

MEMBER NEWSLETTER / 22 OCTOBER 2018

COUNTDOWN TO 1 APRIL 2019

161 DAYS TO GO

We hope you find this newsletter useful. If you have any questions or feedback, please email shapingdorsetcouncil@dorsetcc.gov.uk



EXECUTIVE RECRUITMENT

Senior executive roles for Dorset Council are now being advertised nationally for internal and external candidates to apply. There are five roles which will report directly to the Chief Executive:

- Executive Director, Corporate Development
- Executive Director, People - Adult Services
- Executive Director, People - Children's Services
- Executive Director, Place
- Corporate Director, Legal & Democratic (Monitoring Officer)

The closing date for applications is 5 November, with shortlisting taking place throughout November and final interviews at the beginning of December. The Director of Public Health post will TUPE as a shared role with BCP.

At the Shadow Executive Committee meeting on 15 October, members approved proposals on voluntary release as part of this process. You can find more details at

<http://shadowcouncil.dorset.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=136&MId=125&Ver=4>

SWAP "GATEWAY" REVIEW BEGINS

A review is now underway which will make sure that the Shaping Dorset Council (SDC) programme is progressing to plan. It will look at whether we have completed the work of gathering all the detail of everything needing to be done for Day 1 and creating the detailed plans that can be delivered and monitored over the coming months.

This is the first of three gateway reviews to be carried out by internal auditors, SWAP (South West Audit Partnership), who will conduct interviews, review documentation and survey programme staff. Once all this has been done, the findings report will go to the Shadow Executive Committee in November.

MEMBER SEMINAR - TUESDAY 23 OCTOBER

We'd like to see as many members as possible at the next member seminar on Tuesday 23 October from 6-8pm at South Walks House, Dorchester.



This will be a useful session covering: The 21st Century Councillor, The Independent Remuneration Panel (setting the allowance scheme), prospective councillor information, arrangements for April to May 2019, member support, the induction and member development.

WHAT IS CONVERGENCE?

Convergence is about identifying and removing duplication by moving from six councils to one. For example, where previously there were four Chief Executives, there will now only be one Chief Executive for Dorset Council. Through convergence there is the opportunity to make significant efficiencies in how we function as a council.

Convergence also involves bringing together teams who do similar work across the current councils. From 1 April, these teams will start to work together, often virtually, to provide services for the new Dorset Council. We need to make sure reporting lines are clear and people know what they are accountable for and who reports to who. Also, Dorset Council may have people doing the same job, particularly at management level. Paying for duplicate costs is not efficient, and in order to be sustainable and continue to deliver services to our residents we need to remove duplication and overlap.

Initially, the plan was for this convergence work to take place after 1 April 2019, but due to an increased knowledge of budget pressures and the need for clear lines of responsibility and accountability, some of this work has been brought forward, as agreed by the Shadow Executive Committee on 15 October.

It could take up to two years to implement changes linked to convergence fully, but to achieve the required budget for 2019/20 we need to start planning now so some changes can be implemented as soon as possible after 1 April. We'll be looking at current structures to identify opportunities for changes to be made, including the removal of duplicate posts, from now until December. We will then start to consult on these proposed changes from January next year, with a view to implementing changes from May 2019. We are at a very early stage in this process so it is impossible to say exactly what the impact will be, but we'll keep employees and members updated.

WEYMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

At the meeting of the Weymouth Shadow Town Council on 18 October, members considered a report on what assets and services could be transferred.

Considerations include the council offices at Commercial Road; parks, gardens and cemeteries; beach and seafront; community development; public toilets; Weymouth Museum Collection; and town centre management. You can read the full report here:

<http://moderngovdcp.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=415&MIId=1239&Ver=4>.

The report will be considered by Weymouth & Portland Borough Council's (WPBC) Management Committee on 30 October, and at the Shadow Dorset Council Executive Committee later this year. The final decision about which assets and services will transfer to the new town council will be made at WPBC's full council meeting in January 2019.

GET INVOLVED

There are a number of member working groups on various work packages that you are welcome to attend. You can find more details on the [Sharepoint site](#). Email shapingdorsetcouncil@dorsetcc.gov.uk if you'd like to attend so we can manage numbers.

Meetings of the Shadow Executive Committee and Shadow Overview and Scrutiny Committee are open for everyone to attend, and members are encouraged to attend full council meetings. Members can raise questions at meeting with notice through Democratic Services - more info will be added to dorsetareacouncils.wordpress.com