

TOWN & PARISH BRIEFING / 19 SEPTEMBER 2018

COUNTDOWN TO 1 APRIL 2019

194 DAYS TO GO

Get in touch with the Shaping Dorset Council programme:
shapingdorsetcouncil@dorsetcc.gov.uk



PROPOSED CHIEF EXECUTIVE FOR DORSET COUNCIL ANNOUNCED

The Shadow Senior Appointments Committee has recommended that Matt Prosser should be appointed as the Chief Executive of Dorset Council.



This recommendation will be put forward to the full Shadow Council at its meeting on 27 September for agreement. The recommendation for appointment follows a thorough recruitment process which started in early June, overseen by independent advisors.

Matt is currently Chief Executive of Dorset Councils Partnership (serving North Dorset, West Dorset and Weymouth & Portland councils) and is the Interim Shadow Head of Paid Service for Dorset Council.

RECRUITING SENIOR EXECUTIVES

On 17 September, members of the Shadow Executive Committee considered and agreed on a proposed structure for Tier 2 (senior managers for the new Dorset Council). This is the next level to the Chief Executive post and only includes Senior Executive and statutory posts at this stage. The recruitment process for Tier 2 posts will begin in early autumn 2018.



MYTHBUSTER: HEAD OFFICE FOR DORSET COUNCIL?



We're aware that there has been a lot of discussion about whether South Walks House (SWH) will be the head office of Dorset Council. We can confirm that at present, this is not the case. In line with the approved constitution, SWH will be the registered office address for administrative purposes (e.g. banking, PAYE, VAT and legal) and will likely continue to be the democratic base, as it has been for the Shadow Council meetings to date. However, no decisions have yet been made on the future use of buildings.

COUNCIL TAX HARMONISATION (CTH)



The Dorset Area Joint Committee agreed an approach to CTH which is now with the Secretary of State for consideration. The proposal is for all areas within Dorset Council to have the same council tax from 1 April 2019. The CTH parameters will be set out in the Draft Finance Consequential Order which is due to be issued later this autumn. Once this is confirmed, the Shadow Dorset Council will be able to set its CTH strategy which will inform the budget for the new council.

PROPOSALS TO EXTEND THE CURRENT GRANT CYCLE



Ahead of the creation of Dorset Council in April 2019, the Shadow Executive Committee is taking decisions about the first year budget (2019-20).

Funding for voluntary sector organisations is being considered in advance of this autumn's budget setting process for 2019-20. In order to give reassurance to the various organisations that the existing councils currently fund (including museums and arts organisations) a report was considered by the Shadow Executive Committee on 17 September which recommended that all funding arrangements are rolled forward for another year, except some grants that are due to end in March 2019.

The report proposed that the only exception to this should be the £6,000 annual grants given to each of the five town partnerships in West Dorset, which are not provided elsewhere in Dorset. However, the Shadow Executive Committee agreed to remove this exception and to allow these grants to roll forward for another year and then be fully reviewed along with all other grants by the new Dorset Council.

These measures ensure that the funding that voluntary sector organisations currently receive will continue next year. However, once the new council is formed, it will need to undertake a detailed review of all grants for the 2020/21 budget onwards.

You can see the report here:

<http://shadowcouncil.dorset.gov.uk/ielistMeetings.aspx?Committeeld=136>

VISIT OUR WEBSITE



dorsetareacouncils.wordpress.com

is being updated to include more information about the Shadow Dorset Council and the Shaping Dorset Council programme. We'll be posting the latest news and information on this site as we progress towards 1 April 2019. You can also share this site publicly with residents and community groups to help them keep up to date on the new Dorset Council.



THE FIRST DORSET COUNCIL ELECTIONS



All members of the current six Dorset area councils are members of the Shadow Dorset Council. This does not mean that they will automatically become members of Dorset Council.

Dorset Council will not come into existence until 1 April 2019, and its members will be elected in May 2019.

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) held a public consultation on proposals for the new electoral arrangements for Dorset Council. The final recommendations will be published in October. You can find more information on the [LGBCE website](#).

It is proposed that 82 councillors should be elected and new electoral ward boundaries should be created. The first elections to Dorset Council take place on 2 May 2019.