

COUNTDOWN TO 1 APRIL 2019

101 DAYS TO GO



THE LATEST FROM THE SHAPING DORSET COUNCIL PROGRAMME

Service teams across the current councils have been working together to come up with a list of changes that need to be made to make sure services continue without any interruption on Day One.

All of these plans have now been finalised, so services are now focused on making those changes to get us to a place where Dorset Council can start delivering services on 1 April 2019.

If you have any questions or feedback get in touch with us by emailing:
shapingdorsetcouncil@dorsetcc.gov.uk.

TOWN AND PARISH COUNCIL ELECTION COUNTS

The counts for elections to all town and parish councils in the Dorset area will take place at Redlands Sports Centre, Weymouth on Saturday 4 May.



The count for the Dorset Council election will take place the previous day (Friday 3 May) in the same location.

Voters will go to the polls for both Dorset Council and town and parish council elections on Thursday 2 May 2019.

SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

Following an extensive recruitment process, the Shadow Dorset Council has announced the appointment of 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 Dorset Council's statutory chief finance officer. Aidan is 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.

WORKING WITH TOWN AND PARISH COUNCILS

The creation of Dorset Council is a big change for local government in the county, and is going to lead to some exciting opportunities once we enter the transformation stage. The Shadow Dorset Council is currently focusing on ensuring the services we deliver continue for our residents. Many of you representing town and parish councils have also been preparing for new opportunities of working differently with the new council and this is very welcome.

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. With so much to do, particularly for our employees, 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, built from ideas from local communities, including organisations who are part of delivering services for all our residents. Everyone who wants to can and should continue thinking about what this could look like. This may be different for individual areas where communities want different levels of involvement.

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.

There are some myths which need to be busted. 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.

Some parish and town councils have already changed their agendas and do assist in various areas, including highways (finger post fixing, for example), the health and wellbeing agenda, and the wonderful work ongoing on our rights of way. Some town and parish councils have also agreed specific transfer of assets or services before the cut off date of May 2018.

So, once the new Dorset Council is elected in May, councillors will begin to develop how Dorset Council will work in the longer term as part of the vision, values and direction of the new organisation. This is likely to involve looking at a new relationship or way of working with town and parish councils and others. This will be a process involving you and we'll look at how residents access services in different ways – technology is going to be key for information, delivery and access.

If you are councillor now, or want to be post May 2019, we would encourage you to think about what your council can do and what your community wants and needs, including how to work with others – a core principle for the new Dorset Council.

We'd like to hear from you about how your agendas can continue to meet the expectations and needs of all our residents - email us at shapingdorsetcouncil@dorsetcc.gov.uk. We all want the same thing in terms of serving residents and local government changes give us a fantastic opportunity to work together to do this.