

Parish cler
meeting

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT – APRIL 2018 – Cllr Jane Somper, Cllr Emma Parker

Local Government Reorganisation

The parliamentary process to dissolve Dorset's existing nine councils and create two brand new unitary authorities got underway. (Thursday 29th March 2018).

Known as a Structural Change Order (SCO), the legal document that will eventually be approved through both Houses of Parliament has now been officially submitted by the Department for Housing, Communities and Local Government.

The Shadow Authority will nominate members to form a Shadow Executive Committee. The Shadow Executive Committee will be made up proportionally of sixteen councillors, with eight from Bournemouth, six from Poole and two from Christchurch.

For the Dorset Area Council, the Shadow Authority will comprise all councillors that currently serve on Dorset County Council and the five district / borough councils of East Dorset, North Dorset, Purbeck, West Dorset and Weymouth & Portland. Similarly, the Dorset Shadow Authority will create a Shadow Executive Committee, with a total of twenty members – ten from Dorset County Council and two each from the district / borough councils.

There will be two further orders once the SCO is approved – a Finance Order and a Miscellaneous Order for all other matters.

The Finance Order is designed to ensure all previous local government finance legislation is applicable to the new Unitary Authority, as well as some high-level principles for Council Tax Harmonisation.

The Miscellaneous Order includes all other provisions for the new authority. In addition, it is possible that a final, third consequential order will follow in the late autumn, should there be any outstanding matters that require resolution.

DorsetForYou Launch

The first two tranches of the new Dorsetforyou website are due to launch at the end of April. This includes a new home page and the services that have been built and signed off so far eg. Housing and Benefits.

Web pages that are edited less frequently, and consist of straight forward, text based information and transactions will be the first available for public use.

Energy Efficiency Homes Regulations

From this month, private landlords for domestic and non-domestic properties must ensure that their properties reach an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) of at least E before granting a new tenancy agreement. From April 2020 these requirements will apply to ALL private rented domestic properties, even where there has been no change in tenancy arrangements.