



Dorset Association of Parish & Town Councils

(Affiliated to the National Association of Local Councils)

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STATEMENT TO THE SHADOW DORSET COUNCIL MEETING – 7 JUNE 2018

I would like to make the following statement to the Shadow Dorset Council as set out at item 6 of the agenda.

I am Councillor John Parker, Chairman of Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils.

The first meeting of this shadow authority is a significant moment in the process of forming what we all hope will be a brand-new Dorset Council, with new and innovative ways of working which will benefit the communities we serve.

Our association has a membership of 160 local councils across the whole of Dorset, including all the town councils. In total, over 98% of local councils in Dorset are members.

The association is a democratically elected body, with representatives appointed by each member council. It has a very good network of communication with all its members and provides support and training for them in affiliation with the National Association of Local Councils (NALC).

As the parish & town council tier will remain after 1 April 2019, this association is keen to build relationships with the Shadow Dorset Council and the Shadow Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole Council on behalf of its members and potential members.

We have already made our members aware of the processes for establishing the new authorities and are disseminating information on behalf of the LGR Programme Team.

The association has a good overview of its members' needs from large town councils to very small parish councils. We also have a very good understanding of how town and parish councils should operate and how they can add value to this important process of re-structure.

Devolution to town and parish councils will be a fundamental issue for shaping future services. Achieving this in an adequately resourced and cooperative manner is in the interests of all our communities.

Our association believes it is in a unique position to be a positive voice in ensuring that our members are engaged with the new councils, not only in collaborative design of services for the many different communities in Dorset, but also in all aspects which would help build relationships and ease the implementation of change.

Councillor John Parker
Chairman of Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils
6 June 2018