

## MEMBER NEWSLETTER / 21 DECEMBER 2018

### COUNTDOWN TO 1 APRIL 2019

#### 101 DAYS TO GO

We hope you find this newsletter useful. If you have any questions or feedback, please email [shapingdorsetcouncil@dorsetcc.gov.uk](mailto:shapingdorsetcouncil@dorsetcc.gov.uk)



### UPDATE FROM THE PROGRAMME

Many of you have told us that you are being asked questions about the Shaping Dorset Council Programme and the new unitary authority, both from employees and the wider public, so we wanted to update you on what stage the programme is at.



The Programme's work is reaching a key stage and a number of announcements will be made in the week commencing 14th January. A paper on transitional arrangements will be presented to the Shadow Executive followed immediately by an employee consultation and briefing sequence. At the same time we are launching a public information campaign to tell people about the new Dorset Council.

So if you do receive an enquiry, we will have more detail after 14 January and can provide more information then. If there is an urgent question, please email [shapingdorsetcouncil@dorsetcc.gov.uk](mailto:shapingdorsetcouncil@dorsetcc.gov.uk) and we will get back to you.

### SENIOR LEADERSHIP APPOINTMENTS ANNOUNCED

Following an extensive recruitment process, the Shadow Dorset Council has announced the appointment of five senior directors for the new Dorset Council.

- Aidan Dunn has been appointed to the role of Executive Director (Corporate Development S151). This means Aidan will be our statutory chief finance officer. Aidan is currently Interim Corporate Director of Growth, Highways and Infrastructure at Suffolk County Council.
- Jonathan Mair has been appointed as Corporate Director (Legal & Democratic Services Monitoring Officer). Jonathan is currently Interim Monitoring Officer, Shadow Dorset Council.
- Sarah Parker has been appointed Executive Director of People – Children. Sarah is currently Acting Director Delivery and Value and Acting Director Public Service Reform at the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham.
- John Sellgren will join as Executive Director of Place. Previous roles include Chief Executive, Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council and Director of Strategy and Partnerships, Hertfordshire County Council.
- Mathew Kendall has been appointed as Executive Director of People - Adults. He is currently Director, Adults and Communities at Barnet London Borough Council.

## BUSINESS BREAKFAST



We were pleased to welcome representatives from over 30 businesses – small and large – from across Dorset to our business breakfast on 12 December.

Matt Prosser (Chief Executive Designate) and Jason Vaughan (Interim S151 Officer) gave guests a briefing on how Dorset Council will set its budget and what the new council means for local business.

It was a great networking opportunity with businesses represented from a wide range of sectors including leisure, technology, housing, agriculture and education.

## ALL MEMBER BUDGET BRIEFINGS

The next all member budget briefings will take place on Tuesday 29 January at 2.30pm at South Walks House and on Tuesday 12 February at 2pm and repeated at 6pm at South Walks House.

Members are strongly advised to attend the session on 29 January and one of the sessions on 12 February due to the importance of the topic.

You should have received electronic calendar invitations.



## NEW MOD GOV LOGO

Please note that the mod gov (app for your committee documents) may have changed from a red logo to a blue one. You can continue to use the app in the normal way.



## DEVELOPING STRUCTURES FOR DORSET COUNCIL

Matt Prosser gave an update at the latest Managers' Forum on next steps in the Shaping Dorset Council programme. He started with a reminder of the scale of the budget challenge that still confronted us, with £10.1m to find through bringing teams together, as outlined in the original business case. He stressed how the budget is determining the timing of the process of bringing the councils together, and failure to act immediately will merely widen the budget gap in the next year.

Matt explained that we can start to close the gap by removing duplicate managerial posts as we move from six councils to one, reducing the number of management layers and by starting to restructure corporate support functions. He explained that the programme had been working hard to compile an accurate record of all employees and their roles and work was now taking place to design the transitional structures that will be implemented after 1 April 2019. These structures will be transitional, in order to have a structure that works, whilst further work takes place on transforming the organisation.

Matt showed how we were designing a leaner structure with only four layers between him and service team employees, which would create a flexible and less hierarchical organisation. The first priority will be to get corporate director and head of service level posts right, then the existing service teams can be mapped onto these. The work on proposed structures for these roles will be completed by Christmas and shared with colleagues in January. After a consultation process with current teams, affected individuals and Trade Unions, change will be implemented in phases once this process has properly concluded.

## Shadow Overview & Scrutiny Committee

The call to account on transfer of assets will take place on 3 January, the scheduled meeting of the committee will take place on 8 January and the special meeting for the scrutiny of the Budget will take place on 21 January. See timings below.

## KEY DATES

Members are encouraged to come along to meetings of the Shadow Dorset Council and its committees and to table questions. You can find all the details at [dorsetareacouncils.wordpress.com](http://dorsetareacouncils.wordpress.com), but here's a list of some of the key dates over the next few months:

### January

3 - Special meeting of the Shadow Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 9.30am, South Walks House

8 - Shadow Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 6.30pm, South Walks House

14 - Shadow Executive Committee, 4pm, South Walks House

21 - Special meeting of the Shadow Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 6.30pm, South Walks House

24 - Shadow Dorset Council, 6.30pm, South Walks House

### February

4 - Shadow Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 4pm, South Walks House

11 - Shadow Executive Committee, 4pm, South Walks House

20 - Shadow Dorset Council, 6.30pm, South Walks House

## WORKING WITH TOWN & PARISH COUNCILS

We've received questions about how Dorset Council will work with town and parish councils, so we've issued a message in the latest town and parish newsletter to clarify and Matt Prosser, Cllr Rebecca Knox and Sarah Longdon have recently attended DAPTC meetings. You should have received the full newsletter but you can find it on our website [dorsetareacouncils.wordpress.com](http://dorsetareacouncils.wordpress.com) too. To summarise, the message covers:

- The Shadow Dorset Council is currently focusing on ensuring services continue for our residents. We know that some parish and town councils are keen to see a new structure of working with Dorset Council before the council is established but with so much to do this is not going to be in place this side of elections in May 2019.
- After the elections, Dorset Council and parish and town councils will have an opportunity to establish a new way of working together. Everyone who wants to can and should continue thinking about what this could look like.
- There is no expectation from the Shadow Council to change the role of parish and town councils now – we don't want to rush into arrangements which don't suit communities.
- No parish or town council is going to be asked to provide additional responsibilities which are a statutory responsibility for Dorset Council – fixing potholes and providing social care are often cited. There will be areas where they can assist, and this conversation can be had with current councillors now, in preparation for more detailed discussion after May 2019.
- Once the new Dorset Council is elected in May, councillors will begin to develop how Dorset Council will work in the longer term. This is likely to involve looking at a new relationship or way of working with town and parish councils and others.

## DORSET COUNCIL CONSTITUTION

Thank you to all members who came along to the briefing on the constitution on 13 December. The Legal & Democratic workstream are reviewing all feedback received and are making revisions to capture or reflect many of the suggested changes. We will continue to work on this over the Christmas period with a view to finalising the draft constitution, including the Scheme of Delegation, by the end of the first week of January. The draft will then be submitted to the Shadow Executive Committee for consideration on 14 January and the constitution will be presented at the Shadow Dorset Council meeting on 24 January for ratification. You can view the draft documents [here](#).