



Dorset Council

Date: Thursday, 23 October 2025
Time: 6.30 pm
Venue: Council Chamber, County Hall, Dorchester, DT1 1XJ

All members of Dorset Council are requested to attend this meeting of the Full Council.

Chief Executive: Catherine Howe, County Hall, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1XJ

For more information about this agenda please contact Democratic & Governance Services
Meeting Contact susan.dallison@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Members of the public are welcome to attend this meeting, apart from any items listed in the exempt part of this agenda. If you would like to attend this meeting and have any specific requirements please contact the Democratic Services Officer named above.

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5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - QUESTIONS

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A period of 30 minutes is allocated to receive and respond to questions and statements on the business of the Council in the following order:

- (a) Questions and statements from Town and Parish Councils;
- (b) Questions and statements from those living or working in the Dorset Council area;

A person or organisation can submit either 1 question or 1 statement at each meeting.

You are welcome to attend the meeting in person or via MS Teams to read out your question and to receive the response. If you submit a statement for Full Council this will be circulated to all members of the council in advance of the meeting as a supplement to the agenda and appended to the minutes of the meeting for the formal record, but it will not be read out at the meeting. The first 8 questions and the first 8 statements received by Democratic Services will be accepted on a first come first served basis in accordance with the deadline below:

The full text of the question or statement must be received by

8.30am on Monday 20 October 2025. All submissions must be emailed to susan.dallison@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

When submitting your question or statement please note that:

- You can submit 1 question or 1 statement for each meeting;
- A question may include a pre-amble to set the context, each question, including the pre-amble can consist of up to **450 words** and you will be given up to **3 minutes** to read out your question;
- Sub-divided questions will not be accepted;
- When submitting a question please indicate who the question is for, i.e. the name of the Cabinet member;
- You will need to include your full name, address and contact details;
- All questions and statements will be published with the minutes of the meeting as a matter of public record.

Before submitting your question or statement please read the Council's Procedure Rules paragraphs 9.1 – 9.12 to ensure that your question/statement is compliant.

[Part 2 Rules of Procedure - Council and Committee Procedure Rules.pdf](#)

Full Council – 23 October 2025

Questions submitted by Parish Councils and the public

Question 1 - submitted by Beaminster Town Council

Please could the relevant Cabinet member respond to the following points: -
How Dorset Council are assessing the long-term sustainability of its community resilience capabilities; what steps are being taken to improve public awareness, involvement and ownership of resilience planning; whether risk impact assessments are being conducted with meaningful community representations; how are Dorset's local resilience efforts being fed into the ongoing development and review of the National Resilience Framework and in particular, can the Council give a commitment to ensuring the improvement of local resilience capability and ensure that understanding is formally raised in national discussions?

Question 2 – submitted by Mr S Hanbury

I am Sam Hanbury, co-founder of Baboo Gelato Ltd. We are a Dorset ice cream maker. We rent sites from Dorset Council in West Bay, Lyme Regis, and Weymouth.

We would like to ask Dorset Council to reduce the rental increases currently being imposed on tenants at your commercial kiosk sites in West Bay and Lyme Regis.

These rental increases are happening at a time of rising National Insurance, rising Minimum Wage, rising ingredient inflation, rising rates, and the Council's exceptionally aggressive and anti-tourist car park pricing measures which have depressed visitor numbers over the past two years.

Our rent in Lyme has jumped 54% since 2016. Likewise in West Bay our rent has jumped 68%. No business in West Bay or Lyme has seen anything like this increase in sales during the same period.

According to a Google AI search of Cushman & Wakefield, Carter Jonas and Savills: *'Retail rents have been complex since 2016, with prime rents showing more stability or slight increases in certain prime locations, while secondary rents have often declined'*.

In addition the normal 7 or 10 year term of lease in Lyme Regis is no longer being offered due to the ongoing Harbour Orders. This is a huge disincentive to invest when we have such insecurity of tenancy.

We hope you will agree that the kiosks in West Bay and Lyme Regis are a vibrant, very popular and historic feature of the towns, and that Dorset Council's hostile

pricing is detrimental to the traders, which will affect the community and tourism as quality and variety fall away. There has already been a consolidation of the kiosks in West Bay that has reduced the variety of food on offer considerably.

You will also understand that we have a very short season in which to make money. We lose money throughout the winter months, yet we stay open to our detriment in order to keep the area lively. The current rental increase means that during the winter the daily rent is often similar to our total daily takings.

We only seek a fair rent that recognises the economic reality for all traders. We are not cash cows to be milked but small businesses that add a lot to Dorset's tourist offering. The current strategy is genuinely negative for Dorset and our tourist sector, and suggests anti-business attitude from the Council that only ends up hurting our wonderful County.

Question 3 – submitted by Mr Frankl

I agree with the draft local transport plan objectives, in particular, prioritising walking, wheeling and cycling, delivering a connected, inclusive network of active-travel routes and minimising transport's negative health impacts.

Lowering of speed limits is all about safety on our roads, yet the present 20mph policy does not mention safety, it is written from a driver's point of view. Traffic surveys measure speed, not the other attributes that need to be considered when assessing appropriate speed limits. Keep average speeds up and you will likely not get the speed limit reduced.

The present 20mph policy appears to have been written to make it difficult to get 20mph limits in place. It was last reviewed in 2022 and was due to be reviewed in 2024.

When will it be reviewed to reflect current best practice and align it with the draft local transport plan, encouraging walking and cycling and putting the safety of vulnerable road users before car drivers?