



# Dorchester Town Council

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13 September 2023

**Agenda** for the meeting of the **Policy Committee**, which will be held in the **COUNCIL CHAMBER** at **THE MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, HIGH EAST STREET, DORCHESTER** on **MONDAY 18 SEPTEMBER 2023** at **7.00pm**.

Steve Newman  
Town Clerk

## **Public Attendance and Speaking at the Meeting**

The Chairman has discretion to allow members of the public to speak at the meeting. If you wish to speak please **contact the Clerk by 9.00am on the morning of the meeting**. We ask speakers to confine their comments to the matter in hand and to be as brief as possible.

## **Member Code of Conduct: Declaration of Interests**

Members are reminded that it is their responsibility to disclose interests where appropriate. A Member who declares any interest must leave the room. A Member who declares a registerable interest as a Council nominee to a partner organisation may first address the meeting as a member of the public.

## **Membership of the Committee**

Councillors B. Armstrong-Marshall, R. Biggs (Chair), S. Biles, T. Harries, J. Hewitt, F. Hogwood, S. Hosford (Vice-Chair), G. Jones and The Mayor ex-officio.

## **Agenda**

### **1. Apologies**

### **2. Declaration of Interests**

### **3. Minutes**

To read, confirm and sign the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 24 July 2023 (adopted by Council on 31 July 2023). A copy of the Minutes can be found at <https://www.dorchester-tc.gov.uk/Committees/Management+Committee/Minutes>

### **4. Financial Update – Page 3**

To consider a report by the Responsible Financial Officer (enclosed).

### **5. Working From Home Policy – Page 5**

To consider a draft working from home policy for the Council (enclosed).

**6. ICT Update – Page 10**

To consider a report by the Town Clerk (enclosed).

**7. Review of Community Priorities 2023-28 – Page 11**

To consider a report by the Community Development Officer (enclosed).

**DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL**  
**POLICY COMMITTEE – 18 SEPTEMBER 2023**  
**FINANCIAL UPDATE AT 31 AUGUST 2023**

**1. Financial Position**

- Month 5 spend (Appendix 1) £74k under:
  - £19k under on Office Staff (budgeted pay award not yet agreed & staff not at top of scale)
  - £22k over on Treasury income
  - £7k up on Cemetery income
  - £15k under Parks R&M, including £4k grant received from Forestry Commission
  - All other under and overspends net £5k under

• Cash Position	<b>£000</b>	
Lloyds Bank	124	Nil interest
National Savings and Investments	7	0.6% interest
CCLA Deposit Account	1,700	4.79% interest
<b>Total Cash</b>	<b>2,023</b>	

**Notes:**

- £100k transferred from CCLA to Lloyds in July.
  
- Debt over 30 days = £3,165.00, 7 debtors (30 June £2,421.55, 3 debtors)
  
- Payments list 1 July to 31 August on website. Supporting vouchers available from Financial Controller
  - **RECOMMENDED** that the Payments list, totalling £253,670.06 is approved.

Nigel Hayes  
Financial Controller

## MANAGEMENT REPORT AT 31 AUGUST 2023

By Spend Type	Budget £000	Profile £000	Actual £000	-Under/Over £000
Staff	895	376	351	-25
Capital Financing	17	7	7	0
Other Payments	547	269	254	-15
To Specific Reserves	345	345	345	0
Income	-138	-46	-79	-34
<b>Net Budget</b>	<b>1,666</b>	<b>952</b>	<b>878</b>	<b>-74</b>

By Service	Budget £000	Profile £000	Actual £000	-Under/Over £000
Allotments	-11	1	2	1
Parks & Open Spaces	164	113	100	-13
Cemeteries	-12	3	-6	-9
Corp. & Dem. Manage.	39	15	14	-1
Cultural & Twinning	68	31	31	0
Municipal Buildings	373	309	308	-1
Other Services	58	44	21	-23
Office Team	500	219	197	-22
Outdoor Services	489	215	209	-6
<b>Net Budget</b>	<b>1,668</b>	<b>952</b>	<b>878</b>	<b>-74</b>

Earmarked Reserves with budgeted Expenditure In Year	Budget £000	Profile £000	Actual £000	-Under/Over £000
Cemeteries	30	0	0	0
Municipal Buildings	46	6	6	0
MB Front of House	250	8	8	0
Parks Premises	50	0	0	0
Play Equipment	0	0	4	4
Public Realm	0	0	0	0
Vehicles & Equipment	20	20	20	0
Arts & Cultural	16	16	16	0
Tourist Information	5	5	11	6
Christmas Lights	0	0	0	0
Corporate Projects	0	0	0	0
Planning Advice	10	0	0	0
Climate Emergency	50	2	2	0
Trees	0	3	3	0
<b>Net Budget</b>	<b>477</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>10</b>

# Dorchester Town Council

## Home Working Policy

### 1. Purpose

This policy aims to provide a framework within which the council can manage and assess requests from staff to work from home (or somewhere other than a council property). It also provides information and a risk assessment for staff to use to ensure that they can work safely and effectively in a non-office environment.

The council recognises the benefits of occasional homeworking in terms of staff welfare and retention. In particular, this flexible approach to work can offer the following advantages:

- Helping with a better work/life balance – particularly where it reduces time spent commuting and make the council a more attractive employer.
- Providing the opportunity for a quiet workspace in order to concentrate on a particular task.
- Reduce staff commuting and thereby reduce carbon emissions.
- Take advantage of new technology to ensure service delivery.

### 2. Definition

This policy is applicable where an employee wishes to work from home (or another location outside of the usual workplace) on an ad hoc or regular basis. Working from home is a discretionary benefit offered by the council rather than a contractual obligation. A request by a member of staff to work from home may be refused where it would have an adverse effect on service delivery and colleagues.

As working from home is not a requirement of the council, there is no tax relief on outgoings or expenses incurred.

Working from home or other remote locations will also fall within the council's Lone Working risk assessment and staff should familiarise themselves with this assessment and apply the recommended mitigation measures.

This policy also compliments the council's flexi-time policy.

### 3. Maintaining service standards

Working from home should not adversely affect the ability of the council to deliver services to the public nor should this type of working place an unfair burden on colleagues. This may particularly be the case where adequate staff cover is required to respond to customers at the council offices reception given that the council employs a small office-based workforce.

In addition, given that many of the council's workforce are unable to work from home (e.g. the Outdoor Services team), maintaining productive working relationships across the whole council is important.

Where staff need to attend face-to-face meetings with colleagues, members or the general public, then this should not be prevented by a desire to work from home.

It is expected the staff working from home will still be available to be contactable via phone or TEAMS.

#### **4. Health & Safety**

Employees must undertake a risk assessment (see **Appendix A**) of the area at home (or other location) where they intend to work frequently and submit to their manager. If a safe working environment cannot be created, then working from home may not be permitted.

Whilst working from home can help with quiet concentration on complex tasks, staff must make sure that they take rest breaks.

Where staff are going out to attend site meetings with members of the public whilst working from home, then the Lone Working Risk Assessment should be used to ensure safe working practices.

#### **5. Employer's role and responsibilities**

- a) The council will respond in a timely manner to any requests to work from home.
- b) The council will provide laptop computers with connectivity to the council's network so as to enable home working.
- c) The council will continue to support the introduction and deployment of new technology to make flexible working easier.
- d) Whilst working from home (or remotely), staff are covered by the council's Employer's Liability insurance.
- e) The council will not cover any expenses incurred by staff as a result of working from home (e.g. heating and lighting).

#### **6. Employee's responsibilities**

- a) The employee must request their line manager's permission to work from home in advance.
- b) Staff will be responsible for the good care of their equipment when working from home as they are in the workplace.
- c) The employee must complete the Risk Assessment (Appendix A) prior to working from home and submit to their manager for approval – accompanied by a photograph of their 'workstation' at home.
- d) The employee should discuss their desire to work from home with immediate colleagues to help ensure that they aren't inconvenienced or burdened with additional duties as a result.
- e) The employee should use the available technology to receive incoming phone calls when working at home to ensure that colleagues in the office aren't inconvenienced or burdened, and service standards are maintained for the benefit of the public.
- f) Meetings with members of the public must not take place at the employee's home.
- g) Working from home should not be used to simultaneously fulfil an employee's caring duties. However, it is recognised that working from home can make it easier for staff to take time off for private appointments and family commitments.

- h) Whilst working from home staff should, where possible, keep to their usual pattern of working hours to make it easier for colleagues and the public to contact them.
- i) The employee must ensure that the confidentiality of any work-related data or information whilst accessing it from home.
- j) Any accidents or 'near misses' must be reported to the line manager as in the case with incidents in the workplace.

END

**Appendix A:** Risk Assessment (to be undertaken by employee at home and submitted to manager for approval) – please use the following as prompts to help the assessment:

Questions	Yes / No	Comments
<b>1. General</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completed a DSE assessment?</li> </ul>		
<b>2. Chair</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is the chair height adjustable?</li> <li>Is the back rest adjustable in height &amp; tilt?</li> <li>Does the chair have a five-staff base?</li> <li>Is the chair comfortable?</li> <li>Do you need a footrest?</li> </ul>		
<b>3. Desk / work-surface</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is the area large enough for all the equipment and the full range of tasks to be undertaken there?</li> <li>Is there sufficient clearance beneath the area for thighs and knees and to stretch the legs?</li> <li>Have you sufficient space to access your desk as well as more space around it?</li> <li>If you use a document holder is it positioned at same height and distance as your monitor?</li> </ul>		
<b>4. Keyboard</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is there sufficient space in front of the keyboard to place a wrist rest?</li> <li>Are all the keys present and in working order?</li> </ul>		
<b>5. Mouse</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is there sufficient space adjacent to the keyboard for the mouse to be used comfortably?</li> <li>Is it positioned close to the keyboard to prevent over-extending or cramping of the wrist?</li> <li>Do you need a mousemat?</li> </ul>		
<b>6. Screen</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is the monitor positioned firstly in front of you?</li> <li>Is the monitor positioned at the correct height? <i>(when looking horizontally eyes should be resting just below the top of the screen)</i></li> <li>Does the screen tilt and swivel easily?</li> <li>Is the image on the screen clear and stable?</li> </ul>		
<b>6. Environment</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Are there any manual handling issues relating to you working from home?</li> <li>Is the work area free from trip hazards – including the tidying of cables and leads?</li> <li>Does the route to your workplace involve using a loft ladder?</li> </ul>		



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are there access problems if you carry large or heavy items?</li> <li>• Is the general lighting adequate?</li> <li>• Can you eliminate strong light sources / reflections?</li> <li>• Is the temperature and ventilations adequate and free from draughts?</li> <li>• Is the work area free from distracting noise?</li> <li>• Will your home working activities involve significant use of the telephone?</li> <li>• Are you intending to use a mobile phone for this purpose or will you have access to a land line?</li> <li>• In relation to your electrical equipment is there any evidence of damage to plugs or leads?</li> <li>• Is there any evidence of overheating?</li> <li>• Are combustible materials kept away from sources of heat?</li> <li>• Do you have a smoke alarm fitted?</li> <li>• Do you know what action to take in the event of a fire?</li> </ul>		
<b>7. I.T. Equipment</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do you have a suitable and secure broadband internet connection.</li> </ul>		

## DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL

### POLICY COMMITTEE – 18 SEPTEMBER 2023

#### ICT UPDATE AND DISPOSAL

1. As Members are aware the Council has recently changed ICT provider to Dorset Council. The agreement includes provision of all equipment, broadband, telephony, training and support.
2. The migration of systems is nearing completion at which point the Council's old equipment will become largely redundant.
3. The potentially redundant equipment will include:-
  - Laptops
  - Screens
  - Photocopier
  - Telephones
4. Various enquiries have been received asking whether it might be possible to make use of the redundant equipment and it would be useful to have a hierarchy for its use / disposal. It should be noted that the equipment will not be replaced / repaired (unless minor fault) when it breaks / becomes redundant.
5. The following hierarchy is suggested:-
  - First Call – Laptops - Staff for use with training courses (remains property of DTC)  
Screens – Staff for working from home (remains property of DTC)
  - Second Call - Laptops - Councillors for their Town Council work (remains property of DTC)  
Screens – Councillors for their Town Council (remains property of DTC)
  - Third Call - Laptops – Dorchester charities on a first come first served basis – no charge  
Screens - Dorchester charities on a first come first served basis – no charge
6. Any remaining equipment to be sold to highest bidder following advertisement. Any equipment sold or passed to charities to be wiped and returned to factory settings prior to disposal.
7. Photocopier to be sold to the highest bidder following advertisement.
8. Telephones to be returned to existing provider as per contract agreement.
9. Equipment available includes 10 x laptops (7 of which are three to five years old, 3 of which are two years old) and seven screens of various sizes.
10. Members are asked to give consideration to this disposal / use protocol.

Steve Newman  
Town Clerk

## DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL

### POLICY COMMITTEE – 18<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023

#### REVIEW OF COMMUNITY PRIORITIES 2023-2028

##### 1. Background

In 2017, the Town Council adopted the Dorchester Directory of Aims & Aspirations, which reflected the priorities and plans of a wide range of community groups and partner organisations. The aims of the document were to provide an evidence base for community groups (particularly to help with funding applications), encourage partnership working, and guide the council's own community development activities.

A new review has now been undertaken to update the council's understanding of the priorities and aspirations of the local community and voluntary sector.

##### 2. Previous achievements

A high-level review of the council's progress in helping to the community to achieve the previous host of aims and aspirations is set out in **Appendix A**. Although much of this has been achieved through the efforts of the council's Community Development Officer, many other council services and partner organisations have also contributed.

Some aims/objectives from the 2017-2020 directory have not been pursued or are no longer relevant. These have included initiatives where it was found that the town council could have little/no influence (such as introducing 'pay on exit' parking) or where objectives were no longer relevant (for instance influencing DTEP or developing the Maltings as an arts venue).

##### 3. Updated review of community priorities

**Appendix B** sets out the new Community Priorities Review supported by a more detailed Community Implementations Plan – **Appendix C**. The Review and Implementation Plan have been informed by discussions with a range of voluntary organisations, feedback from community lunches and consultation with key agencies.

In some cases, the town council can lead projects to benefit the community, but, in many cases, the council will mainly be offering support to projects lead by other voluntary and statutory agencies.

The Committee is invited to consider **Appendix B** (Community Priorities Review) and **Appendix C** (Community Implementation Plan) and, if approved, they will guide the council's future community development activities.

**Emma Scott**  
**Community Development Officer**

## Appendix A - What has been achieved/is still ongoing from the 2017-2020 Directory of Aims and Aspirations (DAA)

### Culture, Heritage Leisure and Tourism

Aim (from DAA)	Actions achieved
Write strategic heritage-tourism strategy for Dorchester & link with existing economic/tourism reports and plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heritage Tourism strategy completed &amp; Tourism Officer appointed</li> </ul>
Town heritage offer more joined up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Main providers working together more closely and alongside other attractions – e.g Heritage Open Day</li> </ul>
Create ‘brand Dorchester’ & marketing plan, plus website/online resource to link and promote Dorchester offer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discover Dorchester website and app</li> </ul>
Encourage Heritage organisations to trial passport entry package	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has been trialled through Tourism Partnership</li> </ul>
Design marketing leaflet/map promoting existing heritage offer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discover Dorchester website/app and leaflets</li> </ul>
Implement town centre Wi-Fi and design a ‘what’s on’ app	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completed with BID and Discover Dorchester</li> </ul>
Coordinate accommodation providers to work together	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tourism Partnership delivering</li> </ul>
Trial and evaluate different types of creative programming – festivals and events engaging the local community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Range of events delivered including the Anonymous Festival, Open Air Cinema event, One World Festival, Brewing Festival, Walking Festival, HengeFest, Thomas Hardy Victorian Fair, Heritage Open Day</li> </ul>
Help to develop a Community Radio station in partnership with Ridgeway Plus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supported Keep Radio to achieve licence</li> </ul>
Maker spaces/open workshops – could include community repair workshops and volunteer led tool workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Repair Café set up, help to promote regularly</li> <li>• Support for ‘new’ projects such as Men’s Shed</li> </ul>
Develop more facilities at Poundbury – e.g. jogging route, tennis courts, climbing boulder, dog play area & more benches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poundbury has new play and leisure facilities on Great Field</li> <li>• Regular Park Runs and other community events</li> </ul>
Find out need for craft group and help to start, and promote art activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support for Dorset Craft Workshops project – currently looking for premises</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support for local exhibitions and artist opportunities</li> </ul>
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## Community

Aim (from DAA)	Actions achieved
Improve/extend funding advice for local organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Direct funding advice to significant number of local organisations resulting in successful applications</li> <li>• Held several workshops about funding, inc community lunch and Awards for All training</li> <li>• Devised advice sheet of 'top tips' for projects applying for funding</li> <li>• Funding opportunities widely shared with partners</li> </ul>
Improved IT skills offer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Close working relationship with local organisations offering IT skills including Digital Champions, PiPs café, Age UK NSW and other partners</li> </ul>
Continued support for DYCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lots of support for DYCC including help to achieve Reaching Communities grant</li> </ul>
Create more social spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Warm hubs set up (especially through Churches Together)</li> </ul>
Include community in decision making e.g. in Local Plan decisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vision for Dorchester widely consulted on before submission to Local Plan process</li> </ul>
Support local diversity projects and events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work closely with range of inclusion/equality groups such as Space Youth Project</li> <li>• Coordinated multifaith days</li> <li>• Run regular Holocaust Memorial day event</li> <li>• Support for Gypsy, Roma Traveller event</li> <li>• Support for Pride events including Youth Pride</li> </ul>
Inclusive projects for people with a disability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitation of Dorchester Access Group</li> <li>• Helped to set up Mid-Dorset Mencap café and shop &amp; fundraise to employ a training coordinator</li> <li>• Work with Eco in Mind &amp; The Gap Project Dorchester</li> <li>• Work with other partners such as People First Dorset &amp; Dorchester Disabled Club</li> </ul>
Actively engage & involve 'hard to provide for' groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with Dorchester Locality and Local Alliance Group</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set up Holiday Hangouts and Kids Clubs</li> <li>• Set up school transition group with Dorset Mind to support pupils with poor attendance</li> </ul>
Create events and activities to enhance local food economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support for One World event – to be reinstated in 2024</li> <li>• Work with Dorset Food and Drink – especially looking at growing Poundbury Food Festival</li> </ul>
Encourage stronger community voice – e.g. improve consultation to make it more interactive/imaginative to engage wider community and ensure community know how to contact & work with councillors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Councillor surgeries promoted</li> <li>• Consultation opportunities widely disseminated via email and Facebook</li> <li>• Innovative work with Southampton University on Feeling Towns Project</li> </ul>
Help groups to better promote and share what they do	<p>Lots of opportunities created including via:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Lunches</li> <li>• Informal Town Meeting</li> <li>• Invitations to other community events</li> <li>• Showcasing in newsletter</li> <li>• Better use of Town Council social media</li> <li>• Discover Dorchester and monthly ‘What’s On’</li> </ul>
Prevent replication & develop new projects to fill gaps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular advice given to groups to partner with similar projects</li> <li>• Gaps in offer, such as health events noted and met via events like Picnic in the Park</li> </ul>
Write a directory of local community organisations to include aims and activities of groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have written up several lists to share with various partners e.g. The Chamber</li> <li>• Regularly advise partners re groups in town (e.g. when organising events like THVF, Hengefest)</li> <li>• Full directory planned for new TC website</li> </ul>
Work with Advice and Infrastructure organisations to ensure continuation of support for voluntary sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support for CAB, Help and Kindness and Volunteer Centre Dorset who all won contracts with DC to deliver A&amp;I services</li> </ul>
Work with Poundbury Residents Association on joint projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing work with Poundbury Residents Association and Poundbury Community Trust with support for projects and events</li> </ul>

## Transport and Accessibility

Aim (from DAA)	Actions achieved
Work with regional/national rail providers to get best service – and also to develop tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Installation of touch point information screens planned at Dorchester South</li> <li>• Closer working relationship developed with South Western Railways and National Rail</li> <li>• Potential for advertising at other stations, including in London being considered</li> </ul>
Improve access at Dorchester South Station & install lifts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improvements being delivered through Access for All mid-tier scheme with input from stakeholders including Councillors, 'Friends of' group, Access Group and DTAG</li> <li>• Support for Access for All for application to install lifts – awaiting outcome in Autumn 2023</li> </ul>
Link 2 stations – to each other and to town, install new wayfinding signage at both stations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DTC wayfinding finger posts installed</li> <li>• Further signage to be added as part of Fairfield Road scheme &amp; through Mid-Tier Access for All improvement scheme at Dorchester South Station</li> </ul>
Create a designated path between the stations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Being delivered through Dorset Council Fairfield Road project</li> </ul>
Ensure disabled parking access maintained and improved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access Group advised DC as part of review of blue badge scheme</li> </ul>
Address issues with use of parking machines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issues raised through Access Group. DC have now installed new parking meters</li> </ul>
Complete Access Ramp at Dorchester West Station	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supported via Access Group, ramp installed</li> </ul>
Maintain town bus routes as far as possible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing work to support Dorset Council Bus Service Improvement Plan</li> </ul>
Encourage more children (and others) to use bikes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support for DTAG mapping of potential bike routes</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support for Streets Alive event</li> </ul>
Continue to review and report on access in town through facilitation of Dorchester Access Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Core group continue to meet 2/3 times per year. Several new members recruited to group</li> <li>• No of reports completed – for instance at Poundbury and Brewery Square</li> </ul>
Ensure town is fully accessible e.g. dropped kerbs are sited in correct locations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Several dropped kerbs installed as result of Access Group actions, as well as other pavement improvements (infills and pavement levelling)</li> <li>• Plus contributed to other improvements such as installation of crossing refuges at Queen Mother’s Square</li> </ul>
Ensure shops and business are physically accessible and welcoming of people with a disability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accessibility icons added to Discover Dorchester website</li> <li>• Advice given to several local businesses re access</li> <li>• Helped advise Shire Hall and also to set up an access group for Dorset Museum to review their arrangements</li> </ul>
Review planned improvements in traffic management & road safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consulted on several schemes including plans for Maumbury Cross which will deliver significant access improvements</li> <li>• Access Group support for 20’s Plenty scheme</li> </ul>

## Health, Wellbeing and Safety

Aim (from DAA)	Actions achieved
Hold regular community lunches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 x well attended themed lunches held per year</li> </ul>
Circulate relevant information & consultations to contacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular bulletins from Community Development Officer to over 300 plus partners</li> <li>• Information/consultations forwarded to targeted groups</li> </ul>
Better sign posting to existing community support and activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lots of advice and information collated/disseminated (especially during Covid)</li> <li>• Close work with Primary Care Network and Social Prescribers</li> </ul>
Campaign for more mental health support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Started Connected Minds project with Dorset Mind</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Helped facilitate a county wide mental health conference</li> <li>• Ongoing work especially during pandemic to support mental health projects</li> <li>• Previous and current work with Thomas Hardy school to provide more support for young people</li> </ul>
Support for befriending schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supported several initiatives including chat friendly schemes</li> <li>• Work with partners such as Age UK NSW &amp; Royal Voluntary Service</li> </ul>
Explore with health partners development of more nature-based health projects & promote Natural Choices and Stepping into Nature opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lots of partnership work and co-hosting of events with Natural Choices and Stepping into Nature</li> <li>• Support for VCS organisations offering nature based wellbeing</li> <li>• Work with NHS to capitalise on opportunities presented by new Health Village</li> </ul>
Encourage residents to speak up about and report hate crime to create culture where all feel safe and respected	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supported organisations/individuals several times to report hate crime and ensure actions is taken – inc Space Youth Project and Black Lives Matter</li> </ul>

## Housing

Aim (from DAA)	Actions achieved
Set up a Community Land Trust to deliver affordable housing aimed at under 35's & develop West Walks tennis courts as affordable housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CLT Established with ongoing support</li> </ul>
Support for people who are at risk of becoming homeless or are homeless	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Created leaflet of services for people who are at risk of becoming homeless</li> <li>• Work closely with local agencies to support individuals who are sleeping rough</li> </ul>

## Economy, Training/Education & Volunteering

Aim (from DAA)	Actions achieved
Support for people on lower incomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Widely disseminate avenues of support for people on lower incomes – including help with heating costs and money management courses</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing support and close working with organisations such as Dorchester Family Support and Dorchester Poverty Action</li> </ul>
Highlight benefits of volunteering – particularly for young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Helped organise several volunteer fairs aimed at young people</li> <li>• Direct opportunities provided through youth forum and Youth Council and via roles created for young people at events</li> <li>• Support for Volunteer Centre activities and events</li> </ul>
Work with current food projects/food banks & develop project to link allotments, schools, food banks, cookery classes etc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing support &amp; partnership working with local food banks - especially intensive during Covid lockdowns</li> <li>• Support for introduction of new Community Fridge</li> <li>• Some linking of food banks to allotments and other growing projects such as the Gap Project Dorchester and Eco in Mind</li> <li>• Directory to promote local food sustainability drafted</li> </ul>
Support local, independent shops & businesses & address issues of closed shops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Close work with Dorchester BID &amp; support for Totally Locally</li> <li>• Projects to ‘takeover’ closed shops to enhance appearance of town (12 Days of Christmas)</li> <li>• Creation of new Town Centre Working Group</li> </ul>

## Environment

Aim (from DAA)	Actions achieved
Develop Town Centre masterplan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Involved local community in creation of the Town Council Vision for Dorchester</li> </ul>
Encourage civic pride in open spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nature walks collated and promoted via Discover Dorchester</li> <li>• Set up community litter picking scheme &amp; regularly run picks and lend equipment</li> </ul>
Improve/modernise Townscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New planters installed in South Street</li> <li>• Cornhill Task and Finish group created</li> </ul>
Support nature conservation schemes such as tree planting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support for projects such as Friends of the Riverside</li> <li>• Involvement of community in tree planting at Kings Road</li> </ul>

Develop outdoor spaces inc accessible garden of reflection at Borough Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New rose garden created</li> </ul>
Develop wayfinding signage in town	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New monolith and finger post signage installed across town</li> </ul>
Work with town council & VCS groups to develop more environmental projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Involved in helping to achieve Plastic Free Dorchester status</li> <li>• Number of environmental events including Plastic Free Picnic, Earth Day &amp; ReThink Fashion Dorchester</li> <li>• Free water refill point installed with Wessex Water</li> </ul>

**Dorchester Town Council Community Priorities Review 2023-2028****Background - What does a Community Priorities Review do?**

- Reflects the views of the Dorchester community and prioritises the needs and aspirations of its residents
- Identifies social, cultural, economic and environmental characteristics and strengths of our local community
- Identifies local problems and explores opportunities to collaboratively overcome them
- Suggests how the community would like to develop in the future and creates a vision
- Delivers an implantation plan to achieve this vision and identifies who needs to be involved

The underlying approach of the Community Priorities Review is one of Asset Based Community Development (ABCD).

ABCD is an approach to community development that focuses on identifying and leveraging the existing strengths and assets within a community. Rather than looking at our community's needs and deficits, ABCD seeks to empower individuals and groups by recognising and utilising their skills, resources, and connections to foster positive change and sustainable development. This approach emphasises the importance of involving local people in the decision-making process and building on our community's own capacities to create lasting solutions to local challenges. By tapping into the inherent strengths of our community, ABCD aims to enhance community resilience, social cohesion, and overall well-being.

“There is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about” (Margaret J. Wheatley)

**How the Community Priorities Review was carried out**

A number of group and individual meetings have been held to review the previous Directory of Aims and Aspirations (2017-2020), and to identify what progress has been made, what areas are still relevant to develop, and suggest new approaches and projects that might be needed - particularly post pandemic, and in the current economic climate.

Engagement has taken place through conversation with partners, formal consultation.

This has included input at 3 Community Lunches, email correspondence and meetings & conversations with partners including:

- Dorset Council
- Dorset Council Youth Voice
- Public Health Dorset
- Dorchester Youth and Community Centre
- Dorchester Locality
- Bournemouth University
- Southampton University
- Thomas Hardy School
- Network Rail & South Western Railway
- The Volunteer Centre Dorset
- Help and Kindness

- Awards for All
- As well as a large number of community organisations & local businesses

In addition I have referred widely to partner plans and strategies including:

- Dorchester Town Council Corporate Plan (2019-2024)
- Dorchester Town Council's Vision for Dorchester (2022)
- Dorchester Town Council Climate Emergency Action Plan
- Dorchester Town Council Heritage Tourism Strategy
- Feeling Towns report (2023)
- Dorset Council Plan (2022-2024)
- Dorset Council Natural Environment, Climate and Ecology Strategy 2023 to 25 Refresh
- Dorset Council Natural Environment, Climate & Ecology Action Plan 2023-25 Refresh
- Dorset Bus Service Improvement Plan 2022
- Dorset Council Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2020-2023
- Public Health Dorset Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2022
- NHS Dorset Joint Forward Plan 2023-2028
- Dorchester Transport Action Group plan

Following the Community Priorities Review, a new Community Implementation Plan has been created which has been streamlined and simplified to make it more accessible and easier to measure outcomes. The Plan will be a living document that represents the views of our local community. It will be reviewed 6 monthly and updated to reflect changing circumstances.

### **Dorchester Town Council Vision for Dorchester - Approved: 28 SEPTEMBER 2022**

The following vision is a product of Town Council and wider public input, to provide a more appropriate vision for Dorchester than the vision that was included in the January 2021 draft Local Plan.

It sets out general aims for the town as a whole, and whilst many of these may apply to other towns and villages across Dorset, reflects the priorities of our residents and distinctive elements of Dorchester. In 2038 Dorchester will:

1. Have risen to the challenge of **climate change**, with designs based on zero carbon solutions, and wildlife friendly green spaces and tree-lined corridors that encourage walking and cycling.
2. Have a balanced but diverse mix of **housing and workplaces**, in particular helping young people to afford to live and work locally, and flexible, adaptable premises to help businesses respond to changing economic circumstances.
3. Have a **vibrant and accessible town centre** that people want to visit and walk around, to access local services, explore its rich history, culture and arts and enjoy its shops, museums, its historic market and its hospitality.
4. Have a strong **sense of community** with a wide range of social and sports opportunities for all ages, accessible local centres and recreation spaces, supporting a range of inclusive and community-run enterprises.
5. Have outstanding **health and social care, education and training**, with its schools, colleges and hospital providing choice and opportunities for a better way of life.
6. Be **easy to get to and around**, with an extensive network of safe and attractive walking and cycling routes, linking to a network of transport hubs for trains and buses, with car and bike sharing facilities, all using low emission technology.

7. Still recognise and celebrate its rich **literary associations**, including Thomas Hardy's Casterbridge, and the town's medieval, Roman and neolithic **heritage**.
8. Link to the surrounding **countryside**, both visually and physically, valuing the tranquillity, biodiversity, productivity and timelessness of the landscapes that surround the town, including north of the water meadows.

*Prepared by Jo Witherden BSc(Hons) DipTP DipUD MRTPI D*

## **Key aims of the Community Priorities Review**

### **1. Culture, Heritage, Tourism and Leisure**

We want to live in a town that:

1. Provides good opportunities for recreation and leisure
2. Communicates well about events, activities and opportunities to get involved
3. Capitalises on our tourism and heritage offer

### **2. Transport and Access**

We want to live in a town that:

1. Promotes active travel
2. Makes sustainable travel easier, safer and more accessible

### **3. Democracy and Local Voice**

We want to live in a town that:

1. Seeks to strengthen local democracy
2. Works to increase community cohesiveness & resilience

### **4. Good Health, Wellbeing and Safety**

We want to live in a town that:

1. Makes more use of green open spaces and nature for health and wellbeing
2. Seeks to improve links between health and social care & community providers
3. Wants to improve health for different communities
4. Fosters a community that is safe and welcoming for all

### **5. Housing**

We want to live in a town that:

1. Provides for local housing needs
2. Supports people most at risk of homelessness
3. Ensures that housing developments are fit for the future

### **6. Economy, Training, Education & Volunteering**

We want to live in a town that:

1. Supports the local economy and collaborates with local businesses to facilitate economic growth and job creation
2. Provides opportunities for life-long learning & training
3. Gives everyone increased opportunities to get involved in civic life
4. Supports people on lower incomes

### **7. Climate & Environment**

We want to live in a town that:

1. Actively engages to reduce our carbon footprint and promote sustainable practices

2. Helps to protect the natural environment
3. Helps to mitigate or prepare for effects of climate change

### **Action Steps**

To transform these aspirations into reality, the Dorchester Town Council will:

- Collaborate and consult with residents, community organisations, and businesses to gather feedback and continue to shape priorities.
- Develop a Community Implementation Plan outlining specific actions for how the Town Council will contribute to achieving the priorities.
- Seek external funding opportunities and partnerships to support the implementation of various projects.
- Regularly review the progress, evaluate outcomes, and adjust strategies as needed to ensure ongoing success.
- Communicate progress and achievements through various channels, including public meetings, social media, newsletter and the Town Council website.

### **Key partners involved in delivery of the Community Plan**

- Voluntary & Community Sector
- Statutory Partners
- Business partners

# DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL

## 2023-2028



Emma Scott – Community  
Development Officer



## 1. Culture, Heritage, Tourism and Leisure

### Priority 1 – Improved opportunities for recreation and leisure

Aim	Lead organisations and partners	Suggested action – how will Dorchester Town Council contribute
Improve range of activities for locals and visitors of all ages	Tourism Forum Heritage Committee Dorchester BID Community organisations Commercial/business partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with partners to support development of new activities - providing advice, funding and help to promote joint working</li> <li>• Continue to develop summer offer in Borough Gardens</li> <li>• Promote opportunities for activities in other open spaces in town such as Salisbury Field and Maumbury Rings</li> <li>• Develop a 'how to put on events' guide</li> <li>• Develop programme of town centre events, especially during summer</li> </ul>
Ensure leisure needs of diverse groups are catered for including young people, older people and groups at risk of discrimination	Tourism Forum Community organisations Commercial/business partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focus on needs of older people – including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Identifying new social spaces</li> <li>○ Support to develop IT skills</li> <li>○ Support for projects which help to reduce isolation</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Focus on needs of younger people – including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Support for Youth Council led events</li> <li>○ Continued support of Dorchester Youth &amp; Community Centre (DYCC) offer</li> <li>○ Developing more youth led projects and events</li> <li>○ Identifying safe spaces for young people to meet &amp; socialise</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Support activities and events which celebrate diversity and inclusion</li> </ul>
Support and develop opportunities for under-represented leisure opportunities	Community organisations Commercial/business partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Help to establish a visual arts centre in town</li> <li>• Help to develop more creative based activities such as craft workshops</li> <li>• Look to develop the The Linney's at Dorchester Market as a potential arts hub area</li> </ul>

### Priority 2 – Improved communication about events, activities and opportunities to get involved

Aim	Lead organisations and partners	Suggested action – how will Dorchester Town Council contribute
Effectively utilise all communication streams available	Tourism Forum Dorchester BID	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to promote Discover Dorchester website and app</li> <li>• Improve or replace existing rotunda with new facility for displaying posters</li> <li>• Install more community noticeboards</li> <li>• Develop new Dorchester Town Council website – to include directory of local community organisations</li> <li>• Make effective use of existing Town Council social media channels</li> </ul>

### Priority 3 – Capitalise on tourism and heritage offer

<b>Aim</b>	<b>Lead organisations and partners</b>	<b>Suggested action – how will Dorchester Town Council contribute</b>
Continue to develop arts, heritage & tourism offer	Tourism Forum Heritage Committee Dorset Museum Shire Hall Museum Military Keep Museum Civic Society Dorchester Arts Other arts organisations Community organisations Dorchester BID	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support continued collaboration and joint working</li> <li>• Ensure projects and events are well evaluated</li> <li>• Seek investment for local organisations</li> </ul>
Make Dorchester a more accessible destination and promote to a wider audience	Dorchester Access Group Tourism Forum Community organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure built environment is accessible as it can be in town</li> <li>• Aim to include information about all businesses accessibility on Discover Dorchester website and use this to launch project to promote Dorchester nationally as an access friendly town</li> </ul>

## 2. Transport and Access

### Priority 1 – Promote active travel

<b>Aim</b>	<b>Lead organisations and partners</b>	<b>Suggested action – how will Dorchester Town Council contribute</b>
Support initiatives which promote active travel & reduce reliance on cars	Dorchester Transport Action Group Dorset Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with partners to develop projects and schemes that support active travel which might include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Creating new cycle routes – around town and to local parishes</li> <li>○ Building confidence in cycling – for all ages</li> <li>○ Ensuring, where possible, benches are placed along main pedestrian routes to enable people with reduced mobility to walk more</li> <li>○ Aiding projects such as Streets Alive promoting active travel especially to younger people</li> <li>○ Introducing a car sharing scheme</li> <li>○ Developing an e-bike hire scheme</li> <li>○ Promoting community car share and lift share schemes</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

### Priority 2 – Make sustainable travel easier, safer and more accessible

<b>Aim</b>	<b>Lead organisations and partners</b>	<b>Suggested action – how will Dorchester Town Council contribute</b>
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Better, & more joined up transport solutions informed by local need	Dorchester Transport Action Group Dorset Council Network Rail South Western Railways Local Bus Companies Friends of Dorchester West Station Friends of Dorchester South Station Tourism Forum Dorchester Access Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the Dorset Bus service Improvement Plan which aims to significantly grow the number of people using local buses.</li> <li>• Support improvements to rail stations, especially Dorchester South Station <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Work with partners to help deliver Access for All project plans and other schemes at Dorchester South Station including better wayfinding signage, enhanced access and waiting facilities and better tourist information</li> <li>○ Support Friends of Groups to enhance appearance of local stations</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Safer travel	Dorset Council Dorchester Transport Action Group Dorchester Access Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support campaign for relocation of bus stops from Trinity Street to Charles Street</li> <li>• Introduce '20's Plenty' scheme across town</li> <li>• Continue to map need for dropped kerbs</li> <li>• Identify issues such as pavement maintenance and flag to Dorset Highways team.</li> </ul>

### 3. Democracy and Local Voice

#### Priority 1 – Strengthen local democracy

Aim	Lead organisations and partners	Suggested action – how will Dorchester Town Council contribute
Young people represented and other less heard from groups	Dorset Council Community organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support Dorchester Youth Council</li> <li>• Involve &amp; collaborate with young people at earliest stages of decision making and planning</li> <li>• Run annual Democracy Day for young people</li> <li>• Conduct meaningful consultation &amp; engagement work 'where people are already'</li> </ul>
Provide opportunities for local people to have a meaningful voice in local decision making	Dorset Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Actively campaign to encourage more (diverse) people to stand as councillors</li> <li>• Foster open and transparent communication channels between the Town Council and residents – via social media, website, and through Councillor Surgeries and other events such as Annual Town Meeting</li> </ul>

#### Priority 2 – Increase community cohesiveness & resilience

Aim	Lead organisations and partners	Suggested action – how will Dorchester Town Council contribute
Develop projects to enhance pride in place – local neighbourhood hubs	Southampton University Local resident associations & place-based groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with partners such as Southampton University, local resident associations and place-based groups to strengthen local pride &amp; develop responses to hyper-local need</li> <li>• Hold place-based events which celebrate neighbourhoods strengths</li> </ul>

	Local Housing Associations	
Help to stimulate increased local community resilience	Dorset Council Environment Agency Local community groups Local Community Champions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disseminate information widely to promote local preparedness and resilience</li> <li>Support partners to run events for instance to increase awareness about flood risk and proactive measures local people can take</li> <li>Work with partners and local champions on range of projects that increase resilience such as improving food security and digital inclusion</li> </ul>

#### 4. Good Health, Wellbeing and Safety

##### Priority 1 – Make more use of green open spaces and nature for health and wellbeing

Aim	Lead organisations and partners	Suggested action – how will Dorchester Town Council contribute
Capitalise on increased affinity for nature as source of health & wellbeing (especially post pandemic)	Statutory health providers Active Dorset Community organisations supporting health and wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote local groups such as Strollers</li> <li>Support eco-therapy schemes</li> <li>Promote outdoor exercise and events</li> <li>Support local sports groups and events</li> <li>Support the development of more outdoor sport resources/activities <i>potentially</i> including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pump track</li> <li>Parkour park</li> <li>Climbing/bouldering area</li> <li>Permanent orienteering course</li> <li>Climbing wall</li> <li>Pushchair/buggy walks</li> </ul> </li> <li>Encourage people to volunteer for local nature-based groups helping to care for our environment</li> </ul>

##### Priority 2 – Improve links between health and social care & community providers

Aim	Lead organisations and partners	Suggested action – how will Dorchester Town Council contribute
Better signposting to existing services	Help and Kindness Statutory health providers Community organisations supporting health and wellbeing Keep 106 Radio	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with local social prescribers</li> <li>Support schemes to train community connectors/health champions to signpost family, friends and neighbours to services</li> <li>Map health assets in the community through new Town Council website – will also help to identify gaps</li> <li>Develop events like Picnic in the Park designed to connect services and local communities</li> </ul>

**Priority 3 – Improve health for different communities**

<b>Aim</b>	<b>Lead organisations and partners</b>	<b>Suggested action – how will Dorchester Town Council contribute</b>
Focus on priority health & wellbeing needs of different communities	Help and Kindness Statutory health providers Community organisations supporting health and wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with the Integrated Care Board, the Primary Care Network, Public Health Dorset, Healthwatch &amp; other health &amp; wellbeing partnerships</li> <li>• Stimulate new support where there are gaps in provision for instance through advice or seed funding</li> <li>• Work with partners on initiatives to support people who need extra support including people who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Have mental health issues – especially considering needs of young people</li> <li>○ Are obese &amp;/or have diabetes</li> <li>○ Are at risk of isolation and loneliness</li> <li>○ Have dementia</li> <li>○ Have cancer</li> <li>○ Are carers</li> <li>○ Face health inequalities – for instance through poverty or digital exclusion</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**Priority 4 – Foster a community that is safe and welcoming for all**

<b>Aim</b>	<b>Lead organisations and partners</b>	<b>Suggested action – how will Dorchester Town Council contribute</b>
Maintain low levels of crime and reduce anti-social behaviour	Dorset Police Dorchester Locality Housing Associations Residents Associations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure people experiencing hate crime receive support and information &amp; are encouraged to report incidents</li> <li>• Work with communities experiencing ASB to find creative solutions</li> <li>• Reduce fear of crime – e.g. via initiatives such as intergenerational projects and highlighting positive contribution of younger people.</li> </ul>

**5. Housing****Priority 1 – Provide for local housing needs**

<b>Aim</b>	<b>Lead organisations and partners</b>	<b>Suggested action – how will Dorchester Town Council contribute</b>
Support initiatives that deliver affordable housing – particularly for younger people	Dorset Council DACLT Local Housing Associations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with DACLT to complete existing Tennis Court project and develop other schemes in the town</li> <li>• Facilitate joint working between developers, lettings agents, housing associations, local councillors &amp; other partners &amp; explore how to increase available and affordable stock</li> </ul>
Help safeguard housing for local residents and workers	Dorset Council Local Housing Associations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support schemes to reduce number of empty/second homes – for instance by increasing Council Tax</li> </ul>

Utilise existing potential for housing development and protect green spaces	Dorset Council DACLT STAND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project to try to unlock empty town centre properties above ground floors</li> <li>• Support campaign to revoke Dor13</li> </ul>
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### Priority 2 – Support people most at risk of homelessness

Aim	Lead organisations and partners	Suggested action – how will Dorchester Town Council contribute
Ensure early intervention to prevent homelessness in the first place	Dorset Council Community organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lobby for more tenancy security</li> <li>• Promote use of existing advice and information services through Dorset Council, Citizens Advice, Housing Associations and First Point</li> </ul>
Support people who are experiencing homelessness	Dorset Council Julian House Community organisations Local churches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with partners to ensure services are aware of local rough sleepers &amp; that they are receiving support</li> <li>• Create and maintain leaflet of homelessness support services</li> <li>• Promote use of Streetlink to wider community</li> </ul>

### Priority 3 – Ensure housing developments are fit for the future

Aim	Lead organisations and partners	Suggested action – how will Dorchester Town Council contribute
Promote sustainable building schemes	Dorset Council Dorset Climate Action Network Community organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support initiatives promoting high levels of sustainability – for instance thermal/solar heating, high quality insulation, and grey water systems</li> <li>• Explore options such as co-housing and sustainable self-build projects &amp; promote opportunities to local residents</li> </ul>

## 6. Economy, Training/Education & Volunteering

### Priority 1 – Support the local economy and collaborate with local businesses to facilitate economic growth and job creation

Aim	Lead organisations and partners	Suggested action – how will Dorchester Town Council contribute
Foster a vibrant town centre that attracts local residents and appeals to visitors – especially addressing issue of closed shops	Tourism Forum Dorchester BID Chamber for Business Brewery Square Local businesses Dorset Council Totally Locally Community organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progress plans to develop Cornhill Market area</li> <li>• Create town-wide events that local businesses can participate in &amp; support</li> <li>• Look at schemes to continue to improve visual appearance of town centre &amp; retail areas</li> <li>• Look at new opportunities for themed and specialist markets – especially look to develop Dorchester food and drink offer</li> <li>• Support Town Centre Working Group to include Dorset Council, local business representatives, land-owners, letting agents, DBID, Chamber and others</li> </ul>
Support new and emerging business and entrepreneurs	Dorset Council Tourism Forum Dorchester BID Chamber for Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support creation of a new community interest company to provide opportunities for micro-businesses to set up &amp; develop</li> <li>• Work with partners to ensure new and emerging businesses receive mentoring and support they need</li> </ul>

	Local businesses Community organisations	
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### Priority 2 – Provide opportunities for life-long learning & training

Aim	Lead organisations and partners	Suggested action – how will Dorchester Town Council contribute
Support provision of high-quality education, childcare + access to family support services	Dorset Council Local Schools Local childcare providers Dorchester Locality Community organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Help identify funding opportunities for schools and childcare providers plus organisations offering family support</li> <li>• Support projects to improve children’s readiness for school</li> <li>• Support initiatives to improve digital inclusion of all school age children</li> <li>• Provide opportunities for local schools and childcare providers to link to wider community and be regularly involved in events</li> </ul>
More support, guidance and opportunities for young people - especially in school	Dorset Council Dorset Carers Hub Thomas Hardy School Community organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support THS with careers and guidance events</li> <li>• Encourage community partners to offer volunteer roles to young people</li> <li>• Link organisations and help establish projects to mentor and support young people – particularly with mental well-being, attendance, and future planning</li> </ul>
Offer training and development opportunities	Dorset Council Skills and Learning Community organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote existing learning opportunities widely</li> <li>• Help to identify gaps in learning provision and work with partners to offer extended courses</li> <li>• Promote Digital Inclusion schemes including Digital Champions</li> </ul>

### Priority 3 – Give everyone increased opportunities to get involved in civic life

Aim	Lead organisations and partners	Suggested action – how will Dorchester Town Council contribute
Promote community and voluntary sector activity and offer	Dorset Council Volunteer Centre Dorset Help and Kindness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disseminate range of support available – using variety of marketing</li> <li>• Signpost individuals to partners offering support</li> <li>• Hold Dorchester volunteer award event/s</li> </ul>
Help to strengthen voluntary sector organisations	Dorset Council Volunteer Centre Dorset Help and Kindness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to advise organisations about fundraising, governance and sustainability</li> <li>• Provide opportunities for groups to network and build partnerships – such as community lunches</li> <li>• Hold volunteer group training &amp; skills sharing sessions re fundraising &amp; other topics</li> </ul>

### Priority 4 – Support people on lower incomes

Aim	Lead organisations and partners	Suggested action – how will Dorchester Town Council contribute
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Ensure people on lower incomes have good access to support	Dorset Council Citizens Advice Central Dorset Community organisations Housing Associations Local churches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Share advice and help available for people on lower incomes</li> <li>• Provide access to high quality free events</li> <li>• Support local food banks and poverty action projects</li> <li>• Promote initiatives to help people in fuel poverty especially Ridgewater Energy</li> </ul>
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## 7. Climate and Environment

### Priority 1 – Actively engage to reduce our carbon footprint and promote sustainable practices

Aim	Lead organisations and partners	Suggested action – how will Dorchester Town Council contribute
Invest in renewable energy and encourage energy efficient practices	Dorset Council Dorset Climate Action Network Community organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review DTC Climate Emergency action plan</li> <li>• Support or hold own events to disseminate opportunities for low-cost solutions to cut energy use, reduce waste and address climate emergency – such as ReThink Fashion Dorchester</li> <li>• Encourage local individuals and communities to get involved in Climate Emergency conversations and design ways to effect changes locally</li> <li>• Encourage partners to recognise the climate and ecological emergency and how the actions they are working on could contribute to mitigation/awareness work on this</li> <li>• Support local groups to share good practice and develop own climate emergency responses</li> </ul>
Promote local food resilience	Dorset Council Dorset Climate Action Network Community organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a directory of local food projects and suppliers and help them to network</li> <li>• Promote land share &amp; garden share schemes</li> <li>• Work closely with allotment holders to develop more shared food schemes &amp; promote community allotment activities</li> </ul>

### Priority 2 – Help to protect the natural environment

Aim	Lead organisations and partners	Suggested action – how will Dorchester Town Council contribute
Promote behaviour change to reduce waste and increase reuse and recycling	Dorset Council Waste Services Litter Free Dorset	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Run own regular litter picks</li> <li>• Work with partners such as LFD to deliver events and projects</li> <li>• Continue to promote Dorchester as plastic free town – encouraging partners to bypass single use plastics for events</li> </ul>
Improve local air and water quality	Dorset Council Wessex Water Litter Free Dorset	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote use of public transport and active travel</li> </ul>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage local residents to maintain cleanliness of local town and waterways by collecting litter – where 80% of plastic pollution in the sea is a result of commercial and household waste from land</li> </ul>
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**Priority 3 – Help mitigate or prepare for effects of climate change**

<b>Aim</b>	<b>Lead organisations and partners</b>	<b>Suggested action – how will Dorchester Town Council contribute</b>
Help communities manage effects of climate change	Dorset Council Environment Agency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adopt a Community Resilience Plan and regularly review actions</li> <li>Support the Environment Agency on flood protection projects</li> </ul>

**Glossary**

<b>Dorchester BID</b>	<b>Dorchester Business Improvement District</b>
<b>DACLT</b>	<b>Dorchester Area Community Land Trust</b>
<b>DTC</b>	<b>Dorchester Town Council</b>
<b>DTAG</b>	<b>Dorchester Transport Action Group</b>
<b>DYCC</b>	<b>Dorchester Youth and Community Centre</b>
<b>DYC</b>	<b>Dorchester Youth Council</b>
<b>LFD</b>	<b>Litter Free Dorset</b>
<b>STAND</b>	<b>Campaign against DOR 13 housing proposal</b>
<b>VCS</b>	<b>Voluntary and Community Sector</b>