

**NORTH DORSET DISTRICT COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING
27 JULY 2018**

Leader and Housing – Councillor Graham Carr-Jones

PORTFOLIO HOLDER'S REPORT

Housing

Below is a breakdown of the Housing Register as at 1st June 2018

Emergency	10
Gold	121
Silver	344
Bronze	401
Ineligible – shared Ownership	76
Total – live applications	946

The numbers on the register have increased by 12 since previous month

Applications

This month we have received on line	88
The average number of days to process these applications were	5

Housed Applicants

Throughout June we have housed **11** households
which can be broken down into the following bed sizes:

The bed needs for applicants housed are as follows:-

1 beds =	4
2 beds =	3
3 beds =	4
4 beds =	0

Number of households housed through Direct Let with the Registered Provider by:- **0**

- To help the RP with efficient management of their stock.
- To move applicants into Trailway Court which is an extra care property, the vacancies are not advertised through the Locata system.
- Single applicants being housed into supported accommodation which again is not advertised through the Locata system

Homeless information

Approaches for advice and assistance

Number of approaches from households requiring housing advice during June 2018

31

Due to the way we now collect our data we are unable to provide these figures at present

Of which:

Appointment at Blandford

Drop in at Blandford

Gillingham Direct

Home visits

Telephone interview

Multi-Agency meeting

Number of those that approached and were given advice, but were considered to be non-priority needs ie were not owed a duty by the Council.

0

Homelessness applications

Figures to follow

Number of Homeless forms taken

Number of Decisions made

of which were:-

Accepted

Not Homeless/Advice given

Not Priority Need

Intentionally Homeless

Number of families in B&B at the end of the month

1

11 July 2018

**Emergency
Band**

Type / Size	No. of Lets	Longest wait	Average wait
Sheltered accomm.	5	4 months	7 weeks
Studio general needs	0		
1-bed general needs	22	14 months	10 weeks
2-bed flat or maisonette	6	11 weeks	6 weeks
2-bed house	23	8 months	12 weeks
3-bed flat or maisonette	0		
3-bed house	20	7 months	8 weeks
4-bed	2	6 months	4 months
5-bed	0		

Gold Band

Type / Size	No. of Lets	Longest wait	Average wait
Sheltered accomm.	88	3 years	5 months
Studio general needs	2	4 months	3 months
1-bed general needs	128	10 years	7 months
2-bed flat or maisonette	23	7 months	10 weeks
2-bed house	112	5 years	5 months
3-bed flat or maisonette	0		
3-bed house	50	26 months	5 months
4-bed	10	19 months	6 months
5-bed	0		

Silver Band

Type / Size	No. of Lets	Longest wait	Average wait
Sheltered accomm.	148	31 months	5 months
Studio general needs	1	4 months	4 months
1-bed general needs	180	12 years	9 months
2-bed flat or maisonette	250	21 months	3 months
2-bed house	278	3 years	7 months
3-bed flat or maisonette	11	20 months	7 months
3-bed house	218	14 years	10 months
4-bed	22	27 months	9 months
5-bed	0		

Bronze Band

Type / Size	No. of Lets	Longest wait	Average wait
Sheltered accomm.	80	8 years	9 months
Studio general needs	0		
1-bed general needs	28	11 years	16 months
2-bed flat or maisonette	94	10 years	8 months
2-bed house	51	5 years	16 months
3-bed flat or maisonette	5	13 months	5 months
3-bed house	42	4 years	10 months
4-bed	0		
5-bed	0		

Local Government Reorganisation:

Since the shadow Executive was created both the Leader & Cllr: Sherry Jespersen have been fully occupied on the Governance Task & Finish Group. I am also acting as Lead Member on the Wider Member Engagement group which has an increasing role to include Community Partners Communications and Corporate Branding. Members across DCP are receiving regular bulletins on LGR & the progress of Shadow Council & Executive. Please use the email Q&A facility to gain answers to any queries or to feedback. The information is aimed at providing members with sound bites and information to be shared with Town & Parish Councils and at your ward surgeries.

Accelerating Housing Board:

Major Application Manager – Dave Oakhill was introduced to the AHB. His role is to provide strategic leadership and direction by managing the development management major applications team and not individual case management.

Discussions are ongoing regarding prioritisation of new entrants, small medium enterprises and registered providers. An internal target has been set for the registration of major applications within five days of receipt with a fall-back position of a maximum of ten days. Appropriate lines of communication are now in place to expedite the registration of schemes that meet the council priorities.

We are continuing to promote the Home Ownership Register through our “Opening Doors” programme. And NDDC was well represented at the opening of the Tamar Housing scheme in Shaftesbury backed by “Rent Plus” the first such scheme in North Dorset

CABINET DECISIONS WITHIN THIS PORTFOLIO

Cabinet on 26 January 2018 considered the following item within this portfolio:

None for this meeting

Cabinet on 20 February 2018 considered the following item within this portfolio:

None for this meeting

Cabinet on 18 May 2018 considered the following item within this portfolio:

None for this meeting

PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISIONS MADE WITHIN THIS PORTFOLIO

None for this period

Deputy Leader and Planning – Councillor David Walsh
--

PORTFOLIO HOLDER’S REPORT

A verbal update will be provided at the meeting.

CABINET DECISIONS WITHIN THIS PORTFOLIO

Cabinet on 26 January 2018 considered the following items within this portfolio:

Bourton Neighbourhood Development Plan 2016 – 2031
Implementing the Brownfield Land Register

Cabinet on 20 February 2018 considered the following item within this portfolio:

None for this meeting

Cabinet on 18 May 2018 considered the following item within this portfolio:

None for this meeting

PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISIONS MADE WITHIN THIS PORTFOLIO

Response to consultation on Draft Revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and consultation on Draft Planning Practice Guidance on Viability and Plan-making.

Environment – Councillor Michael Roake

PORTFOLIO HOLDER'S REPORT

A verbal update will be provided at the meeting.

CABINET DECISIONS WITHIN THIS PORTFOLIO

Cabinet on 26 January 2018 considered the following item within this portfolio:

Financial Regulations

Cabinet on 20 February 2018 considered the following items within this portfolio:

2018/19 Budget

2018/2019 Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy

Cabinet on 18 May 2018 considered the following item within this portfolio:

None for this meeting

PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISIONS MADE WITHIN THIS PORTFOLIO

High Street Gillingham Toilets Release of Covenant and Granting of Covenant
Sale of Butts Pond Car Park, Sturminster Newton

Community and Regeneration – Councillor Sherry Jespersen

PORTFOLIO HOLDER'S REPORT

A verbal update will be provided at the meeting.

CABINET DECISIONS WITHIN THIS PORTFOLIO

Cabinet on 26 January 2018 considered the following item within this portfolio:

Recharging for Town and Parish Council elections

Cabinet on 20 February 2018 considered the following item within this portfolio:

None for this meeting

Cabinet on 18 May 2018 considered the following item within this portfolio:

None for this meeting

PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISIONS MADE WITHIN THIS PORTFOLIO

Economic Growth Fund, Compass Video Ltd
Economic Growth Fund, 3d Clinic
Economic Growth Fund, Botanical Candle Company
Payment of Annual Grant to Artsreach

Community Safety and Wellbeing – Councillor Andrew Kerby

PORTFOLIO HOLDER'S REPORT

A verbal update will be provided at the meeting.

CABINET DECISIONS WITHIN THIS PORTFOLIO

Cabinet on 26 January 2018 considered the following item within this portfolio:

None for this meeting

Cabinet on 20 February 2018 considered the following item within this portfolio:

None for this meeting

Cabinet on 18 May 2018 considered the following item within this portfolio:

None for this meeting

PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISIONS MADE WITHIN THIS PORTFOLIO

None for this period

Access & Customer Services - Councillor Piers Brown

PORTFOLIO HOLDER'S REPORT

Customer and Information Services

The new dorsetforyou.gov.uk went live last month with over 12 people visiting the site every second it is by far our most popular means of customer service. During this process, the team have deleted more than half of the existing pages and used the Government Digital Service design principles. These design principles focus on user-centred design and making navigation as simple as possible. The Team have worked with web-authors in each services to redesign and re-write content on the website over the period of the project. This has included training web-authors in the new approach to web content. The rest of the site will be updated over the coming months including reducing the menus so you will never have to click more than 4 times to find what you are looking for! There will be teething issues but if Members come across any issues they can report it via the feedback button on every page. I would also encourage Members to familiarise themselves with the new site layout as things have moved. A massive well done to Laura Hall and her team in getting this project this far.

The Customer Services Team have experienced a very busy period in Quarter 1 of this year. This has included high call volumes but also a high proportion of staff turnover accompanied

with the necessary recruitment. The Customer Services Team continue to work with our partner, Stour Valley and Poole Partnership, to deliver services to customers through our local Offices in accordance with an agreed Service Level Agreement and feedback from people who use the Lodge has been very positive.

Food Licensing

With the glorious weather there has been an increase in outside events requiring licensing and also checks on food safety to keep the public safe. The 'Teddy Rocks' event in Blandford was very successful and there were no complaints about noise disturbance. As the festival season gets into full swing, our officers are working with organisers to ensure safe and enjoyable events for both residents and visitors of North Dorset alike.

Food premises in our area are maintaining high standards with 93% rated at being good or very good and officers are focused upon the poorer performers.

Officers are involved in work relating to the implementation of LGR and having consistent food and licensing approaches across Dorset and also working with the Food Standards Agency about the implications of Brexit for food safety regulation.

Legal and Corporate Governance

Work associated with Shaping Dorset Council is now having an impact on various aspects of the legal service team particularly among more senior officers and this is likely to increase further over the next six months particularly as the team has been unable to recruit to fill its current vacancies.

Personnel Policy

Dorset Council Partnership recently won the Workforce Transformation award at the Municipal Journal Local Government Achievement Awards 2018 based on:

- A flexible, transformed and productive workforce.
- Employee engagement and involvement of employees and Trade Unions through change and beyond.
- Joined-up ways of working. Clear links to the organisation objectives, including matrix to show results and impact for example, increased productivity, improved customer service etc.
- Embedding engagement in behavioural and cultural change.
- Creating a 'can do' culture

It's a exceptional recognition of the hard work that the transformational team and the staff body as a whole have put into the achieving the Dorset Council Partnership. I am incredibly proud of our staff here at the Dorset Council Partnership, after all, we can't deliver any of our services without them.

Equality Scheme

The DCP Equalities Working Group met on 1 June 2018 and agreed not to further develop the Equalities and Diversity Policy pending LGR but instead focus on alignment across Dorset Council. However, the group considered the Dorset Shared Equality Objectives and DCP Equality Objectives for 2018-19. These are being considered in current, respective committee cycles. The introduction of new braille at council offices was also completed within the last few months.

Democratic Services

A Boundary Review for Dorset Council has been underway for some time and all councillors have been engaged as part of the earlier steps of the review. The next phase of the review

has now started and the Local Government Boundary Commission (LGBCE) has opened a public consultation on its draft recommendations for Dorset Council. The consultation closes on 27 August 2018. It would be greatly appreciated if Members could encourage their Parish Councils to have a look over the proposals. If you agree with the recommendations or if you think the recommendations are not right for Dorset you are welcome to submit alternative proposals for a different wards or names. All information relating to the draft recommendations is available on the LGBCE website at <https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/node/13248>

Dorset Councils Partnership has been shortlisted as finalist in the Public Sector Paperless Awards 2018 for the Paperless Project of the Year award. The national awards are open to all organisations that have been working towards digital transformation and the winner will be announced at a presentation evening in Manchester on 19th July. The day after we go to print, I will update the Members on the outcome at the Full Council meeting. It used to cost the partnership over £56,000 a year to produce paper committee agendas for councillors and officers and this figure didn't include postage.

Strategic Risk Management

At the Annual Council meeting, Members signed off on a Standardisation of the Officer Scheme of Delegation across the Dorset Council Partnership. Its intention was to reduce the likelihood of human error by officers when making delegated decisions under three slightly different schemes. It was made clear at the time that, if North Dorset or one of our partner councils, failed to adopt the scheme then it would be put on hold and replaced by Local Government Reorganisation. On 31 May, Weymouth & Poland Borough Council didn't vote in favour of the new scheme.

CABINET DECISIONS WITHIN THIS PORTFOLIO

Cabinet on 26 January 2018 considered the following item within this portfolio:

None for this meeting.

Cabinet on 20 February 2018 considered the following item within this portfolio:

Pay Policy Statement 2018/19

Cabinet on 18 May 2018 considered the following items within this portfolio:

Standardisation of the Officer Scheme of Delegation
Re-Adoption of the Constitution

PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISIONS MADE WITHIN THIS PORTFOLIO

None for this period