



Dorset Council

Date: Thursday, 14 May 2026
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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Agenda

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10. 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 11th May 2026. 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](#)

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Public Participation – Questions

Question 1 – submitted by Carol King

In April, Cllr Legg posed a question to full council regarding how community resilience to emergency situations can be supported if four Fire Stations within Dorset are closed. I have a follow up question.

Maiden Newton has a fire station proposed for closure. The village regularly experiences emergency incidents that require a rapid local response. Minutes matter and lives will be lost.

As Cllr Legg pointed out, we are in the midst of a climate emergency. The Fire Service itself has recently stated that over the last two years, the number of wildfires has more than doubled. Natural habitats and wildlife are being lost at an alarming rate. In Dorset, Upton Heath is a prime example where homes exist near heathland. People will be evacuated and some may lose their homes and require emergency housing. This is not the time to be closing Fire Stations.

We are seeing an increase in flood related emergencies with rescues from vehicles and Highway disruption. These are often widespread events. With an expected increase in property flooding, more people will require rescues, evacuation and temporary shelter.

If local fire stations close, we will see an increase in response times and fires are more likely to involve multiple buildings, resulting in families without homes and requiring emergency accommodation.

The consequences for Dorset Council will be many including:

- Increased demand on Highways for emergency road closures and traffic management
- Greater need for temporary housing for residents displaced from their homes
- Higher likelihood of needing emergency evacuation shelters during major incidents such as wildfires and floods

As a Parish Councillor, I am helping to prepare our Community Emergency Resilience Plan (CERP). If we lose our local fire station, we anticipate a higher risk to life in our community due to an increase in response times. We may even need to consider how we cope if there are no fire engines available or able to reach our community.

Has the Council considered how losing Fire Stations will impact its own service provision such as funding an increase in emergency accommodation, provision of rest centres, emergency road closures and traffic management.

Dorset Council, like the Fire Service, has to produce a balanced budget every year. On this basis what adjustments are being considered by Dorset Council in relation to

provisions for additional costs in future year's brought about by the potential closure of local fire stations such as Maiden Newton, Charmouth, Hamworthy and Cranborne.