

COUNTDOWN TO 1 APRIL 2019

119 DAYS TO GO

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



KEY DATES

Members' seminar

13 December, 4.30pm
South Walks House, Dorchester
A briefing and workshop on the draft constitution for the new Dorset Council

Full Shadow Dorset Council meeting

13 December, 6.30pm
South Walks House, Dorchester
To approve the recommendations for Dorset Council statutory appointments

Shadow Executive Committee

17 December, 4pm
South Walks House, Dorchester



Please note that the special meeting of the Shadow Overview and Scrutiny Committee to undertake a call to account relating to the transfer of services and assets previously scheduled for 6 December has been postponed.

SENIOR LEADERSHIP RECRUITMENT

We are nearly at the end of the process to appoint Dorset Council's senior leadership team.



Assessment centres took place earlier last week (28 & 29 Nov) and the final interviews with member panels will take place early this week (3 & 4 Dec).

Recommendations for the appointments will be made after the final interviews and will be presented at the full Shadow Dorset Council meeting on 13 December. The statutory roles require approval from the full council.

All of the roles were open to internal and external applicants.

FAQ: WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO LOCAL PLANS?

Existing local plans will transfer to Dorset Council. However, legal orders specify that a new local plan covering the whole of the new council area must be adopted within 5 years of the reorganisation date. The Shadow Executive Committee has agreed that current work on local plan reviews will continue until any decisions are made by the new Dorset Council about the future of local plans.



A NEW CONSTITUTION

We've now reached an important stage in the drafting of the constitution for Dorset Council.

Members will be consulted on the draft constitution, which is the new set of rules on how Dorset Council will work. The document reflects the desire to be a new, modern council.

The constitution will go before all 172 Members of the Shadow Dorset Council in February for ratification.



GET INVOLVED IN SHAPING OUR FUTURE



As well as attending full Shadow Dorset Council meetings, all members are welcome to come to meetings of the Shadow Executive and other committees. Members have a key role in shaping the future of our new council and we want to hear your views and questions. This is how you can submit questions:

- Send your questions to Democratic Services at least three working days before the meeting (50 words per question)
- Urgent questions will be allowed if the Chairman considers that the councillor could not give required notice - but the question needs to be available before the meeting starts
- Councillors can ask one question per meeting, but an extra related question can be asked after the initial answer

For more information on submitting questions, please contact:

- Lee Gallagher (l.d.gallagher@dorsetcc.gov.uk) for Shadow Executive Committee and Shadow Senior Appointments Committee
- Susan Dallison (sdallison@dorset.gov.uk) for Shadow Dorset Council
- Lindsey Watson (lwatson@dorset.gov.uk) for Shadow Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Members can also come along to working group meetings, details of which can be found on our website. If you'd like to come along, please email shapingdorsetcouncil@dorsetcc.gov.uk so we can manage numbers and confirm meeting details.

Please let us know if you receive any media requests, invitations to speak at events or anything similar as we can help with providing accurate information and up-to-date presentation slides.

Email us at shapingdorsetcouncil@dorsetcc.gov.uk and we'll be happy to help!

DORSET COUNCIL ELECTION TIMELINE

March

15 Notice of election published and purdah starts

18 Start of nominations

April

3 Deadline for nominations

4 Publication of who's standing - full list at dorsetforyou.gov.uk

12 Deadline to register to vote

15 Last day to apply for postal vote

24 'Notice of poll' published listing where 321 polling stations are

May

2 Election day - polls are open from 7am - 10pm

3 The count takes place at Redlands Leisure Centre, Weymouth

4 Votes for town and parish councils' elections are counted