positive contribution of younger people. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dissemination of information about services addressing domestic violence and abuse. • Support of food collection for local refuge.

Democracy and Local Voice

Priority 1: Strengthen local democracy.

Aim	Lead Organisations & Partners	Suggested action: How will Dorchester Town Council contribute	Progress to July 2024
Young people represented and other less heard from groups.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dorset Council Community organisations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support Dorchester Youth Council. Involve & collaborate with young people at earliest stages of decision making and planning. Run annual Democracy Day for young people. Conduct meaningful consultation & engagement work 'where people are already'. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular meetings with Dorchester Youth Council (DYC). DYC involved in giving feedback to number of projects/initiatives. Development of youth lead events and campaigns with DYC such as screening of Heartstopper. DYC participating in range of community events in 2024 including DTC 50th celebrations. Annual Democracy Day held in November with plans for 2024 Democracy Day. Advice to partners re consultation and engagement.
Provide opportunities for local people to have a meaningful voice in local decision making.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dorset Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actively campaign to encourage more (diverse) people to stand as councillors. Foster open and transparent communication channels between the Town Council and residents – via social media, website, and through Councillor Surgeries and other events such as Annual Town Meeting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual Town Meeting held in May, well attended by local organisations. Regular use of social media and mailings to communicate town council work, encourage people to stand as councillors and invite people to meet with their councillor.

Priority 2: Increase community cohesiveness & resilience.

Aim	Lead Organisations & Partners	Suggested action: How will Dorchester Town Council contribute	Progress to July 2024
<p>Develop projects to enhance pride in place – local neighbourhood hubs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southampton University • Local resident associations & place-based groups • Local Housing Associations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with partners such as Southampton University, local resident associations and place-based groups to strengthen local pride & develop responses to hyper-local need. • Hold place-based events which celebrate neighbourhoods strengths. 	
<p>Help to stimulate increased local community resilience.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dorset Council • Environment Agency • Local community groups • Local Community Champions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disseminate information to promote local preparedness and resilience. • Support partners to run events for instance to increase awareness about flood risk and proactive measures local people can take. • Work with partners and local champions on range of projects that increase resilience e.g. improving food security and digital inclusion. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information about resilience, including flood preparedness, signing up for priority assistance etc shared via social media and mailouts. • Signed up to Environment Agency mailings.

Housing

Priority 1: Provide for local housing needs.

Aim	Lead Organisations & Partners	Suggested action: How will Dorchester Town Council contribute	Progress to July 2024
Support initiatives that deliver affordable housing – particularly for younger people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dorset Council DACLT Local Housing Associations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with DACLT to complete existing Tennis Court project and develop other schemes in the town. Facilitate joint working between developers, lettings agents, housing associations, local councillors & other partners & explore how to increase available and affordable stock. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular attendance at DACLT meetings.
Help safeguard housing for local residents and workers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dorset Council Local Housing Associations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support schemes to reduce number of empty/second homes – for instance by increasing Council Tax. 	
Utilise existing potential for housing development and protect green spaces.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dorset Council DACLT STAND 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project to try to unlock empty town centre properties above ground floors. Support campaign to revoke Dor13. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support for STAND campaign

Priority 2: Support people most at risk of homelessness.

Aim	Lead Organisations & Partners	Suggested action: How will Dorchester Town Council contribute	Progress to July 2024
Ensure early intervention to prevent homelessness in the first place.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dorset Council Community organisations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lobby for more tenancy security. Promote use of existing advice and information services through Dorset Council, Citizens Advice, Housing Associations and First Point. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotion of Citizens Advice service to support people at risk of homelessness.
Support people who are experiencing homelessness.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dorset Council Julian House Community organisations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with partners to ensure services are aware of local rough sleepers & that they are receiving support. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular contact with Julian House outreach support team supporting rough sleepers.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local churches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create and maintain leaflet of homelessness support services. Promote use of Streetlink to wider community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual update of local Homelessness leaflet detailing all organisations who can help – distributed by partner organisations including local churches. Promotion of Steetlink via posters and social media.
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Priority 3: Ensure housing developments are fit for the future.

Aim	Lead Organisations & Partners	Suggested action: How will Dorchester Town Council contribute	Progress to July 2024
Promote sustainable building schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dorset Council Dorset Climate Action Network Community organisations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support initiatives promoting high levels of sustainability – for instance thermal/solar heating, high quality insulation, and grey water systems. Explore options such as co-housing and sustainable self-build projects & promote opportunities to local residents. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support for Dorset Open Homes scheme to share good practice.

Economy, Training, Education & Volunteering

Priority 1: Support the local economy and collaborate with local businesses to facilitate economic growth and job creation.

Aim	Lead Organisations & Partners	Suggested action: How will Dorchester Town Council contribute	Progress to July 2024
<p>Foster a vibrant town centre that attracts local residents and appeals to visitors – especially addressing issue of closed shops.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourism Partnership • Dorchester BID • Chamber for Business • Brewery Square • Local businesses • Dorset Council • Totally Locally • Community organisations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress plans to develop Cornhill Market area. • Create town-wide events that local businesses can participate in & support. • Look at schemes to continue to improve visual appearance of town centre & retail areas. • Look at new opportunities for themed and specialist markets. • Support Town Centre Working Group. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for Town Centre working group & Cornhill redevelopment plans. • Project to utilise old M&S building for small enterprise schemes (cancelled because building not usable). • Work with Dorset Food and drink to help develop food trail for Dorchester. • Promotion of new Artisan Market.
<p>Support new and emerging business and entrepreneurs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dorset Council • Tourism Partnership • Dorchester BID • Chamber for Business • Local businesses • Community organisations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support creation of a new community interest company to provide opportunities for micro-businesses to set up & develop. • Work with partners to ensure new and emerging businesses receive mentoring and support they need. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early discussion with Wessex Enterprise and Chamber of Business re mentoring • Dissemination of information about Shared Prosperity Fund to support new and existing business expansion.

Priority 2: Provide opportunities for life-long learning & training.

Aim	Lead Organisations & Partners	Suggested action: How will Dorchester Town Council contribute	Progress to July 2024
Support provision of high-quality education, childcare + access to family support services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dorset Council • Local Schools • Local childcare providers • Dorchester Locality • Community organisations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help identify funding opportunities for schools and childcare providers plus organisations offering family support. • Support projects to improve children’s readiness for school. • Support initiatives to improve digital inclusion of all school age children. • Provide opportunities for local schools and childcare providers to link to wider community and be regularly involved in events. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involvement of schools in community events such as Holocaust Memorial Day and Dorchester Science Festival. • Regular contact with schools to tell them about events and activities to promote to families.
More support, guidance and opportunities for young people - especially in school.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dorset Council • Dorset Carers Hub • Thomas Hardy School • Community organisations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support THS with careers and guidance events • Encourage community partners to offer volunteer roles to young people. • Link organisations and help establish projects to mentor and support young people – particularly with mental well-being, attendance, and future planning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing plan for regular information carousel in Thomas Hardy School to demonstrate community support available for young people. • Meetings with organisations such as Mind and Mental Health in Schools team and others supporting young people with their mental health - networking groups and initiatives work together. • Attendance at Thomas Hardy School annual assembly to promote volunteering for young people and advice to school re planning.
Offer training and development opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dorset Council • Skills and Learning • Community organisations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote existing learning opportunities widely. • Help to identify gaps in learning provision and work with partners to offer extended courses. • Promote Digital Inclusion schemes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular contact with Skills and Learning to promote their offer. • Regular contact with Digital Inclusion team at Dorset Council – currently developing plan to mentor community groups to learn about social media.

including Digital Champions.

Priority 3: Give everyone increased opportunities to get involved in civic life.

Aim	Lead Organisations & Partners	Suggested action: How will Dorchester Town Council contribute	Progress to July 2024
Promote community and voluntary sector activity and offer.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dorset Council Volunteer Centre Dorset Help and Kindness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disseminate range of support available – using variety of marketing. Signpost individuals to partners offering support. Hold Dorchester volunteer award events. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular signposting to support and advice via community mailout. Celebration of National Volunteer Week spotlighting local groups via social media. Plans for a large volunteer event with Volunteer Centre Dorset in 2025.
Help to strengthen voluntary sector organisations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dorset Council Volunteer Centre Dorset Help and Kindness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to advise organisations about fundraising, governance and sustainability. Provide opportunities for groups to network and build partnerships – such as community lunches. Hold volunteer group training & skills sharing sessions re fundraising & other topics. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular advice to individual community organisations and support, particularly with funding applications. Facilitation of safeguarding training with Community Action Network. Regular themed community lunches – 2 per year.

Priority 4: Support people on lower incomes.

Aim	Lead Organisations & Partners	Suggested action: How will Dorchester Town Council contribute	Progress to July 2024
Ensure people on lower incomes have good access to support.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dorset Council Citizens Advice Central 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share advice and help available for people on lower incomes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordination and dissemination of information to support people living in poverty.

	<p>Dorset</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community organisations • Housing Associations • Local churches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide access to high quality free events. • Support local food banks and poverty action projects. • Promote initiatives to help people in fuel poverty especially Ridgewater Energy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for projects like CAP Money Courses to support people on lower incomes. • Coordination of information about 'warm spaces'. • Support for projects working with people on lower incomes including local food banks and Dorchester Poverty Action.
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Climate and Environment

Priority 1: Actively engage to reduce our carbon footprint and promote sustainable practices.

Aim	Lead Organisations & Partners	Suggested action: How will Dorchester Town Council contribute	Progress to July 2024
Invest in renewable energy and encourage energy efficient practices.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dorset Council • Dorset Climate Action Network • Community organisations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review DTC Climate Emergency action plan. • Support or hold own events to disseminate opportunities for low-cost solutions to cut energy use, reduce waste and address climate emergency – such as ReThink Fashion Dorchester. • Encourage local individuals and communities to get involved in Climate Emergency conversations and design ways to effect changes locally. • Encourage partners to recognise the climate and ecological emergency and how the actions they are working on could contribute to mitigation/awareness work on this. • Support local groups to share good practice and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan for 2024 sustainable fashion event & workshops. • Working with Thomas Hardye School to create school based sustainable fashion events. • Supporting Duchy project to introduce Giki Zero.

		develop own climate emergency responses.	
Promote local food resilience.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dorset Council • Dorset Climate Action Network • Community organisations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a directory of local food projects and suppliers and help them to network. • Promote land share & garden share schemes. • Work closely with allotment holders to develop more shared food schemes & promote community allotment activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft created of sustainable and local food projects. • Promotion of allotment schemes – including Community Farm and The Gap project.

Priority 2: Help to protect and improve the natural environment.

Aim	Lead Organisations & Partners	Suggested action: How will Dorchester Town Council contribute	Progress to July 2024
Promote behaviour change to reduce waste and increase reuse and recycling.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dorset Council Waste Services • Litter Free Dorset 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Run own regular litter picks. • Work with partners such as LFD to deliver events and projects. • Continue to promote Dorchester as plastic free town – encouraging partners to bypass single use plastics for events. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Run regular Town Council litter picks. • Lend DTC litter picking equipment to local groups approx. twice per month. • Work with Litter free Dorset to promote initiatives such as ‘bring your own container’.
Improve local air and water quality and biodiversity of our green spaces.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dorset Council • Wessex Water • Litter Free Dorset • Dorset Local Nature Partnership • Community organisations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote use of public transport and active travel. • Encourage local residents to maintain cleanliness of local town and waterways by collecting litter – where 80% of plastic pollution in the sea is a result of commercial and household waste from land. • Encourage activities and schemes to promote biodiversity - for example, through planting for pollinators, installing bird boxes, planting trees, and leaving areas wilder. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with DTAG and Dorchester Access Group. • Regular litter picking activities initiated. • Promotion of schemes to supply free trees for planting by the local community. • Dissemination about funding for nature enhancing projects.

Priority 3: Help mitigate or prepare for effects of climate change.

Aim	Lead Organisations & Partners	Suggested action: How will Dorchester Town Council contribute	Progress to July 2024
Help communities manage effects of climate change.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dorset Council• Environment Agency	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adopt a Community Resilience Plan and regularly review actions.• Support the Environment Agency on flood protection projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community Resilience Plan adopted 2023.

Glossary

Dorchester BID	Dorchester Business Improvement District
DACLT	Dorchester Area Community Land Trust
DTC	Dorchester Town Council
DTAG	Dorchester Transport Action Group
DYCC	Dorchester Youth and Community Centre
DYC	Dorchester Youth Council
LFD	Litter Free Dorset
Purbeck CRP	Purbeck Community Rail Partnership
South Wessex CRP	South Wessex Community Rail Partnership
STAND	Campaign against DOR 13 housing proposal
VCS	Voluntary and Community Sector

