

## How will we fund our Plan?

The Corporate Plan commits the Council to spend additional money year on year. We are fortunate that we are starting from a strong point, but we still need to manage resources carefully. Our Plan will be funded by:

**Little and often increases in our Council Tax** - typically 2% a year, mainly to cover inflation on our operational services

**Growth of the Town** - put simply, more houses = more Council Tax raised, increasing the income we have available to deliver services

**Delivering Efficiencies** - reducing our current spend without compromising the quality of our services, and investing to make ongoing savings

**Increasing Fees and helping users to manage the assets they use** - changing the balance between users and Council Tax payers meeting the costs of some services

**Using our Reserves for projects, then building new Reserves** - £500k has been allocated to 5 projects as part of this plan, then we aim to build a new Reserve by making savings over the next 4 years

**Seeking funding from external sources** - we will actively seek to access funding from Government, Lottery, planning agreements and other sources.

	£000
Borough Gardens—2 new tennis courts	150
Cultural Capital Grants	50
Heritage Tourism in Dorchester	70
Pedestrianisation of lower South St	190
Professional advice on planning issues	40
<b>Total</b>	<b>500</b>

### Questionnaire (continued)

What have we missed? What else would you like us to try to address?

Do you have any other comments about the provision of public services in the town?

Please return the survey to the address below, or scan/take a photo of it and e-mail to the address below.

# Dorchester Town Council What do you think about our Draft Corporate Plan?



## Working in Partnership

The Town Council delivers some of the town's services itself, and works with partners to deliver the rest.

Our staff look after the Borough Gardens, playgrounds, several playing fields, the Municipal Buildings, Cemeteries and we administer allotments.

We work with partners who deliver some of the key services that affect residents; we comment on planning applications to West Dorset DC and work with them on parking, sport, heritage, cultural and economic issues. We work with Dorset County Council on highways and traffic issues.

Community organisations are increasingly involved in providing services, either well-established organisations such as Dorchester Arts and Dorset County Museum, or new ones such as the Trust to run the Youth Centre. We aim to revitalise the town's Community Partnership and focus it on bringing a growing town closer together.

And our residents play a major role, using our facilities and attending our events, supporting the many voluntary organisations that operate in the town, or simply working, shopping and enjoying the town's diverse offer.

## Dorchester today

Our plan to focus on improving some of Dorchester's services is driven by our understanding of what has been going on in the town for the last few years and what is planned to happen next. Our summary is as follows:

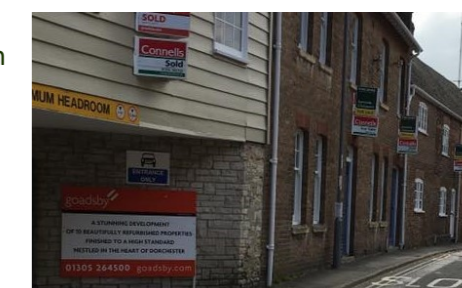
- **The Town's population will continue to grow** - it has been growing steadily for a number of years - now 20,000 residents, up by 4,000 since 1991.
- **The Economy is strong** - heavily weighted towards the public sector, which brings both risks and rewards. Private sector jobs are growing, there is negligible unemployment, and new opportunities are emerging in heritage and other sectors



*Cranes on Poundbury, likely to be finished in around 10 years time*

- **Our population is getting older** - new properties are overfocused at the mid-high end of the market, young people leaving town for

university do not return, while young workers struggle to afford to live in the town



*For Sale signs disappear quickly, with properties out of the price range for workers*

- **A victim of its own success** - housing is increasingly unaffordable to workers, workers increasingly commute creating traffic and parking problems, the town misses out on the extra community and economic benefits those workers could bring if they were residents. Because employment is high we don't seek to diversify the economy further, but our public sector is transforming itself and reducing employee numbers.



*Many residential roads suffer from double parking during the working week.*

## Projects we want to progress with Dorset CC, West Dorset DC, and Other Partners

### Traffic and Parking in the Town

- **Long term parking and traffic solutions** - working with DCC & WDDC to identify better solutions for worker parking to reduce town centre traffic movement and residential street parking problems
- **Working with the Highway authority to improve traffic flows** - supporting DCC in their implementation of new traffic lighting and junction improvements around the town centre
- **Improve the pedestrianised areas in the town** - working with WDDC to pedestrianise lower South St and improve the area between Shire Hall and Dorset County Museum

pieces of heritage around the town, and install a new pedestrian visitor signage scheme in the town centre.



Working with DCC we will refurbish The Walks, which follow the lines of the Roman town

### Affordable Housing

- **New flats for young workers at Trinity St** - a pilot project working with housing partners to try to build 20 low cost flats on a site we use for tennis courts.



Trinity St Tennis Courts, unused in winter due to trees

- **Challenging others to provide Affordable Homes** - objecting when developers claim it is not viable to deliver the local plan target of 35% on new sites

### Heritage Tourism

- **Promoting Dorchester as a Heritage Tourism destination** - helping Heritage providers and the local Tourism industry to create a shared marketing vision to promote the town to visitors
- **Cultural Capital Grants** - grants and practical support to some of the major cultural projects happening in the town over the next 4 years
- **Informal Heritage and Signage** - working with WDDC and DCC to fund improvements to smaller

### Young People

- **Keeping Dorchester Youth Centre operational** - Supporting a new Trust to take over the Youth Centre from DCC
- **Creating apprentice opportunities** - working with community organisations and funding partners to provide a range of 1 year apprenticeships in the town



Apprenticeships in the town have been jointly funded with WDDC

### Setting a long term vision for the town's growth

- **Identifying the town's options for long term housing growth** - understanding the pressures on the planning authority to bring sites forward and options available to the town
- **Developing a Neighbourhood Plan** - focusing on what the town feels it needs as part of its housing mix and other planning needs

## What are we aiming to do Ourselves?

- **New focus on Community Development** - aimed at improving social cohesion, networking between groups, promoting access to the diverse range of public and community services on offer and signposting possible funding opportunities

- **Changing how we do things to save money** - a range of projects to reduce our costs, including a borehole in the Borough Gardens, electronic mapping, and helping users to take over the facilities they use

- **Delivering a wide range of Events** - using the Borough Gardens, Corn Exchange and other facilities to provide a diverse range of community events



Supporting the "Friends of the Borough Gardens" Carols event in 2015

- **Build two new Tennis Courts** - on the ex Bowling Green in the Borough Gardens, freeing up land in Trinity St for housing

- **Preparing for the long term future** - playing a role in ensuring that services continue in the town following reductions in provision by other Councils and following any local government reorganisation.

- **The Day Job** - continuing to provide a wide range of recreational facilities such as the Borough Gardens, Municipal Buildings sports pitches, allotments playgrounds, the Skatepark, provide cemeteries and infrastructure to support a wide range of public events



In 2016 the Skatepark, home of annual Skatejam events will be refurbished

**Questionnaire** - we welcome your feedback on this summary of our draft Corporate Plan, and will consider your comments before formally adopting a final Plan in May.

1. In general terms do you agree with our assessment of how Dorchester is developing (page 1)?  
 Strongly Agree  Agree with some parts  Don't Agree   
 Comment:.....
2. Do you agree with our proposals to work with partners (page 2)?  
 Strongly Agree  Agree with some parts  Don't Agree   
 Comment:.....
3. Do you agree with our summary of what we will do ourselves (page 3)?  
 Strongly Agree  Agree with some parts  Don't Agree   
 Comment:.....
4. Do you agree with our proposals for how we will fund our Plan?  
 Strongly Agree  Agree with some parts  Don't Agree   
 Comment:.....

(please turn over)