

16 JANUARY 2019

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION SERVICE/ASSET TRANSFERS

REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

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## **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 This report is to update members on the latest position and next steps.

## **2.0 BACKGROUND**

2.1 Members have been receiving regular updates on the discussions taking place with West Dorset District Council (WDDC) on services/assets that could be transferred from the District Council, as part of the local government reorganisation.

2.2 The last report to the F&GP Committee (14 November 2018) advised that proposals for service and asset transfers had been scaled back by the West Dorset Programme Board, such that the offer now consisted of seven assets of low/no value, and no transfer of service responsibilities. The Council has approved the transfer of the seven assets, and discussions are ongoing with WDDC with the aim of transferring at least two assets by March 2019. These are the Old Railway Line and land at Harbour Green. Both are integral to Coastal Communities improvement projects, hence these being treated as priority.

## **3.0 SERVICE/ASSET TRANSFERS**

3.1 The Shadow Executive decision not to support proposals to transfer public conveniences and a range of assets has been the subject of a Call to Account by its own Overview & Scrutiny Committee. The meeting at which the decision was examined challenged the process, individual actions, potential conflict of interest and other matters. The Committee resolved that the Shadow Executive had acted in accordance with its agreed principles for asset transfers.

3.2 It is not expected that the decision will be revisited, but the Shadow Council Leader has committed to consideration of a potential 'offer' to town and parish councils, once the new Dorset Council is in place. She has also confirmed that public conveniences will be protected for the year 2019/20.

#### **4.0 DORSET COUNCIL – FUTURE GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS**

4.1 The Shadow Council has now published a draft governance structure for Dorset Council, which is shown at Appendix A. This has yet to be confirmed, but does provide an indication of the new Council's approach in two key areas:

- Planning – the inclusion of Area Planning Committees suggests a commitment to local decision-making on development control matters; and
- Community Engagement – the proposed Area Forums do not show detail of how they might work, how many there might be, the membership, or the geographical areas to be covered. However, they do appear to show a commitment to engagement with communities, and town/parish councils in particular.

#### **5.0 RECOMMENDATION**

5.1 The Committee is asked to note the update.

9 January 2019

Will Austin  
Town Clerk



Other Bodies and  
Joint Committees

Indicative list only below.

Staff Consultative Panel  
Dorset Police and Crime Panel  
Dorset Police and Crime Panel – Complaints Sub-Committee  
Local Pension Board  
Corporate Parenting Board  
Joint Public Health Board (Executive Decision maker – Pan Dorset)  
Strategic Planning Forum  
Fostering and Permanency Panel  
Joint Archives Advisory Board (Pan-Dorset)  
LEP Board  
Petition Panels  
Tricuro Executive Shareholder Group