

TOWN & PARISH NEWSLETTER/ 22 OCTOBER 2018

COUNTDOWN TO 1 APRIL 2019

161 DAYS TO GO

CHIEF EXECUTIVE ANNOUNCED

Matt Prosser has been formally appointed as the first Chief Executive of the new Dorset Council. The appointment follows a national search to identify the best candidate to lead the staff of the new council



Chief Executive Designate, Matt said:

"I'm immensely proud to have been appointed as the first Chief Executive of the new Dorset Council, having been part of the journey that resulted in the submission to Government for this reorganisation to happen. It's a huge honour to now see this through and set up the new council and deliver for the residents of Dorset".

Matt has ceased his role of Chief Executive at Dorset Councils Partnership. Stuart Caundle (Assistant Chief Executive) has taken on the responsibilities of Head of Paid Service at DCP.

AN UPDATE ON THE CURRENT BUDGET POSITION

Accountancy teams from the county, district and borough councils are working to bring the finances for six councils into one new organisation, with one budget, which is estimated to be around £290m.

There are several issues which include Demand-Led services (such as social care), Capital (what money and assets we have), Council Tax (part of our income), and TUPE & disaggregation (how many staff will transfer). These lead to undetermined costs (also known as 'stranded' or 'hangover' costs).

After a decade of austerity, local government finances are as stretched as ever, but teams are working hard to bridge any gaps (currently forecast at £15.4m for 2019/20 and £7.9m for 2020/21). The biggest cost pressures currently are in Children's Services and Adult Social Care, but these are being reviewed and updated regularly.

Further work is being done around duplicate budgets, e.g. subscriptions and audits, and other ways to balance the budget.

If you have any queries, email: shapingdorsetcouncil@dorsetcc.gov.uk.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

dorsetareacouncils.wordpress.com includes more information about the Shadow Dorset Council and the programme of change to deliver the new council. It features the latest news and information on this site as Day 1 of Dorset Council approaches. You can also share this site with residents and community groups to help them keep up to date on the new Dorset Council.



RECRUITMENT TO SENIOR MANAGEMENT ROLES

At its meeting on 27 September, the Shadow Council agreed the proposed structures for the senior management posts of the new Dorset Council. The national recruitment process has begun with final interviews taking place at the beginning of December.

This process involves five roles (open to internal and external applicants) which will report into the Chief Executive. The Director of Public Health post will transfer to the new organisation as a shared role with BCP.

WEYMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL ASSETS AND SERVICES

At the Weymouth Shadow Town Council meeting on 18 October, members considered a report on which assets and services could transfer to the new town council. Assets and services up for consideration include 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/eListDocuments.aspx?Cid=415&Mid=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. 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.



RECHARGING: TOWN & PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

The Shadow Executive Committee has agreed an approach to recharging parish and town councils for election costs so they can budget for the 2019 elections and any subsequent by-elections. The approach will replicate the system that would have been used by the Dorset area councils from 1 April 2019. Shared costs for a combined election (such as polling stations and staff) will be split 50/50 but full costs of elements specifically relating to the parish election (e.g. ballot papers) will be recharged to the parish or town council. A recharging structure has been prepared for costs in relation to elections that are not combined. Full details:

<http://shadowcouncil.dorset.gov.uk/documents/s1810/recharging-parish-and-town-councils-report-SEC.pdf>

STATE OF DORSET REPORT

The latest State of Dorset statistics have now been compiled and the report is available online. It pulls together the latest stats and data for the new Dorset Council area under 10 key themes: Children, Crime, Deprivation, Diversity, Economy, Health and Care, Leisure and Culture, Natural and Historic Environment, Older People and Population.

This has been quite challenging as it has required a sole focus on the new Dorset Council area (excluding Christchurch) to produce the new statistics.

The bulletins can be used in many ways, but key uses would be evidence-based policy and decision-making for the new council when it comes into effect in April next year. You can download the bulletins from the [Dorset Statistics website](#).

Should you require any more detailed analysis please email the research team on research@dorsetcc.gov.uk