

# County Council

## Dorset County Council



Date of Meeting	19 July 2018
Officer	Chief Executive
Subject of Report	<b>Local Government Reorganisation in Dorset, Bournemouth and Poole</b>
Executive Summary	<p>The County Council has received a series of reports updating members following their agreement to support local government reorganisation (LGR) based upon replacing the existing nine principal councils with two new multi-purpose councils.</p> <p>Since the last update to County Council on 26 April 2018 the <a href="#">Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Structural Changes Order</a> has come into force.</p> <p>The structural changes order (SCO) has established two shadow councils to manage the transition from the existing county, unitary and district council in Dorset to the two multi-purpose councils:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Shadow Dorset Council (covering the area of the existing County Council and the district councils but excluding Christchurch Borough) and</li><li>• The Shadow Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP) Council (covering the areas of the three named boroughs).</li></ul> <p>The LGR Programme is in three phases:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Creation of the new Councils</li><li>2. Delivering services for 1 April 2019</li><li>3. Designing the new Councils</li></ol> <p>Completion of the Structural Changes Order is an important milestone, creating the Shadow Councils and providing the legal basis to transition to new councils on 1 April 2019.</p> <p>Dorset County Council has a role in relation to the establishment of both new councils and the transfer of County Council services, staff and budgets. 41 County Councillors are members of the Shadow Dorset Council and the five County Councillors for Christchurch divisions are</p>

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	<p>members of the Shadow Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council.</p> <p>The Shadow Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council met for the first time on 6 June 2018 and the Shadow Dorset Council on 7 June 2018.</p> <p>At the Shadow Dorset Council meeting Cllr Hilary Cox was elected as Chairman, <a href="#">a new council high level implementation strategy</a> was approved, <a href="#">interim statutory officers were appointed</a> and there was agreement to the arrangements which will lead to the <a href="#">appointment of a Dorset Council Chief Executive</a>.</p> <p>In addition to shadow councils the Structural Changes Order has established shadow executive committees for each area. The Structural Changes Order has allocated places on the Shadow BCP Executive to members of Bournemouth Borough Council, Christchurch Borough Council and the Borough of Poole. For the Shadow Dorset Executive Committee 10 places have been allocated to County Councillors and two places each to the five districts.</p> <p>At the first meeting of the Dorset Shadow Executive Committee Cllr Rebecca Knox was elected as Shadow Executive Leader. For the Dorset Area a Shadow Overview and Scrutiny Committee has also met to establish its initial working arrangements.</p> <p>It is anticipated that the Shadow Executive Committees will meet on a four weekly basis, with a recognition that meetings will take place more frequently if needed. <a href="#">A forward plan has been published</a> for the Dorset area along with reports addressing the <a href="#">respective roles of sovereign councils and the Shadow Executive Committee</a>.</p> <p>Christchurch Borough Council have applied to the court and have been given permission to enable a judicial review to take place challenging the way in which the Secretary of State has made the LGR regulations. The other eight principal local authorities are interested parties and are jointly represented in the proceedings which will be heard before the end of July. A further legal challenge to the Secretary of State has been brought by an individual. Members will be updated as soon as there is an outcome to these proceedings.</p>
<p>Impact Assessment:</p> <p><i>Please refer to the <a href="#">protocol</a> for writing reports.</i></p>	<p>Equalities Impact Assessment:</p> <p>None for the purposes of this report.</p> <hr/> <p>Use of Evidence:</p> <p>This report draws upon previous reports to Council, the Shadow Council and Executive and upon the Structural Changes Order.</p> <hr/> <p>Budget:</p> <p>There are no direct budget implications arising from recommendations in this report.</p> <hr/> <p>Risk Assessment:</p>

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	<p>Assessments of the risks associated with the programmes to establish the two new councils were commented upon in the previous report to council.</p>
	<p>Other Implications:</p> <p>None.</p>
Recommendation	<p>That the County Council consider and comment upon the steps being taken in preparation for the formation of two new councils for Dorset Bournemouth and Poole.</p>
Reason for Recommendation	<p>To enable the County Council to give collective consideration to the steps being taken in preparation for LGR.</p>
Appendices	<p>None.</p>
Background Papers	<p>Links are embedded within the body of this report to a series of background papers.</p>
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