



DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL

SCHEME OF DELEGATION

**Updated January 2024
Review January 2025**

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1 COUNCIL FUNCTIONS

1.1 The matters listed below are the responsibility of the full Council:

- (a) Adopting and changing the Council's Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and Powers and Duties of Committees;
- (b) Approving, adopting or making material changes to the Council's policy framework;
- (c) Approving the Council's Budget and the level of its precept levied on the Dorset Council;
- (d) Authorising borrowings;
- (e) Authorising the incurring of expenditure not provided for within the approved Budget or otherwise permitted under the Council's Financial Regulations;
- (f) Annual review of the council's Risk Register;
- (g) Appointing Council representatives to outside bodies;
- (h) Confirming the appointment of the Town Clerk;
- (i) Making, amending, revoking, re-enacting or adopting byelaws and promoting or opposing the making of local legislation;
- (j) All other matters which must, by law, be reserved to the full Council.

2 DELEGATIONS TO COMMITTEES

2.1 The matters listed below are delegated to the Council's committees, sub-committees, working groups or panels. They must be exercised in accordance with the law, the Council's Standing Orders and Financial Regulations and approved policy framework and may only be exercised where sufficient budgetary provision exists or can be vired from within the approved budget of the Committee concerned.

2.2 Where a sub-committee, working group or panel in lieu of exercising its delegation refers a matter to its parent committee the delegation is exercisable by the committee. Nevertheless, the committee may decide not to exercise this delegated power and may instead make a recommendation to the Council.

Service Area	Function	Committee/Panel
Agency Agreements	Recommending agency agreements and joint working practices	Policy Committee
Allotments	See Land Management	
Arts	Managing the Council's arts-related activities including direct promotions and liaison with DA and other providers	Management Committee
Audit	Responsibility for maintaining a continuous internal audit system.	Policy Committee
	Receiving and considering reports on internal audit and monitoring the implementation of approved action plans	Policy Committee
	Receiving and considering reports of the District Auditor and monitoring the implementation of approved action plans	Policy Committee
Budgetary Control	Recommending the annual Budget and resolutions for level of precept	Policy Committee
	Managing budgetary control matters including the allocation of financial resources and virement of revenue expenditure other than within the approved budget of a committee (see para 2.1)	Policy Committee
Byelaws and local legislation	Recommending the making or adoption of byelaws	Management Committee
	Recommending the sponsoring of local legislation	Policy Committee
	Enforcing byelaws including instituting legal proceedings	Management Committee
Capital Expenditure	Recommending capital works and resourcing their implementation	Policy Committee
Car Parking	Commenting on all matters relating to the management of public car parks in the town	Planning & Environment Committee
Cemeteries	Operation of the Council's burial functions and responsibilities	Management Committee
Civic Events	Organising civic events appropriate to Dorchester's status as historic County Town	Management Committee Twinning & Cultural Activities Panel
Climate Emergency	See Environment	

Committee and Member Support	Recommending the annual calendar of meetings	Policy Committee
	Recommending changes to Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and Powers and Duties of Committees	Policy Committee
	Managing all committee and member functions	Policy Committee
Community Development	Development and implementation of the Local Community Plan	Policy Committee
Community Support	Managing community support activities including provision and maintenance of facilities, liaison with other bodies and cultural support	Management Committee
Complaints	Monitoring the complaints procedure	Management Committee
Conservation	Commenting on proposals for the creation or modification of conservation areas	Planning & Environment Committee
Constitution	See Committee and Member Support	
Culture	See Arts	
Development Control	Commenting on planning applications referred to the Council for comment	Planning & Environment Committee
Electoral Matters	Initiating requests for boundary reviews and commenting during the course of such reviews	Policy Committee
Entertainments	See Arts	
Environment	Production and Implementation of a Climate Emergency Plan	Planning & Environment Committee
External Consultation and Representation	Commenting on consultation documents from other bodies	Appropriate committee
	Recommending appointments to serve on outside bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • annually • when a casual vacancy arises 	Policy Committee Policy Committee
Financial Matters	Managing the Council's financial affairs	Policy Committee
Grants	Award of general revenue grants to local organisations and groups	Management Committee
	Award of cultural activities grants	Management Committee

Heritage	Dealing with general matters affecting the historic environment and heritage of Dorchester including all matters connected with the Council's involvement in the Dorchester Heritage Committee	Management Committee
Highway Maintenance	Commenting on proposals for highways maintenance and repairs and associated matters	Planning & Environment Committee
Insurance	Arranging and maintaining insurance cover in respect of the Council's assets and activities against a wide range of risks	Policy Committee
Land Management	Managing and maintaining the Council's various buildings	Management Committee
	Maintaining the Council's various areas of amenity land, play areas, recreation grounds and open spaces including setting hire charges	Management Committee
	Managing, maintaining and monitoring demand and availability of allotment gardens	Management Committee
Legal Proceedings	To institute, defend or settle any judicial or quasi-judicial proceedings on behalf of the Council and to engage legal advisors and barristers as required	Policy Committee
Markets	Dealing with matters referred to this Council by the Dorchester Markets Joint Panel	Policy Committee
Municipal Buildings	Managing the lease to Dorchester Arts and the council's freehold/landlord responsibilities.	Municipal Buildings Monitoring Group Policy Committee
Performance Matters	Recommending adoption of the Corporate Plan	Policy Committee
	Overall management and review of performance targets contained within the Performance and Policy Plan	Policy Committee
Planning Policy	Commenting on proposed revisions of the Local Plan and other service-specific long-term planning documents	Planning & Environment Committee
Play Areas	See Land Management	
Policy Issues	Recommending and reviewing policies	Policy Committee
	Assisting in the development of new policies or changes in policy	All committees

	Commenting on strategic policy documents and consultation papers issued by the Government and other bodies	Policy Committee
Publicity	Managing the Council's public relations activities and the content and circulation of the Council's newsletter	Policy Committee
Public Footpaths	Making observations on matters affecting public footpaths in and around the town	Planning & Environment Committee
Public Lighting	Commenting on matters affecting public lighting provision or maintenance in the town	Planning & Environment Committee
Public Toilets	Commenting on matters affecting public toilet provision in the town	Planning & Environment Committee
Public Transport	Making observations on matters affecting public transport in and around the town	Planning & Environment Committee
Rights of Way	See Public Footpaths	
Risk Management	Recommending the Council's risk management practices and procedures	Policy Committee
Skate Park	See Land Management	
Sports Grounds	See Land Management	
Staffing	Recommending changes to the Council's approved staffing establishment	Policy Committee
	Reviewing and monitoring the Council's employment arrangements	Policy Committee
Standing Orders	See Committee and Member Support	
Street Lighting	See Public Lighting	
Street Naming	If requested, to consider new street naming.	Planning & Environment Committee
Tourism	Development and implementation of a Tourism Strategy for Dorchester	Policy Committee
Town Clerk and Proper Officer	Recommending the appointment of the Town Clerk and Proper Officer	Policy Committee
Traffic Issues	Making observations on matters affecting traffic management proposals in and around the town	Planning & Environment Committee
Trees	Managing tree planting schemes.	Management Committee

	Making observations on proposals to introduce new tree preservation orders or allow works to trees covered by existing tree preservation orders or within conservation areas	Planning & Environment Committee
Twinning	Making arrangements for twinning visits and activities including liaison with twinning societies	Management Committee Twinning & Cultural Activities Panel

3 DELEGATIONS TO OFFICERS

- 3.1 The Council does not generally operate a formal scheme of delegations to officers but there are certain matters which might be regarded as routine managerial issues by some people whilst others might regard them in a different way.
- 3.2 The following table, whilst not comprehensive, seeks to clarify responsibility in respect of at least some of these matters. Needless to say, the delegations are subject to them being implemented in accordance with the law, the Council's Standing Orders and Financial Regulations, within the accepted policy framework and where budgetary provision exists or is otherwise authorised in accordance with Financial Regulations.

Service Area	Function	Officer
Audit	To maintain a continuous internal audit	Town Clerk Responsible Financial Officer
Communications	To deal with all press and public relations on behalf of the Council	Town Clerk Assistant Town Clerks
Data Protection	To have overall responsibility for the Council's duties under the General Data Protection Regulations	Responsible Financial Officer
Documents	To sign documents on behalf of the Council	Town Clerk Assistant Town Clerks
Elections	To notify the Returning Officer of all casual vacancies arising in the membership of the Council as required by statute and to liaise with him or her regarding the conduct of elections	Town Clerk
Emergency Planning	To lead the Council's response in the case of a major emergency in consultation with and/or under the direction of the Emergency Planning Officers to the Dorset Council	Town Clerk
Finance	To administer the Council's bank balances	Responsible Financial Officer
	To maintain adequate insurance cover for the Council's activities and property	Responsible Financial Officer
	To act as Responsible Financial Officer for the purposes of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 1996	Finance Officer
	To authorise the payment of accounts	Town Clerk Assistant Town Clerks

	To write-off outstanding debts in accordance with Financial Regulation 5.3	Town Clerk
Freedom of Information	To have overall responsibility for the Council's Freedom of Information Publication Scheme	Town Clerk
Information and Communication Technology	To be responsible for the provision and management of information and communication technology provided throughout the Council including the replacement of out-dated equipment or the purchase of new equipment within the approved Budget	Town Clerk
Land and Property	To purchase necessary goods and supplies	Town Clerk Assistant Town Clerks
	To maintain the Council's offices and property in accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations	Town Clerk
	To adjust grass cutting frequencies in relation to the maintenance of the various open areas for which the Council is responsible	Assistant Town Clerk (Outdoor Services)
	To devise planting schemes for the various open areas for which the Council is responsible	Assistant Town Clerk (Outdoor Services)
	To ensure that trees for which the Council is responsible are maintained in a safe condition in accordance with good arboricultural practice	Assistant Town Clerk (Outdoor Services)
Lettings	To authorise casual lettings of the Council's various properties subject to payment in accordance with the approved scale of charges where appropriate	Town Clerk
Members Support	To deal with requests from Members for secretarial or administrative support in connection with their duties	Town Clerk Assistant Town Clerks
Motor Vehicles and Plant	To maintain, repair and renew the Council's motor vehicles, plant and equipment	Assistant Town Clerk (Outdoor Services)
Proper Officer	To act as proper officer for the purposes set out in Standing Order 51 and for all other purposes prescribed by law	Town Clerk
Staffing	To undertake the duties of Head of Paid Service	Town Clerk

	To implement national pay awards and conditions of service	Town Clerk Responsible Financial Officer
	Within the approved budget and in accordance with Standing Orders to administer the staffing establishment and the national agreement on pay and conditions of service	Town Clerk Assistant Town Clerks
	To engage temporary or seasonal workers and determine their wages and conditions of service	Town Clerk Assistant Town Clerk (Outdoor Services)
Tourism Development	To implement the Council's agreed Tourism Development Plan	Tourism Development Officer following discussion with the Tourism Development Partnership