

**Full Council – 21 November 2019**  
**Questions from Councillors**

**Question 1 – submitted by Cllr Les Fry (to be asked by Cllr Bill Pipe)**

“Safeguarding our vulnerable people is a key priority for all of us here in Dorset. Working in partnership is always more efficient and cost effective to achieve this outcome. Working in close collaboration, sharing information with the ability to be dynamic with responses to protect people has to be the way forward, especially given that County Lines is a significant threat, risk and harm here in Dorset.

Dorset currently has pan Dorset Strategies for Child Sexual Exploitation, Slavery and Vulnerability issues, as well as a pan Dorset MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub).

The two Unitaries have announced that they are in process of creating two separate unitary solutions for safe guarding. Indeed Dorset Council has already withdrawn its staff from the MASH

I understand that this decision was around CAROL (Children at risk of/or linked to Exploitation)

This extremely disappointing decision taken without the knowledge of members has caused a Fragmentation of the system, creating staffing and communication challenges for all public services involved in Safe Guarding. For example the Police now have to find more officers for two units instead of one.

Safe guarding is paramount for all our people here in Dorset, especially our children, the elderly and the vulnerable and to have two different policies in Dorset is completely unacceptable and unworkable.

1. How did this change come about?
2. When will the business case and costings for these single Safe Guarding units (that will have submitted to the portfolio holder) be coming to full council for ratification? “

**Question 2 – submitted by Cllr Brian Heatley**

“The Review of Polling Arrangements proposes that the approximately 1400 non-postal voters of part of Weymouth West, ROD3, should have to go to a polling station outside that Polling District. This contravenes the excellent principle set out in the paper before Council tonight that where possible polling stations are allocated centrally to residential areas to keep travel to a minimum.

It is suggested in the review that because turnout from the polling district was relatively high in the May 2019 election when there was no polling station in the ward, voters are prepared to travel further. Turnout did hold up, but an alternative

explanation is that this is a ward where there has been a very lively political contest in most recent years.

Please could you reconsider this decision and undertake to make a serious effort to find a new polling station in a large polling district which on the face of it contains a number of alternative possibilities.”

**Question 3 – submitted by Cllr Louie O’Leary**

“Weymouth has either the highest or one of the highest car park fees in the county it costs for 4 hours £4 and that goes to £5 in the Summer and while in Dorchester it is £4 all day or 2.60 for up to 3 hours. With Weymouth’s high street suffering and with such high levels of deprivation in Weymouth how is it meant to compete with other towns? Now we are one council one authority surely Weymouth deserves a better deal and a standard balanced rate county wide.”

**Question 4 – submitted by Cllr Bill Trite**

“In view of this Council's recognition of the importance of village halls to local communities - including the role village halls play in improving social cohesion and combating rural isolation - can the Leader confirm that there are no plans to remove or reduce the present level or levels of discretionary rate relief for charity-based village halls in Dorset?”