



Dorset Council

Date: Thursday, 22 October 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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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 19 October 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](#)

Full Council – 22 October 2026

Public Participation

1. Question submitted by Cllr Celia Wright, Chairman Hinton St Mary PC

On behalf of Hinton St Mary PC and residents I would like to ask why the initial consultation of Ward boundaries was undertaken without informing HSM PC of the consultation and ZERO communication.

To find it has been proposed we are removed from Sturminster Newton Ward against our wishes without anyone having the courtesy to communicate with the PC seems unfair.

I look forward to your comments.

2. Question submitted by Poppy Maltby

Purbeck School buses no longer running to rural villages

From September this year around 30 children from the Purbeck villages, Langton Matravers, Worth Matravers and Kingston had their seats on the local Purbeck School bus removed and switched to the Public Morebus 40 service. This is because there are more children travelling from the Swanage area than can sit on the existing three buses. There was no consultation on this change nor much notice given by the service provider Damory, or Dorset Council School Travel.

The impact of this on the children is significant. Rural exclusion being one, these children no longer get the bus with their friends but wait at school for these regularly delayed public buses to arrive. They stay there long past when the dedicated school buses have left.

These buses are already well used by the public and now these children, as young as 11, either sit next to strangers, or occasionally are forced to stand by hostile members of the public who want a seat. The existing three school buses cannot have standing passengers, but there is no such problem on public buses. It is unclear how much Damory have factored in the impact of the £2 bus fare or summer peak season in ensuring these children have seats.

Parents have also expressed safeguarding concerns. Unlike school buses, drivers do not have DBS checks. They are also concerned about young girls exiting the bus on their own in rural areas, to walk down lanes to hamlets such as to Acton – observed by total strangers. In December and January, being at least 10-15 mins later than the old school bus – this walk will be in the dark.

With their public bus journeys taking around 30-40 minutes a day longer than before, this adds up to a significant disadvantage of around 3 hours a week of time lost to

sleep or study compared to Swanage children - who actually live further away from the school.

This 'cost efficiency' outcome is a result of the existing contract, now up for renewal – which prioritised lowest possible cost with little consideration of the cost to children.

I would therefore be grateful if you could let the parents of these children understand:

a) how safeguarding concerns have been considered in this decision

b) how Dorset Council are factoring rural needs into their contract negotiations from 2027 – to ensure that these children are not disadvantaged as they are now, in the name of efficiencies and cost savings?