



Dorchester Town Council

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19 March 2025

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 24 MARCH 2025 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 20 January 2025 (adopted by Council on 27 January 2025). 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. Management Committee Extract – Louds Mill Allotments – Page 6

The Management Committee at its last meeting gave consideration to the existing and future use of Louds Mill Allotment site. The minute extract and the report which was considered by the Committee is enclosed.

6. Catering for Council Events – Page 8

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

7. Draft Corporate Plan – Page 10

To consider the revised draft Corporate Plan (enclosed).

8. New Council Website Task and Finish Group Update – Page 11

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

9. Dorchester Markets Transfer Update – Page 12

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

10. Becoming a Watermark Council – Page 15

To consider a report by the Development Assistant (enclosed).

11. Keep 106 Funding – Page 19

To consider a request for increased funding from Keep106 Community Radio (correspondence attached).

Funding for Keep 106 was last reviewed by the Committee in March 2023 when it was agreed that funding of £5,000 per year (CPI linked) for three years be agreed. Keep 106 has requested that the review be brought forward.

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. Shire Hall Historic Courthouse Museum – Page 22

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

DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL
POLICY COMMITTEE – 24 MARCH 2025
FINANCIAL UPDATE AT 28 FEBRUARY 2025

1. Financial Position

- Month 11 spend (Appendix 1) £67k under:
 - £49k up on Treasury income.
 - £18k under on Office staff due to staff not at top of scale.
 - £11k over on DBC Expenses.
 - £8k over Parks Premises R&M, due to BGH renovation for room hire.
 - £9k over Parks Electricity due to increasing costs and heating of greenhouses.
 - £15k under on Cemetery income.
 - £4k over due to Bowls Club charged waived for 24/25.
 - £5k over on Waste Services.
 - £6k under on Tools, Equipment, Signs, and Servicing.
 - £3k under on hire of BGH.
 - £10k Saving on Municipal Buildings Business Rates.
 - All other under and overspends net £5k under.

- Cash Position:

Account	Balance as at 28/02/25	Balance as at 31/12/24	Movement	Interest
Lloyds	109,297	75,011	34,286	0%
NS&i	6,859	6,791	68	1.00%
CCLA Deposit	1,775,000	2,225,000	-450,000	5.15%
	1,891,156	2,306,802	-415,646	

- Debt over 30 days = £565, 2 debtors (31 December £72, 1 debtor).
- Payments list 1 January to 28 February on website. Supporting vouchers available from Financial Controller
 - **RECOMMENDED** that the Payments list, totalling £540,037.19 is approved.

2. Internal Audit Visit 2 of 3.

- The internal auditor carried out the second of three audits in January, covering Risk Management, Budgetary Control, Petty Cash, Payroll, and Transparency.
- Three recommendations made, one medium priority and two low priority.
- Recommendations and officer responses at Appendix Two.
- It is **RECOMMENDED** that the report, and officer responses are noted.

Nigel Hayes

Responsible Financial Officer

MANAGEMENT REPORT AT 28 FEBRUARY 2025

By Spend Type	Budget	Profile	Actual	-Under/Over
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Staff	991	912	885	-27
Capital Financing/Debt	16	15	15	0
Other Payments	577	520	512	-9
To Specific Reserves	341	341	341	0
Income	-199	-188	-219	-31
Net Budget	1,726	1,600	1,533	-67

By Service	Budget	Profile	Actual	-Under/Over
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Allotments	-11	-11	-12	-1
Parks & Open Spaces	173	163	170	7
Cemeteries	-28	-23	-12	11
Corp. & Dem. Manage.	63	55	59	4
Cultural & Twinning	64	56	49	-7
Municipal Buildings	375	371	350	-21
Other Services	9	1	-40	-40
Office Team	519	472	450	-21
Outdoor Services	562	517	519	2
Net Budget	1,726	1,600	1,533	-67

	Budget	Profile	Actual	-Under/Over	Balance
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Earmarked Reserves					
Tourist Information	0	0	5	5	6
MB Front of House	235	235	524	289	53
19 North Square Works	11	0	0	0	11
Municipal Buildings	0	0	5	5	57
Parks Premises	0	0	12	12	10
Planning Advice	0	0	0	0	18
Trees	10	7	25	18	5
Vehicles & Equipment	70	4	4	0	113
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	8	8	31
Corporate Projects	0	0	0	0	752
Cemeteries	60	0	54	54	40
Arts & Cultural	0	0	29	29	5
DTC Website & IT	10	4	4	0	6
Net Budget	396	246	666	420	1,607

APPENDIX TWO

Darkin Miller Chartered Accountants
2024/25 INTERNAL AUDIT OF DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL - FINAL REPORT VISIT 2 OF 3: 28th JANUARY 2025
Appendix 1 – Recommendations and Action Plan

Recommendation number	Detail	Pr	Management Response	Resp Off	Due Date
3.2 – Ensure Council minute the approval of the risk registers for 24/25	I checked to see that the Council minutes record the carrying out of an annual risk assessment. Policy Committee reviewed the strategic and operational risk registers at its meeting of 18/11/24. The minutes of that meeting were adopted by Council at its meeting on 25/11/24, but the risk registers were not separately minuted for approval as required. I recommend that Council records the approval of the annual risk assessment.	M	Agreed, corrected Council minutes taken in January for approval	NH	Jan-25
7.1 – Ensure correct increase applied to Members' allowances	I checked to see that other payments to employees were reasonable, properly supported and approved. I found that Member allowances should have increased by 2.5%, in line with the Dorset Council member allowance increase, but only 2% had been applied. I recommend that this is corrected in the next pay run in order to ensure that members are paid the correct allowance for the year.	L	Agreed, DC admitted the error and will correct and backdate.	NH	Feb-25
7.2 – Ensure payroll budget contains correct SCP	I checked to see that salaries approved with those set by Council. I found that the payroll budget for 2024/25 which formed part of the 2024/25 budget approved by Council contained one error. The scale point had been incorrectly noted for one employee (but the salary shown was correct). I recommend that the payroll budget spreadsheet is corrected so that the 2025/26 budget is correct.	L	Agreed	NH	Feb-25

DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL

POLICY COMMITTEE – 24 MARCH 2025

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE EXTRACT

Extract from the Management Committee meeting held on Monday 17 March 2025. The report which was presented to Management Committee is attached.

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.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – 17th MARCH 2025

LOUDS MILLS ALLOTMENTS

1. As part of its portfolio of allotment sites, the Town Council owns a small allotment site to the rear of its Louds Mill depot on St George's Road – between the depot and the railway line.
2. The Louds Mill allotment site currently has the capacity for 12 plots. One of these plots is used by the council as its tree nursery. Of the remaining 11 plots, only 5 are rented to tenants and the remainder are vacant.
3. The annual rent in 2025 for a plot at Louds Mill is £38.50. For new tenants there is a one-off, up-front payment of £50 to cover administrative costs.
4. In recent years the council has not sought any new tenants for the Louds Mill site given that the council has freehold ownership of the site and is considering options for building affordable housing somewhere on its land subject to statutory permissions.
5. The remaining 5 tenants on the site are concerned that the council is not doing enough to prevent the vacant plots from being overgrown and a nuisance to cultivated plots. It should be noted that the council's Outdoor Services team council has limited capacity to manage (e.g. trim) vacant plots for most of the year.
6. It is proposed that Policy Committee be requested to review the Town Council's position with regard to the future of the Louds Mill allotment site as soon as possible and that the outcome of this review will inform Management Committee's approach to managing the vacant plots.
7. It should be noted that at present the council has several vacant plots across all its allotment sites and no waiting list.
8. Recommendation: It is recommended that the committee requests that Policy Committee reviews the future use of the Louds Mill allotment site with regard to the provision of affordable housing.

Assistant Town Clerk (Corporate)
Dorchester Town Council

DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL

POLICY COMMITTEE – 24 MARCH 2025

CATERING FOR COUNCIL EVENTS

1. At the September Full Council meeting Councillor P. Farmer gave a presentation on the benefits to the environment and climate of the Council moving to plant based buffets for its receptions and civic events.
2. The Policy Committee at its November meeting considered the matter further and agreed that the Council should not move to totally plant based catering, but it should move to a healthy mix of foods, including an increase in plant based foods and a reduced amount of ultra processed foods.
3. Ultra-processed foods are typically those that have more than one ingredient that you never or rarely find in a kitchen. They also tend to include many additives and ingredients that are not typically used in home cooking, such as preservatives, emulsifiers, sweeteners, and artificial colours and flavours. These foods generally have a long shelf life and do include some plant based foods including cheese and meat alternatives.
4. The Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition (SACN), which reviewed the evidence on processed foods and health in 2023, concluded that because of limitations to the research available caution is still needed when it comes to making dietary recommendations.
5. The British Heart Foundation suggests that instead of trying to completely cut out these types of foods, think about the balance in your diet. Make sure that there are minimally processed foods in there too – eat fruit and vegetables with your meals and drink water instead of sugary drinks.
6. Discussions have been held with the Council's preferred caterer to try and create a menu which satisfies the Council's aspirations for a healthier mix of food. This new menu should also cater for those who follow a plant based or vegetarian diet. The proposed menu is attached and it is suggested that all plant based items be laid out on in one section of the table and identified as plant based. It should be noted however that all are welcome to eat what they want from the whole buffet.
7. The increase in cost to changing to this type of diet will be approximately £1 per head.
8. The Committee is asked to give consideration to changing the Council's catering as proposed in this report.

Steve Newman
Town Clerk

Proposed Menu

Plant based

Vegan Quiche
Falafal
Spring Rolls
Crisps
Vegetable Crisps
Vegetable Sticks (carrot, cucumber, peppers, tomatoes etc)
Houmous
Whole nuts (no peanuts)
Fruit Salad

Additional Vegetarian options

Sandwiches
Vegetarian Quiche

Additional Meat options

Sandwiches
Sausage with honey and mustard

Delivery to Dorchester.

Food would be provided on recycled (and recyclable) lidded platters. Platters to be returned to be recycled.

Compostable plates, serviettes, bowls & forks for fruit salad included.

An allergen sheet to be provided.

DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL

POLICY COMMITTEE – 24 MARCH 2025

DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN

1. At its November 2024 meeting the Council agreed that the draft 2025 – 2029 Corporate Plan be put out to public consultation. The consultation was advertised on the front page of the Council’s Newsletter, website and through social media channels. The Dorchester Youth Council was also invited to comment.
2. The closing date for the consultation was originally agreed for the end of March 2025 which have enabled the Corporate Plan Task and Finish Group to examine the results of the consultation, make any agreed amendments to the Plan and present a final version of it to Full Council in May 2025.
3. However, I am conscious of the fact that no face to face consultation has been offered. If Members felt that this would be beneficial it is suggested that this be undertaken at the informal Annual Town Meeting to be held between 11.00am and 1.00pm on Friday 9 May 2025.
4. This would mean that final approval of the Plan would slip to July Council.
5. Members are asked to agree that final approval of the Corporate Plan be slipped to July so as to allow for some additional face to face consultation at the forthcoming informal Annual Town Meeting.

Steve Newman
Town Clerk

DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL

POLICY COMMITTEE – 24TH MARCH 2025

NEW COUNCIL WEBSITE – UPDATE

1. The Council is currently working with the company Eonic Digital to create a new website. Eonic host the council's current website and were appointed to create the new site following scrutiny from the member working group comprising Cllrs Kent-Ledger, Ricardo, Leaper and Lloyd-Jones.
2. The structure and design of the new website has been created by officers based on research in to the websites of other town councils and consultation with council staff. The new site will include additional information and will generally be more attractive.
3. Eonic have migrated across the archive of documents (particularly committee papers) and officers are now constructing the new pages. The aim is to have the site in a near finished version by the beginning of April although some of the new pages will be developed further over the coming months.
4. It should be noted that the website is part of a range of online channels that the council uses on a daily basis to communicate with the community. Other key forms of communication include Facebook, Instagram, TikTok and LinkedIn.

Tony Hurley
Assistant Town Clerk (Corporate)
Dorchester Town Council

DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL

POLICY COMMITTEE – 24 MARCH 2025

DORCHESTER MARKETS TRANSFER - UPDATE

1. The Town Council has for many years expressed its desire to operate the Dorchester Markets. Discussions have been ongoing with the Dorchester Markets Informal Joint Panel to understand how this desire may be fulfilled.
2. Set out below are the main issues that have been identified in respect of transferring the operation of the markets to the Town Council and the proposed future approach so far agreed by the Panel:-

Issue	Current Position	Proposed Approach
Governance	Dorset Council administer a Joint Panel of DC and Town Council members, the majority held by DC	DTC to administer the Joint Panel
Accounting and Distribution	DC manages accounts	DTC to manages accounts. Surplus share to be agreed dependent on 'management of sites'.
Management of Sites	DC manage Fairfield, 2 commercial properties 1 x toilets at Fairfield, Cornhill/South St	Existing arrangement to continue with Fairfield, 2 commercial properties and toilets. DTC to manage Cornhill site.
Management of relationship with Market operators	DC manage relationships with Ensors (Wed and Sun) and Cornhill Mkt Traders	From 3 April 2026 DTC to run its own Wed market and Sunday car boot at the end of Ensors contract period. Cornhill Mkt Traders managed by DTC
Sunday Car Boot Fund distribution	DC administers Distribution Panel of 2 DC and 2 DTC councillors	DTC administer a Panel of Town & DC members

3. At the end of last year Dorset Council agreed the following:-

“Approve entering into an agreement with Dorchester Town Council for them to operate Fairfield Market and Cornhill Market under the governance of the Dorchester Market Joint Informal Panel from 3 April 2026.

That authority is delegated to the Interim Executive Lead for Place in consultation with the Director of Legal and Democratic Services (and their nominated officers), to facilitate the

necessary agreement with Dorchester Town Council for the operation of Fairfield Market and Cornhill Market.

That similarly, the terms of reference for the Dorchester Market Joint Informal Panel be revised to provide effective governance for the arrangements.”

4. The Joint Panel has considered a draft timeline for the handover which is attached as an appendix to this report.
5. Dorset Council’s Legal Services has offered to prepare a concession to enable the Town Council to directly manage the market and a first draft is expected later this year.
6. The Committee is asked to note this update.

Steve Newman
Town Clerk

Dorchester Markets New Operator Timeline

29 Jan 25	Market Panel meeting - update & approval of 'heads of terms' for concession.
30 Jan 25	DC Legal Services instructed to draft concession.
10 Feb 25	Officer financial arrangements meeting.
March 25	Market Panel sub-Group meeting – concession, financial arrangements, Panel terms of reference, Ensors handover arrangements.
May 25	DTC consider/comment on draft concession.
June 25	Market Panel sub-Group meeting - concession, financial arrangements, Panel terms of reference, Ensors handover arrangements.
June 25	DC General Licensing Committee – introduction & future role.
July 25	Market Panel meeting – consider/approve revised Panel terms of reference, update on concession, financial arrangements. Approve Ensor handover arrangements.
Sept 25	Market Panel sub-Group meeting – concession & financial arrangements.
Nov 25	DTC to advertise for Market Officers.
Dec 25	Market Panel sub-Group meeting – agree concession & financial arrangements.
Jan 26	DTC to finalise market stall booking arrangements.
Jan 26	DTC to give final approval to concession, financial arrangements, governance etc.
Jan 26	Market Panel meeting – agree concession & financial arrangements.
Feb 26	Concession and financial arrangements signed/agreed by DC & DTC.
March 26	DC to complete handover of relevant information & records.
2 April 26	Ensors lease finishes.
3 April 26	DTC commences operation.

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

A proposed 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 used 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.



Ridgeway Radio Community Interest Company
Little Keep Barrack Road
Dorchester
DT1 1SQ

Mr Steve Newman
Town Clerk
Dorchester Town Council
19 North Square
Dorchester
DT1 1JF

18th March 2025

Dear Steve,

As you know, Keep 106, the Dorchester-based local community radio station, has been on air for seven years providing a 24 hour service seven days a week to central and southern Dorset both online and on 106.3 FM.

Our broadcast output is designed to appeal to adults and covers a very wide range of tastes and interests. The stations website provides programme information, items of local interest, previous broadcasts and comments from listeners. You can find all of this and more at: keep106.com

As a not-for-profit Community Interest Company (CIC) it is run entirely by volunteers. In common with many other community radio stations, Keep 106 has recurring expenses for premises and their associated services, insurance, various annual licences, transmitter rental, maintenance etc. The station needs £20,000 per year to keep broadcasting and, while it is working hard to increase its funding from both advertising and sponsorship, it continues to need a degree of grant support. A brief financial report has been circulated separately which shows a £2000 draw down from the 2025 -26 grant to prevent the company trading while insolvent. This needs to be made up either by increased income or if at all possible, an increased grant which we would welcome very much indeed.

Dorchester Town Council have kindly supported Keep 106 in the past, partly as a contribution towards our volunteers providing PA and allied services to the Town Council. The attached document gives a breakdown of the services provided by the station in the past year. As you have recognised yourself this support would have cost a great deal more if provided on a commercial basis.

We would be most grateful if DTC would consider increasing its financial support to the station as it continues to increase its listenership not only to its target audience of adults many of whom live alone and are of limited mobility, but also across a wider cross section of the community.

Ever more community radio stations around the country have had to suspend their operations for financial reasons - something Keep 106 and its directors are doing all in their power to avoid. The cost of premises rent and other services such as energy, are ever rising and an increase in DTC's annual contribution to £14,000 would help the ongoing sustainability of the station and its increasingly valued contribution to the health and wellbeing of the communities we serve.

We offer training for new presenters to continue widening the station's appeal by covering more local issues of interest and concern to our listeners. We have gained four former professional broadcasters from Wessex FM, four female broadcasters, two of which are board members, and one former local female member who has recently qualified in journalism and is now employed by LBC news. We also have LGBT and disabled broadcasters.

The Directors of Keep 106 would like to thank DTC for your continued support and look forward to working with you on many future projects.

Your Sincerely,

Andy

Andy Worth, Chairman, Ridgeway Community Radio CIC trading as KeeP106

Notes

Services/support that are solely for DTC if charged at AW's 2025 hourly rate of £45.00 @ 140hr = £6300 plus equipment hire @ £2016, Total charge would = £8316. This excludes the hours gifted by KeeP106 personnel to these events, estimated at approximately 285 person hours @ €37.50 = £10,687.50. Total charge if added to above would = £19,003.50

KeeP 106 - Community and Local Radio for Dorchester and Surrounds broadcasting on 106.3FM and on-line at KeeP106.com 24 hours every day - and throughout the COVID years!

Support and coverage - Dorchester Town Council

Royal Events including Coronation Proclamation

D-Day 2024

VE 80 beacon lighting event 2025

Thomas Hardy Birthday Weekend

Love Parks Day

VJ 80 event 2025

Heritage Days

Remembrance Sunday service

Carols in the Gardens

Holocaust Memorial Day

Informal Town Meeting 2024

Ad hoc small events

Promotion, support and coverage - other organisations

Rotary Club Hardy Half Marathon

Lions Summer Fair

1610 Fitness Day

STAND

Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance Coast to Coast Cycle event

Civic events for Dorset Council

Community Play - Seven one-hour radio programmes (2023)

Dorchester Christmas Cracker

Ridgeway Singers and Band

The New Hardy Players

Dorchester Drama

Dorset Museum

Shire Hall Museum and Courthouse

The Keep Military Museum

Julia's House - Boptober fund raiser

On-air 106.3FM and on-line at KeeP106.com

Interviews - all subjects and interests

Local interest - all subjects and interests

Music, Local musicians - all genres

Traffic and Weather reports, including snow and storm events

7-part radio play written for and produced by KeeP 106 for broadcast prior to VE80

KeeP106.com website for programme information, Local news, What's On Locally, Listen Again etc.