

COUNTDOWN TO 1 APRIL 2019

63 DAYS TO GO

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

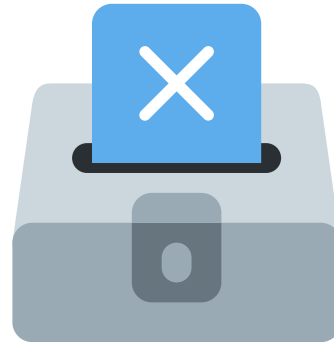


INTERESTED IN STANDING FOR ELECTION TO DORSET COUNCIL?

Information for anyone interested in standing for election can be found on the [Dorsetforyou website](#).

The web pages give an overview of:

- the role of the councillor
- standing for a political party or as an independent
- the support that is available to candidates and councillors
- how to stand for nomination
- where to find additional information



These web pages are being distributed throughout the county and councillors are welcome to distribute the link to their networks.

OUR SURVEY SAID...

As you may have seen on social media, we ran a short public survey to find out how aware people are of the new Dorset Council being created on 1 April and what their questions and concerns are about this.

We've had a great response to this - over 3000 responses. The survey was conducted via email, social media and face to face, and closed on 25 January.

The findings will inform our communications around the new Dorset Council, answering people's questions and addressing their key concerns. We will share the survey findings in the next issue of this newsletter.

Any questions? Contact Jen Lewis, Communications & Engagement Manager, Jennifer.lewis@dorsetcc.gov.uk



EMPLOYEE CONSULTATION NOW UNDERWAY

On Monday 21 January, we launched the consultation process that is part of creating the transitional structures for the new Dorset Council. Over 200 employees are directly affected, mainly colleagues in management but also those who support management.

This was always going to be a challenging time for the six organisations coming together. We have met with and heard from many people this week and are listening to all views, and colleagues in the Unions are seeking to support this process.

However, this consultation is part of a necessary step on the journey to becoming a single unitary council. We have to go through a process of removing duplication of roles across councils so we can operate more efficiently, making financial savings that will be reinvested into the vital frontline services we must provide to Dorset residents.

There will be two tranches of consultation this side of April: the first, launched last week, focusing mainly on management roles and those who support them, and the second will focus on corporate functions – having one council means we will need less resource than serving six councils and 206 elected members. We'll launch the second tranche of consultation towards the end of March and aim to finish the consultation process in May/June. These consultations are happening earlier than we anticipated because of the need to manage the council's financial pressures in 2019-20.

USEFUL DATES FOR THE DIARY

Town and parish councillors and members of the public are welcome to come along to meetings and to table questions. You can find all the details at dorsetareacouncils.wordpress.com, but here's a list of some of the next key dates:

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

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

20 February - Shadow Dorset Council, 6.30pm, South Walks House. Members will be asked to set the forthcoming budget.

DORSET COUNCIL CONSTITUTION APPROVED

On 24 January, the Shadow Dorset Council met to consider the new constitution for Dorset Council. This sets out how Dorset Council will operate. Councillors approved the constitution, with an amendment on how town and parish councils will be involved in the planning application process. You will be able to find the draft minutes [here](#) once published.

Part of the constitution sets out arrangements for three Area Planning Committees, covering three geographical areas. You can find more details and a map in [the constitution](#) from page 44, but generally the areas are split into the east, west and north sections of the Dorset Council area.

You can find lots of useful information about the Shadow Dorset Council at dorsetareacouncils.wordpress.com. The dorsetforyou website will become dorsetcouncil.gov.uk and we're updating this ready for 1 April 2019.