

County Council

Dorset County Council



Date of Meeting	26 th April 2018
Officer	Chief Executive
Subject of Report	Local Government Reorganisation in Dorset Bournemouth and Poole
Executive Summary	<p>At a special meeting on 10 March 2016 the County Council confirmed that it was willing to discuss with other local authorities the future of local government across Dorset, Bournemouth, and Poole.</p> <p>A series of reports led the County Council to agree to support local government reorganisation (LGR) based upon the replacing the existing nine principal councils with two new multi-purpose councils. The “Future Dorset” proposal for this change was submitted to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, in February 2017.</p> <p>The last report to the County Council was in November 2017. Since then two milestone events have occurred:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• On 26 February 2018 the Secretary of State announced his intention to implement, subject to Parliamentary approval, the locally-led “Future Dorset” proposals.• On 29 March 2018 the Secretary of State laid in Parliament the draft Bournemouth Dorset and Poole Structural Changes Order. <p>The effect of the Structural Change Order (SCO) will be to abolish the County Council and the other eight principal councils on 1 April 2019 and to establish in their place two new councils:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dorset Council (covering the area of the existing County Council and the Dorset Districts but excluding Christchurch Borough)• Bournemouth Christchurch and Poole Council (BCP) (covering the areas of the three named borough councils). <p>The SCO also sets out how the transition to the two new councils will be overseen by two shadow councils each with a shadow executive committee. The nine existing councils have a duty to co-operate with the shadow councils and with each other in establishing the new councils efficiently and effectively.</p>

	<p>Given the County Council's scale as the largest of the existing councils and given the need for disaggregation of county council services and budgets (so that they can form part of both new councils) there is a particular challenge for this council in contributing to both of the separate programmes to establish each of the new councils.</p> <p>Each shadow council responsible for the transition to a new council will comprise the membership of the existing councils for that area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• For Dorset the Shadow Council will comprise the membership of the County Council (less the five Christchurch division members) and the entire membership of five district councils (a total of 206 councillors)• For BCP the Shadow council will comprise the entire membership of the three borough councils plus the five county councillors for Christchurch divisions (a total of 125 councillors). <p>Each shadow council must establish a shadow executive committee. The County Council has no places on the Shadow BCP Executive Committee and 10 of the 20 places on the Shadow Dorset Executive Committee are to be filled by County Councillors (the five boroughs/districts having 2 places each). This report recommends a delegation to the Leader to appoint to the 10 County Council places.</p> <p>Detail about the anticipated timing of the first meeting of the shadow councils and the likely business can be found amongst background papers which are reports to the meetings of the Dorset Area Joint Committee and the BCP Area Joint Committee.</p> <p>In addition to the main SCO the Secretary of State will be making a number of consequential orders. These orders will provide the detail of the legal framework within which the shadow councils will set the budgets and council tax for the new councils, and the arrangements under which staff will transfer their employment and under which property, other assets and liabilities will transfer to the new councils.</p> <p>The intention is for the Dorset Area Joint Committee and the BCP Joint Committee to respond to consultations on the consequential orders. However, there is a risk that the timescales might preclude a joint committee response and it is recommended that the Chief Executive and the Monitoring Officer should be given delegated authority, after consultation with the Leader, to provide responses on behalf of the County Council.</p> <p>Until the shadow councils and shadow executive committees take on their responsibilities (anticipated to be from June 2018) the two joint committees continue to oversee the transition work towards the formation of the two new councils, supported by a number of member task and finish groups and officer workstreams.</p> <p>Rather than repeat or summarise in this paper reports to the joint committees by the two programme directors and by officers these are identified as background papers to which links are provided.</p> <p>Those councillors who are not members either joint committee are encouraged to review the joint committee papers as they illustrate the scale and the challenge of the programmes to establish two new</p>
--	--

Local Government Reorganisation in Dorset, Bournemouth and Poole

	councils which are able to deliver services that are safe and legal from 1 April 2019.
Impact Assessment:	Equalities Impact Assessment: An Equalities Impact Assessment was presented to the County Council on 20 July 2017 and is referenced as a background paper.
	Use of Evidence: This report draws upon previous reports to the County Council, advice from MHCLG officials, the Structural Change Order and reports taken to the two joint Committees overseeing the work towards LGR.
	Budget: There are no direct budget implications arising from the recommendations in this report.
	Risk Assessment: Assessments of the risks associated with the programmes to establish the two new councils are included in the papers prepared for the two joint committees (which are identified as background papers to this report).
	Other Implications: None.
Recommendation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the County Council consider the steps being taken in preparation for the formation of two new councils for Dorset, Bournemouth and Poole. 2. That the Leader be given delegated authority to appoint the 10 County Councillors to serve as members of the Dorset Shadow Executive Committee. 3. That the Chief Executive and the Monitoring Officer be given delegated authority, after consultation with the Leader, to respond to consultations on the content of consequential orders in connection with local government reorganisation.
Reason for Recommendation	To enable the County Council to consider the steps being taken in preparation for LGR, to ensure that the appropriate delegations are in place to enable appointments to be made to the Shadow Dorset Executive Committee and to authorise officers to respond to consultations.
Appendices	None.
Background Papers	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Draft Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole (Structural Changes) Order 2018 2. Dorset Area Joint Committee 21 February 2018 report on Shadow Authority Arrangements 3. Bournemouth Christchurch and Poole Joint Committee – agendas reports and minutes 4. Dorset Area Joint Committee – agendas reports and minutes 5. Equality Impact Assessment presented to County Council on 20 July 2017

Local Government Reorganisation in Dorset, Bournemouth and Poole

Officer Contact	Name: Jonathan Mair, Service Director for Organisational Development Tel: 01305 224181 Email: j.e.mair@dorsetcc.gov.uk
-----------------	--