

Frequently Asked Questions

How are the decisions regarding investments made at Dorset LEP?

Responsibility for decision-making and effective delivery across the full range of Dorset LEP activity is governed by the LEP Board. Dorset LEP sub groups are chaired by a member of the Dorset LEP Board, each group has a Terms of Reference and feeds directly back into the Dorset LEP Board. For the full list of current sub-groups, please refer to Appendix D of the Assurance Framework.

Dorset County Council is Dorset LEP's Accountable Board. Dorset LEP and Dorset County Council have approved the governance structure under which they operate and through which they will manage all public funds delegated to the Dorset LEP.

Who is the overall decision maker at Dorset LEP for investment decisions?

When making decisions, the Board operates on the basis of consensus. In the event of consensus cannot be achieved, that decision shall be taken by vote and carried if it is supported by over 50% of those present, except in certain circumstances (for further information, please refer to section 8 in the Assurance Framework document).

In the event of a tied decision, the Chair of the meeting will cast the deciding vote.

How does Dorset LEP handle conflicts of interest?

Dorset LEP conducts its activities in the interests of the area it serves and secures its long-term objectives without favour to any organisation or Board member. The Board shall ensure that all conflicts of interest are fully disclosed, and the Register of Board member interests is kept under regular review.

Board members serve in a personal capacity (with the exception of local authority members) and will act in the interests of the Dorset LEP. The business sector members also represent the views and interest of private and community/voluntary sector businesses. In addition, the role of local authority members is to represent their constituents, whilst acting in the interests of Dorset as a whole.

If an issue is discussed by the Board which presents a conflict of interest to a Board member, the Board member shall declare the conflict of interest, regardless of whether they have previously declared the interest in the Register of Board Members' Interests. Such declarations will be included in the minutes.

Board members shall not vote or participate in discussions on any issues on which they have registered an interest.

You can find a copy of Dorset LEP's conflict of interest policy under *Policies and Procedures*.

Does Dorset LEP publish an online register of board member interest?

Yes - you can find the latest Register of Board member interests under *Policies and Procedures*.

Where is the latest copy of Dorset LEP's accounts?

You can find a copy of the Dorset LEP board's achievements in 2014-2015, which includes expenditure and outcome, on the reporting page.

Does the Dorset LEP have to report under the Freedom of Information Act/ by local government transparency standards?

Dorset LEP does not have to report under the Freedom of Information Act, but is committed to open and transparent decision-making, which includes complying with appropriate elements of the local government transparency code. This comprises publishing Dorset LEP's accounts annually with the Registrar of Companies in line with required practice.

You are able to view the latest copy of Dorset LEP's financial outcomes and Annual Review on the reporting page.

To ensure Dorset LEP communicates with local stakeholders in a clear and transparent manner, all key information relating to the operation of the Dorset LEP Board is freely available on the Dorset LEP website. This includes meeting dates, agendas, minutes and other relevant documents on the governance pages.

What is Dorset LEP's procurement process?

Dorset LEP will be governed by the obligations in relation to 'best value' contained in Dorset County Council's Contract Procedure Rules dated 1 September 2013 as far as they may be applicable to Dorset LEP procurement activity. The Dorset LEP will take appropriate measures to maximise the social value of its investment funding and activities.