



Dorset Association of Parish & Town Councils

(Affiliated to the National Association of Local Councils)

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To all Parish and Town Councils in DAPTC Membership

3 May 2019

Dear Colleagues

The new unitary councils are established, their councillors elected, and we move into a new era for local government in Dorset.

Over the coming year both Dorset Council and Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP) Council will be developing their new working practices and, more importantly, their relationship with their parish and town councils. Their new working practices are inextricably linked to the relationship with parish and town councils, their only local government link to local communities. Our aim must be to influence the shape of those working practices so that we, in partnership with them, can address local priorities for the communities we know well and represent.

During the process of the re-organisation to establish the new councils, DAPTC has made its presence felt. DAPTC representatives have attended meetings of the committees setting up the two new unitary authorities (Dorset Council and BCP Council). The past Chairman plus the Chief Executive submitted statements reminding these meetings of the importance of parish and town councils and our willingness to be involved. Our Chief Executive has worked tirelessly to develop a relationship with the executive officers of both new councils and was even invited onto one of the selection panels for the Dorset Council senior leadership officers.

The time has now come to press home our case for greater involvement in shaping the working practices referred to earlier and to do so by demonstrating the important work undertaken by us as parish and town councils.

I have 4 requests to you:

1. In order to build our case, DAPTC need examples of parish and town council's work in the community. I am, therefore, asking you to complete the attached form with examples of work you regularly undertake or service you provide to your communities. Things such as providing dog waste bins or SIDs through to managing markets or providing community transport. Please don't get hung up on including everything. We are specifically looking for examples that demonstrate the strategic importance of what you do in terms of wider debates such as improving the health and wellbeing of local residents, improving community safety and/or supporting the local economy & environment.

If you can include any photographs with your reply, they would help illustrate your examples.

2. If you are involved in supporting any community projects, please give some brief detail on the form of the projects' aims and how they are being funded and managed.
3. I have been asked by Dorset Council to make a request to our member Councils to confirm that there are no matters outstanding from work with the former councils which have not been picked up and carried forward. If there is, please email rebecca.forrester@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk
4. **Appointing representatives to DAPTC area committees and/or Town & Larger Parish Council committees**

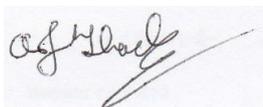
With the start of the new unitary councils, it is more important than ever for your council to be represented at DAPTC area committees and events. Each council is entitled to have up **TWO** representatives. You may wish to consider having either the Council Chairman or (if your council has committees), a Chairman of a relevant Committee as one of your representatives. (A form for these details was sent to clerks with the recent DAPTC subscription invoice)

This is a real opportunity for you as parish and town councils, through DAPTC, to influence the way services are delivered in Dorset. To make the most of this opportunity the DAPTC needs your examples and experiences to make the case. It is much better to make a case at the start of a relationship with the unitary councils to start to build partnerships.

Please can the form be returned to the DAPTC office by 31 July.

Congratulations on becoming or continuing as a parish or town councillor and I wish you a fulfilling journey as a truly local councillor working for your communities.

Yours faithfully



Councillor Alan Thacker

Chairman