

Item 4 - Public Participation

Question from Mr A Bloomfield, a resident of Dorset

I refer to the issues I raised at the 29 June 2018 Audit & Governance Meeting regarding the reporting of the Dorset Council Reorganisation in the 31 March 2018 Annual Accounts.

Will this Committee please ensure that the 31 March 2019 Annual Accounts show the costs to date of the reorganisation and how those figures compare with the plan on which the reorganisation was based.

Additionally, will the Committee confirm that there are systems in place to monitor and report on future costs and savings.

Response:-

We would refer Mr Bloomfield back to the answer that was provided to the same question at the 29 June 2018 June Audit & Governance Committee meeting.

The County Council prepares its accounts according to the CIPFA code and is IFRS compliant. The Council is not required to report these costs in its published accounts in order to give a true and fair view.

Costs of Local Government Reorganisation are regularly reported to the Shadow Dorset Council Executive Committee. These are public meetings and the reports and minutes are a matter for the public record and are in the public domain, so there is no need to duplicate this information in the accounts.

The Shadow Dorset Council will also be required to produce accounts itself for the year ended 31 March 2019, so this might also be a document of interest when it is ready.

By the time the 2018/19 accounts of each of the current councils are considered at Audit & Governance Committee, there will have been elections to the new Dorset Council, and the Committee might have different membership. It is unlikely that Members will wish to report information which is not required in the accounts, when it has already been reported through the Shadow Executive Committee.