



Dorchester Town Council

Council Offices, 19 North Square, Dorchester, Dorset. DT1 1JF
Telephone: (01305) 266861

For information about this agenda contact Steve Newman
s.newman@dorchester-tc.gov.uk

14 January 2026

Agenda for the meeting of the **Policy Committee**, which will be held in the **COUNCIL CHAMBER, THE MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, HIGH EAST STREET, DORCHESTER** on **MONDAY 19 JANUARY 2026** 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 R. Biggs, S. Biles (Chair), J. Germodo, G. Jones, V. Lloyd-Jones (Vice-Chair), K. Reid, R. Ricardo, D. Taylor 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 17 November 2025 (adopted by Council on 24 November 2025). A copy of the Minutes can be found at [Policy Committee](#)

- 4. Financial Update – Page 3**

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

5. Medium Term Financial Strategy and Revenue Budget 2026-27 – Page 5

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

6. Calendar of Meetings 2026-27 – Page 15

- (i) To consider the draft 2026-27 Calendar of meetings (enclosed).
- (ii) Informal Annual Town Meeting – For the last few years, the Council has held a stand alone informal ATM with community partners. If the Committee wishes to continue with this event it is proposed to hold it on Friday 8 May 2026 between 11.00am and 1.00pm.

7. Dorset Council – Dorchester ‘Assets’ - Page 16

Dorset Council has circulated a list of ‘assets’ that it holds in Dorchester excepting some excluded for confidentiality reasons (enclosed). Members are asked to consider the list with a view to identifying any ‘assets’ that might be suitable for community transfer. It should be noted that inclusion in the list does not necessarily make the asset available for transfer.

8. Wessex Water - Watermark Dorchester – Page 19

To receive an update from the Development Assistant (enclosed).

9. Dorchester Literary Festival – Page 21

To give consideration to sponsoring the twelfth annual Dorchester Literary Festival. Other event sponsors include Dorchester BID, Thomas Hardy Society and the Duchy of Cornwall. Information enclosed.

Last year Members felt that the event should be supported and that the Council should be a ‘Headline Sponsor’ at a cost of £500 (the cost this year is £550). The Town Clerk, following consultation with Chair and Vice Chair, to agree the event that the Council would sponsor so as to ensure it aligned with the Council’s general philosophy.

10. Appointments Panel

Seven applications have been received from Members to sit on the Appointments Panel which requires a membership of five. Applications were received from Councillors Biles, Fry, Gibbons, Hogwood, Jones, Kent-Ledger and Lloyd-Jones. The recruitment consultant suggests that, from the previous experience provided on the form, that Councillors Biles, Fry and Kent-Ledger should be appointed to the Panel.

The Committee is asked to confirm these three appointments and appoint two further Members from Councillors Gibbons, Hogwood, Jones and Lloyd-Jones.

Those Members not appointed will act as reserve Members and be included in stage two of the process if that is required.

DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL
POLICY COMMITTEE – 19 JANUARY 2026
FINANCIAL UPDATE AT 31 DECEMBER 2025

1. Financial Position

- As at Month 9 (31 December 2025), expenditure is **£37k under budget**.
 - £7k over on Sponsorship due to grant to Keep 106 and Helios contribution (both agreed by Policy Committee).
 - £6k under on Parks Repairs & Maintenance.
 - £5k over on Municipal Buildings R&M due to gate repairs and clock tower works.
 - £13k under on Cemetery Income.
 - £60k under on staff due to vacancies and lower than budgeted pay award.
 - All other under and overspends net £5k under

- **Cash Position**

Account	Balance as at 31/12/25	Balance as at 31/10/25	Movement	Interest
Lloyds	72,653	126,328	-53,675	0%
NS&i	6,859	6,859	0	1.00%
CCLA Deposit	1,875,000	2,075,000	-200,000	4.03%
	1,954,512	2,208,187	-253,675	

- Debtors over 30 days at 31/12/25 = £1,200, 1 Debtor (31/10, £1,410, 2 Debtors).
- Payments list 1 November to 31 December 2025 on website. Supporting vouchers available from RFO.
 - **RECOMMENDED** that the payments list, totalling £304,067.85 is approved.

Nigel Hayes

Responsible Financial Officer

MANAGEMENT REPORT AT 31 December 2025

By Spend Type	Budget £000	Profile £000	Actual £000	-Under/Over £000
Staff	1,125	857	797	-60
Capital Financing/Debt	15	15	15	0
Other Payments	556	458	477	19
To Specific Reserves	344	344	344	0
Income	-216	-143	-139	4
Net Budget	1,823	1,530	1,493	-37

By Service	Budget £000	Profile £000	Actual £000	-Under/Over £000
Allotments	-10	-9	-9	-0
Parks & Open Spaces	179	150	147	-4
Cemeteries	-24	-13	-2	11
Corp. & Dem. Manage.	42	30	32	2
Cultural & Twinning	71	68	80	12
Municipal Buildings	355	348	353	5
Other Services	-12	24	15	-9
Office Team	582	445	427	-18
Outdoor Services	640	486	450	-36
Net Budget	1,823	1,530	1,493	-37

Earmarked Reserves	Nominal Code	Balance 1 Apr 25 £	Contribution £	Reserve transfers	Income £	Expenditure £	31/12/25 £
Municipal Buildings	93150299	56,994.27	20,000.00			51,565.99	25,428.28
Front of House	92250399	31,642.81	239,000.00	20,000.00	10,000.00	295,557.22	5,085.59
Vehicles & Equipment Replacement	93150699	113,473.22	22,000.00		400.00	45,171.22	90,702.00
Parks Premises	93150399	10,053.93	19,000.00		5,217.00	1,469.55	32,801.38
Cemeteries	93152799	36,931.25	10,000.00			29,484.98	17,446.27
Play Equipment Replacement	93150799	29,714.65	1,000.00		655.00	16,802.28	14,567.37
Great Field Reserve	93151299	11,000.00	2,500.00				13,500.00
Climate Emergency Reserve	93151899	30,948.70		57,067.60		14,804.49	73,211.81
Public Realm	93151799	440,310.47	5,000.00			4,048.00	441,262.47
Christmas Lights	93151399	4,420.45					4,420.45
Arts & Cultural Reserve	93153199	4,871.85			1,500.00	2,507.93	3,863.92
Apprenticeship Reserve	93151599	16,565.43				1,062.40	15,503.03
Planning Advice Reserve	93150427	18,498.62				2,255.00	16,243.62
Trees Reserve	93150499	13,663.30	20,000.00			7,589.72	26,073.58
Tennis Courts Refurb	93151199	10,800.00	2,590.00				13,390.00
Tourism Reserve	92250299	33,975.43				5,590.19	28,385.24
19 North Square	93100299	11,000.00					11,000.00
DTC Website & IT	93154199	1,230.00			1,431.37	2,345.40	315.97
Corporate Projects Reserve	93152199	714,958.39	5,082.00	-20,000.00		8,021.00	692,019.39
Graves in Perpetuity	93153099	14,010.67				25.00	13,985.67
Total		1,605,063.44	346,172.00	57,067.60	19,203.37	488,300.37	1,539,206.04

DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL
POLICY COMMITTEE – 19 JANUARY 2026

MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY & REVENUE BUDGET 2026/27

1. The officer team have reviewed the Medium-Term Financial Strategy and a budget for the next financial year within the context of current year spending and the external environment.
2. The element of the budget relating to the **Policy Committee** is at Appendix 1. The cost of services provided by the Committee has increased by £49,524, the key changes being: -
 - A budgeted 4.5% pay award (25/26 actual pay award 3%)
 - The removal of £24,000 for the Markets Officer, now under the Markets own budget heading.
 - £5,000 increase in the annual grant to Keep 106 as agreed at November Policy Committee.
 - £20,585 for Communications Officer as agreed at November Policy Committee.
 - Budget to cover the recruitment of a new Town Clerk and the crossover period.
3. The **Management Committee** budget was considered at a meeting on 12 January 2025 and totals £1,416,769, an increase of £41,466. Included in the budget is: -
 - A budgeted 4.5% pay award.
 - The removal of £17,000 for market operation staff, now under the Markets budget heading.
 - £4,000 for the Kite Festival.
 - £9,172 increase in Business Rates due to new rateable valuations.

4. Earmarked Reserves (Policy Committee)

- Cornhill and War Memorial projects anticipated in 26/27 from Public Realm Reserve.
- £75,000 repayment from MB Front of House Works to Corporate Projects Reserve. Front of House Works total cost £912,196.64, of which, £749,378.18 to main contractor, Greendale Construction.
- £250,000 budgeted spend from Corporate Projects for projects identified in the new Corporate Plan.
- £11,000 spend from 19 North Square Reserve for front of the building and roof repairs.
- £5,000 budgeted from the Planning Reserve for the 20mph consultation.

	Balance Nov-25	26/27 Contribution	Available Balance 26/27	26/27 Budgeted Spend	Reason
Public Realm	445,310	0	445,310	280,000	Cornhill/War Memorial
19 North Square	11,000	0	11,000	11,000	Office Refurb
Tourist Information	28,408	0	28,408	5,000	Tourism Projects

Corporate Projects	692,019	75,000	767,019	250,000	Corporate Plan Projects
Elections Reserve	0	2,500	2,500	0	Election Costs
Apprenticeship Reserve	16,565	0	16,565	0	Apprenticeship Grants/Costs
Planning Advice Reserve	18,499	0	18,499	0	Major Planning Issues
Climate Emergency	73,212	22,000	95,212	0	Projects
Total	1,285,014	99,500	1,384,514	546,000	

- A summary of all Earmarked Reserve movements is at appendix 4.

5. Markets

- A new section in the budget has been created for the Markets, operated by DTC from the 1 April 2026.
 - Based around the Dorset Council 2025-2026 budget, total income £169,288, total expenditure £92,461, leaving a surplus of £76,827.
 - Car Boot budgeted to generate £23,732 with 90% (£21,359) going to 'Sunday Market Reserve'.
 - Remaining surplus distributed to Dorset Council (65%) and DTC (35%).
 - DTC budgeted share of £19,414 shown as an income under Other Services.
6. As a result of the above, the operational **Revenue Budget for 2026/27** (summary at Appendix 2) has increased from £1,822,850 to £1,913,839 up £90,989.
7. The **Tax Base**, at 8,745.9, is up 248.8 (2.9%), enabling £54,445 to be added to the precept before any increase in the Council Tax is required.
8. The Council may wish to consider the other options for 2026/27:

Option	Band D Increase	Annual Cost to Band D	Rationale & Impact
2.0% (Recommended)	£4.21	£218.82	Aligns with MTFS. Provides a stable, predictable increase.
4.0%	£8.41	£223.12	Generates an additional £37,530
0%	£0.00	£214.53	Not consistent with the MTFS; results in a permanent loss of precept base

9. Whichever decision is taken regarding the setting of Council Tax the Town Council remains in a solid position financially.
10. The **Medium-Term Financial Strategy** (Appendix 3) lists the assumptions taken account of in its preparation. The key assumptions are that:
- Precept assumes Council Tax rises at 2% from 2026/27 and no Tax Base growth.
 - Any operational surplus and CIL receipts credited to 19 North Square Reserve for works.
 - Earmarked Reserve expenditure reflects best available knowledge.
 - Best estimates of new or transferred services, driven by devolution.
 - General Reserve set at £100,000.

11. The **General Reserve** (£100k) is held to deal with problems and opportunities that might arise. It should reflect the operational environment and the economic circumstances within which the Council operates, and the level of Earmarked Reserves held.
12. **Current Debt** will total £14,000 at 31 March 2027 and will be fully repaid by the end of the 2027-2028 financial year.
13. **The Treasury Strategy**, as previously agreed, and available on the DTC website, is agreed for a further year as part of the budget setting process.
14. It is **RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL** that the MTFS and Revenue Budget are adopted as laid out in the appendices, to include: -
 - A Council Tax Band D charge of £218.83, an increase of £4.29 (2%)
 - A precept of £1,913,842, an increase of 4.9%

Nigel Hayes
Responsible Finance Officer

Appendix 1	2024/25	2025/26	2025/26	2026/27
	Actual	Budget	6 Months	Budget
CORPORATE & DEMOCRATIC	£	£	£	£
Members Allowance	24,059	24,440	12,433	25,539
Members Training & Travel	470	500	23	250
Civic & Ceremonial Expenses	4,567	1,500	1,521	1,750
Mayoral Expenses	8,521	13,369	8,555	13,637
Town Crier	600	600	300	600
New Town Crier Expenses	4,598	0	0	0
Elections Reserve	13,459	0		3,000
Entertaining & Gifts	3,725	428	5	437
Youth Council & Democracy Day	1,034	1,000	252	750
Office Team	233,498	257,365	127,344	284,858
Met by Precept on Taxpayer	294,531	299,203	150,433	330,821
OTHER SERVICES				
Tourism Development	7,962	8,160	3,202	8,323
Sawmills rent	8,600	8,600	4,300	11,875
To Public Realm Reserve	5,000	5,000	5,000	0
To Arts & Cultural Reserve - DBC	0	0		0
Dorchester Heritage Joint Committee	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
Citizens Advice	8,793	9,246	9,116	9,481
Dorchester Youth & Community Centre	21,200	28,000	14,000	28,000
Keep 106				15,000
Dorchester Ballet Club	10,894	0	0	
Apprenticeships	11,019	0	0	0
Videographer	1,335	2,000	0	2,000
Footfall Counter		3,400	2,120	3,400
Debt Charges	16,104	15,457	7,000	14,809
Staff - Tourism/Community/Assistant	120,546	160,780	79,554	154,608
Total Expenditure	214,454	243,643	127,291	250,496
Treasury Interest	-101,408	-65,000	-36,502	-60,000
Sawmills rent recharged	-4,300	-4,300	0	-5,938
Market Income	-25,698	-26,000	0	-18,309
Total Income	-131,406	-95,300	-36,502	-84,247
Met by Precept on Taxpayer	83,047	148,343	90,789	166,249

Appendix 1 Continued	2024/25	2025/26	2025/26	2026/27
	Actual	Budget	6 Months	Budget
OFFICES TEAM	£	£	£	£
Salaries	304,175	356,773	167,557	378,578
Employers National Insurance	30,222	45,266	20,639	47,787
Employers LGPS Pension	67,869	78,490	37,083	79,501
Training Courses	7,642	9,000	7,717	10,000
Travel & Subsistence	1,708	3,000	1,310	2,000
New Town Clerk Appointment				3,500
Subscriptions (Professional Bodies)	3,272	3,800	3,481	4,000
Cleaning Materials	346	500	191	500
Rates	5,614	5,614	5,614	5,614
Electricity	3,930	4,500	1,636	4,500
Gas	-227		0	0
Water	543	600	246	600
Repairs, Maintenance & Equipment	3,522	3,400	389	5,400
Financial Services inc Audit, Bank & Sage	7,637	9,020	6,729	9,200
Employment Law and H & S	3,907	4,000	4,014	4,020
Legal & Professional Fees, Advertising	40	500	0	500
Insurance	34,908	40,000	26,505	42,000
Stationery & Equipment	1,161	1,200	891	1,200
Newsletter	5,658	5,415	2,123	6,000
IT, Printing & Copying	13,768	12,000	1,196	12,000
New Website		0	0	0
Mobile Phones	920	600	110	600
Photocopier Charges	501	0	0	0
Postage	848	600	777	890
Total Expenditure	497,965	584,278	288,210	618,391
Recharge to Dorchester Markets Panel	-1,688	-1,800	0	-1,688
Net Expenditure recharged to Services	496,277	582,478	288,210	616,703
Recharged to				
Corporate & Democratic Management	233,498	257,365	127,344	284,858
Allotments	12,357	16,307	8,069	18,112
Development	120,546	160,780	79,554	154,608
Cemeteries	43,672	50,477	24,976	52,296
Parks & Open Spaces	53,697	60,117	29,746	65,272
Municipal Buildings	16,774	19,252	9,526	20,256
Cultural Activity & Twinning	15,732	18,181	8,996	21,300
	496,276	582,479	288,210	616,703

	2026/27
Markets	Budget
	£
Salaries	32,367
Employers National Insurance	3,355
Employers LGPS Pension	6,797
Training	1,000
Mobile Phone	336
Repairs & Maintenance	20,000
Electricity	6,200
Water	1,600
Toilet Costs (2/7 Share)	2,400
Subscriptions	1,084
Recharge Dorset Council	15,634
Recharge DTC	1,688
Total Expenditure	92,461
Market Fees	-54,243
Car Boot	-23,732
Cornhill Traders	-12,987
Rents - Corn Market and Café	-22,100
Fairfield Car Park	-56,226
Total Income	-169,288
Surplus	-76,827
Distribution of Surplus	
Sunday Market Reserve	21,359
Dorset Council (65%)	36,054
Dorchester Town Council (35%)	19,414
Markets Balance	76,827

0

APPENDIX 2

REVENUE BUDGET 2026/27	2024/25 Actual £	2025/26 Budget £	2025/26 6 Month £	2026/27 Budget £
Parks & Open Spaces	731,485	807,390	422,698	841,050
Allotments	19,877	28,477	20,140	31,333
Municipal Buildings	393,005	382,508	349,319	277,744
Cemeteries	69,859	67,899	48,504	163,627
Markets				0
Cultural & Twinning Activities	77,242	89,029	65,981	103,015
Corporate & Democratic Markets	294,531	299,203	150,433	330,821
Other Services	83,047	148,343	90,789	166,249
Operational Budget	1,669,047	1,822,850	1,147,865	1,913,839
Precept	1,726,115	1,822,939	1,822,939	1,913,842
Transfer to General Reserves	57,068	89	675,074	3
Subjective Analysis of Revenue				
Employees	955,230	1,069,658		1,146,335
External Payments	585,052	610,536		802,979
Transfers to Earmarked	340,600	343,582		331,500
Capital Financing Costs	16,104	15,457		14,809
Income	-227,939	-216,385		-372,785
Transfer from Earmarked	0	0		0
Operational Budget	1,669,047	1,822,848	0	1,922,839
General Reserve				
Opening Balance at 1 April	177,314	100,000		100,000
Transfer from Ops Budget	57,068	91		3
To Corporate Projects Reserve	77,314	0		0
Closing Balance at 31 March	157,068	100,091		100,003
Earmarked Reserves				
Opening Balance at 1 April	1,488,384	1,157,365		1,576,504
Transfer from Revenue	452,614	343,582		334,500
Other Income & Transfers	416,532	0		0
Expenditure from Reserves	752,466	512,422		825,020
Closing Balance 31 March	1,605,063	988,525		1,085,984
All Reserves held at year end	1,762,131	1,088,616		1,185,987
Tax Base	8,091.30	8,497.10		8,745.90
Band D Charge	210.33	214.536600		218.8273320
O/s PWLB Debt at 31 March	42,000	28,000		14,000

APPENDIX 3

Medium Term Financial Strategy	24/25	25/26	26/27	27/28	28/29
	Actual	Budget	Budget	Forecast	Forecast
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Revenue Budget					
Employees	955	1,070	1,146	1,169	1,193
External Payments	585	611	803	819	835
Transfers to Earmarked	341	344	332	353	360
Capital Financing Costs	16	15	15	15	16
Income	-228	-216	-373	-380	-388
Operational Budget	1,669	1,823	1,923	1,977	2,016
Precept	1,702	1,823	1,914	1,952	1,991
Transfer to General Reserves	33	0	-9	-24	-25
General Reserve					
Opening Balance at 1 April	132	133	100	100	100
Transfer from/to Operational Budget	0	0	0	0	0
Transfer to Corporate Projects Reserve	32	33	0	0	0
Closing Balance at 31 March	100	100	100	100	100
Earmarked Reserves					
Opening Balance at 1 April	1,488	1,605	1,577	1,086	1,139
Transfers/Payments in to Reserves	869	447	335	353	360
Payments/Transfers out from Reserves	752	476	825	400	200
Closing Balance 31 March	1,605	1,577	1,086	1,039	1,299
All Reserves held at year end	1,705	1,677	1,186	1,139	1,399
Corporate Project Unallocated at Year End	755	755	505	255	255
Outstanding Debt at Year End £k	56	42	28	14	-
Council Tax £k	210	215	219	223	228
Tax Base	8,091	8,497	8,746	8,746	8,746

APPENDIX 4

RESERVES	Cttee	Balance	Paid In	Spend	Balance	Paid In	Spend	Balance	
		Mar 25	25/26	25/26	Mar 26	26/27	26/27	Mar 27	Reason for holding Reserve
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Earmarked Reserves									
Infrastructure & Equipment									
Cemeteries	Man	36,931	10,000	27,209	19,722	95,000	90,000	24,722	Cemetery Wall
	Man	56,994	20,000	51,566	25,428	80,000	80,000	25,428	Clock tower and other building works
MB Repairs & Maintenance									
MB Front of House works	Man	31,643	259,000	290,643	0	0	0	0	
Parks Premises	Man	10,054	19,000	1,470	27,584	12,000	0	39,584	Buildings/infrastructure refurb.
Play Equipment	Man	29,715	1,000	13,503	17,212	30,000	30,000	17,212	Equipment replacement
Great Field Reserve	Man	11,000	2,500	0	13,500	2,500	0	16,000	
Tree Reserve	Man	13,663	20,000	6,547	27,116	6,000	12,000	21,116	Tree Works
Tennis Courts Reserve	Man	10,800	2,000	0	12,800	0	0	12,800	Tennis Courts Repairs
19 North Square Refurb	Pol	11,000	0	0	11,000	0	11,000	0	
Public Realm	Pol	440,310	5,000	5,000	440,310	0	280,000	160,310	Infrastructure refurb
Vehicles & Equipment	Man	113,473	22,400	45,171	90,702	22,000	50,000	62,702	Fleet & equipment replacement
Cultural									
Arts & Culture	Man	4,872	1,000	125	5,747	0	0	5,747	
Christmas Lights	Man	4,420	0	0	4,420	9,000	12,000	1,420	Replace lights
DTC Website & IT	Man	1,230	1,431	2,661	0	0	0	0	£3k DTC Website, £4,651.87 IT
Tourist Information	Pol	33,975	0	10,000	23,975	0	5,000	18,975	TIC Replacement Projects
Miscellaneous Reserves									
Corporate Projects	Pol	714,958	27,082	8,021	734,019	75,000	250,000	559,019	Own or partner capital projects
Elections Reserve	Pol					3,000	0	3,000	Cost of Elections
Apprenticeship Reserve	Pol	16,565	0	0	16,565	0	0	16,565	
Planning Advice Reserve	Pol	18,499	0	0	18,499	0	5,000	13,499	20mph Project
Climate Emergency Reserve	Pol	30,949	57,068	14,104	73,913	0	0	73,913	Own or partner Climate projects
Graves In Perpetuity	Man	14,011	0	20	13,991	0	20	13,971	Maint. and flowers on 6 graves

Total Earmarked Reserves		1,605,062	447,481	476,039	1,576,504	334,500	825,020	1,085,984	
General Reserve	Pol	157,068	0	57,068	100,000	0	0	100,000	General Emergency Fund
Total Reserves		1,762,130	447,481	533,107	1,676,504	334,500	825,020	1,185,984	

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2026-27

	2026								2027				
	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY
COUNCIL	18 MM 19 (Tu)		27		28		30		25		29		24 MM 25 (Tu)
POLICY	11		20		21		23		18		22 MS@ 1830		17
MANAGEMENT	5 (Tu)		13		14		16		11		15		10
PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT	-	1	6	3	7	5	2	7	5 (Tue)	1	1	5	4 (Tue)
MARKETS JOINT PANEL		3 (Wed) 1430		5 (Wed) 1730		7 (Wed) 1430		2 (Wed) 1730		3 (Wed) 1430		7 (Wed) 1730	
HERITAGE JOINT			21 (Tu) 1730			13 (Tu) 1730			19 (Tu) 1730			13 (Tu) 1730	
SITE VISITS		2 (Tu) 0930			1 (Tu) 0930								
CIVIC EVENTS	8- IATM @1100 19 - ATM 31 (Sun) THW @1330						Remem Sunday 8						25 ATM
BANK HOLIDAYS	4,25			31				25, 28	1		26, 29	30	3,31

MM Mayor Making MS Mayoral Selection Committee THW Thomas Hardy Wreath laying

ATM Formal Annual Town Meeting IATM Informal Annual Town Meeting

Meetings will ordinarily take place at 1900 in the Council Chamber, Municipal Buildings.

Description	Site Type	UPRN	Number	Street	Locality	Town/City	Postcode	Easting	Northing	Dorset Explorer
Acland Road Car Park, Dorchester	Parking & Public Conveniences			Acland Road		Dorchester	DT1 1EF	369 342	9051 9	link
All Saints Church, Dorchester	Community & Town/Parish Council			Church Street		Dorchester	DT1 1EZ	369 345	9073 1	link
Burraton House, Poundbury, Dorchester	Commercial Investments	20000 07580 69		Burraton Square	Poundbury	Dorchester	DT1 3GR	367 586	9021 2	link
Burraton Yard (Units 01-02, 04-06), Poundbury, Dorchester	Industrial & Business Parks	{multiple}		Burraton Square	Poundbury	Dorchester	DT1 3GR	367 597	9024 3	link
Citizens Advice Central Dorset Office, 1 Acland Road, Dorchester	Commercial Investments	10004 10329 14	1	Acland Road		Dorchester	DT1 1JW	369 353	9064 8	link
Colliton Park (including County Hall), Dorchester	Multi-Use Hubs	{multiple}		Colliton Park		Dorchester	DT1 1XJ	368 988	9088 1	link
Dorchester Community Nursery School	Schools & Education	10004 11157 14		York Road		Dorchester	DT1 1QA	369 513	9020 1	link
Dorchester Connect & Dorchester Area Office	Multi-Use Hubs	10004 11152 02		Acland Road		Dorchester	DT1 1EW	369 475	9056 4	link
Dorchester Cornhill Stall Market	Community & Town/Parish Council			Cornhill		Dorchester	DT1 1BE	369 257	9068 4	link
Dorchester Market, Fairfield Road, Dorchester	Community & Town/Parish Council			Fairfield Road		Dorchester	DT1 1QS	369 086	9022 2	link
Dorchester Middle School	Academy Schools	10004 10333 23		Queens Avenue		Dorchester	DT1 2HR	368 326	8996 6	link

Dorchester Skate Park	Community & Town/Parish Council			Fairfield Road		Dorchester	DT1 1RD	368 975	9001 5	link
Dorset History Centre, Dorchester	Multi-Use Hubs	20000 07553 39		Bridport Road		Dorchester	DT1 1RP	368 697	9069 4	link
Dorset Youth Association, Dorchester	Community & Town/Parish Council	10004 11152 86		Lubbecke Way		Dorchester	DT1 1QL	370 138	9046 3	link
Dukes Auctioneers Dorchester Fine Art Salerooms	Commercial Investments	20000 07561 01		Weymouth Avenue		Dorchester	DT1 1QS	369 081	9018 5	link
Durngate Street Long Stay Car Park, Dorchester	Parking & Public Conveniences			Durngate Street		Dorchester	DT1 1JE	369 488	9069 5	link
Fairfield Car Park, Dorchester	Parking & Public Conveniences			Fairfield Road		Dorchester	DT1 1QW	369 003	9012 7	link
Greenwood Independent Living Centre, Dorchester	Residential Care	10004 11157 27		Maiden Castle Road		Dorchester	DT1 2ER	368 613	8969 5	link
James Road Garages (x2), Dorchester	Garages			James Road		Dorchester	DT1 2EY	368 207	8966 0	link
Maiden Castle House, Dorchester	Residential Care	10004 06343 56		Gloucester Road		Dorchester	DT1 2NJ	368 329	9043 4	link
Manor Park CE First School, Dorchester	Academy Schools	20000 07545 91		Mellstock Avenue		Dorchester	DT1 2BH	369 802	8956 5	link
Marabout Industrial Estate, Dorchester	Industrial & Business Parks	{multiple}		Miller's Close		Dorchester	DT1 1YA	368 689	9098 0	link
Maumbury Road Public Conveniences & Stores, Dorchester	Parking & Public Conveniences			Maumbury Road		Dorchester	DT1 1QW	368 958	9017 8	link
Old Market Car Park, Dorchester	Parking & Public Conveniences			Charles Street		Dorchester	DT1 1BZ	369 346	9044 2	link
Poundbury Camp, Dorchester	Recreational Sites			Roman Road	Poundbury	Dorchester	DT1 2PN	368 269	9102 2	link

Poundbury Depot, Dorchester	Depots & Waste & Storage	20000 07556 74		Poundbury West Industrial Estate	Poundbury	Dorchester	DT1 2PG	368 147	9078 2	link
Shire Hall Historic Courthouse Museum & Car Parking Spaces, Dorchester	Leisure & Culture Investments	20000 07581 63		High West Street		Dorchester	DT1 1XB	369 099	9073 7	link
South Walks House & Dorchester Library & Learning Centre, Dorchester	Commercial Investments	{multiple}		South Walks Road		Dorchester	DT1 1EE	369 371	9041 6	link
St Mary's Catholic First School, Dorchester	Academy Schools	20000 07545 92		Lucetta Lane		Dorchester	DT1 2DD	369 805	8996 1	link
St Osmund's CE Middle School & Community Sports Centre, Dorchester	Academy Schools	20000 07545 93		Barnes Way	Rothesa y Road	Dorchester	DT1 2TW	369 717	8967 2	link
The Little Keep, Dorchester	Leisure & Culture Investments	{multiple}		Barrack Road		Dorchester	DT1 1RP	368 638	9074 3	link
Top O' Town Car Park & Café & Public Conveniences, Dorchester	Parking & Public Conveniences			Bridport Road		Dorchester	DT1 1XT	368 834	9072 3	link
Trinity Street Car Park (I & III) & Public Conveniences, Dorchester	Parking & Public Conveniences			Trinity Street		Dorchester	DT1 1TU	369 138	9043 1	link
Tudor Arcade (including customer car park and public conveniences), Dorchester	Commercial Investments	{multiple}		Charles Street		Dorchester	DT1 1BN	369 329	9061 1	link
Volunteer Centre Dorset at The Coach House, Dorchester	Commercial Investments	10004 11156 61		Acland Road		Dorchester	DT1 1EF	369 435	9060 5	link
Wollaston Field Pay & Display Car Park, Dorchester	Parking & Public Conveniences			Acland Road		Dorchester	DT1 1EQ	369 415	9055 3	link

DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL
POLICY COMMITTEE – 19 JANUARY 2026
WESSEX WATER WATERMARK TOWN AWARD – PROGRESS REPORT

1. **Introduction.** The Council’s involvement in Wessex Water’s Watermark Accreditation Scheme was agreed by Policy Committee in March 2025. Since that date, officers have worked on community consultation and project development in order to help achieve Watermark status. This report provides an update on progress towards accreditation.
2. **Community Consultation**
 - 2.1 Facilitated discussions have formed the core of the community consultation to date. These sessions brought together representatives from over 40 partner organisations, including environmental groups, local charities, volunteer groups, representatives from Dorset Council, and civic organisations.
 - 2.2 The workshops were designed to: gather local knowledge, concerns and aspirations relating to water; identify shared priorities across different sectors of the community; explore opportunities for collaborative action and partnership working; build a clearer picture of where the Town Council can influence change.
 - 2.3 This structured engagement has produced a rich set of ideas and identified emerging priorities and potential project ideas for the Watermark Scheme.
3. **Emerging Stakeholder Priorities & Project Action Plan**
 - 3.1 Analysis of the consultation responses has highlighted several priority themes from stakeholders. The four main areas that Dorchester Town Council can realistically focus on within our existing officer capacity are facilitation, awareness raising and advice, signposting, and reporting. The top priorities from stakeholders are listed below in order of importance:

Stakeholder & Community Priorities	Potential Council involvement
Water quality monitoring and pollution prevention	Support initiatives such as the Riverfly (pollution monitoring) project. Promote citizen science projects such as the Great UK WaterBlitz. Support and initiate regular litter picks to prevent waste going into our waterways.
Education and awareness	Involve water related organisations in community events (e.g., Dorchester Science Festival). Create a leaflet about our local water system including facts and water-saving tips. Run an ongoing social media campaign for household dos-and-don’ts.
Water affordability and water saving	Promote Wessex Water advice drop-in sessions and Tailored Assistance Programme.

	Promote support from CAB and CAP money courses. Distribute 100 water butts to households on lower incomes.
Flood resilience and surface water management	Promote the creation of 'water gardens' and rainwater harvesting systems to conserve water/habitats and act as storm breaks. Work with Dorset Council to support local households at risk of flooding. Promote training sessions run by the Environment Agency.
Water meadows and heritage assets	Support the Civic Society with Town Pump restoration project.
Chalk stream protection	Maintain long-term aspiration to create a 'Charter for Rivers' for the River Frome. Support Dorset Wildlife Trust with their Water Guardian programme.
Community connection to water	Run a 'Yellowfish' campaign to raise awareness about which drains empty directly into river systems. Engage the local community in a programme of river related events including duck races, balsam bashing, river walks, litter picks, arts activities etc.

3.2 A more detailed action plan is in the process of being developed with stakeholders. The highlighted priorities and projects have been sorted into the following categories: raising awareness; short-term; long-term; and partner activities to support.

4. **Next steps**

4.1 Stakeholder engagement has provided a strong base for shaping Dorchester's Watermark action plan. The next phase will involve:

- prioritising deliverable short-term projects (e.g., refill points, river litter picks, education sessions, Yellowfish campaign);
- developing partnerships for longer-term initiatives such as flood resilience, chalk stream protection, water infrastructure, and encouraging connection to water;
- creating a clear communications plan for raising awareness campaigns;
- Achieving Watermark Status by May 2026.

5. **Recommendation:** It is recommended that Members note the progress on Dorchester's Watermark Scheme as set out in the report.

Connie Hollings
Development Assistant



The Dorchester Literary Festival 2026
Saturday 17th – Saturday 24th October

12th January 2026

Dear Steve

Thank you very much for your support of the Dorchester Literary Festival.

I am delighted to report that our Festival success continues to go from strength to strength. Last year we attracted record audiences, selling over 5500 tickets across 40 main events with many sold out weeks in advance. Highlights included appearances by Max Hastings, Sir Tony Robinson, Rev Richard Coles, Gyles Brandreth and Martin Clunes.

The Festival received wide press, magazine and social media coverage. This year's festival will run from Saturday the 17th to Saturday the 24th of October 2026. Over the past eleven years our festival has developed and now competes with any in the country attracting the top names from the literary world, with growing audiences and greater media and press coverage. See the testimonials on our website www.dorchesterliteraryfestival.com

Our mission, as organisers has always been to enhance the cultural life of our county town for the benefit of the local community, to attract visitors to the town, and thus boost local business, as well as raising funds for local charities.

As a sponsor you will be associated with this prestigious event and gain valuable exposure to our large discerning audience. Additional benefits include:

- Promotion of your company name, with links on our website and prominent inclusion in the festival brochure
- Invitations for you and a group of your clients or customers to attend our launch event, offering the opportunity to meet writers and local dignitaries.
- Complimentary tickets to events you sponsor.
- The opportunity to introduce your sponsored event to the audience and have your branding displayed on stage and featured in photographs alongside the writer.
- A discounted rate for advertising in the festival brochure.

We have already started organising the 2026 line up which will be announced on our website from May. In early September 5500 printed copies of the festival brochure will be distributed, followed later that month by our launch event for writers, sponsors and festival supporters.

The success of the festival is depends on the continued support of our sponsors and I very much hope you will choose to be involved again this year. Alongside the commercial benefits outlined above, your support helps create an event enjoyment and inspiration to the many thousands of attendees.

The attached information sheet outlines this year's sponsorship packages. I would be delighted to discuss these with you and answer any questions you may have.

I very much look forward to hearing from you.

Best regards Paul Gleeson

Dorchester Literary Festival Sponsorship Packages 2026

Saturday 17th – Saturday 24th October 2026

Main sponsor: Your company name and logo on the cover of the festival brochure and on screen prior to all events. Your company name and logo featured as main sponsor on our website. Your company thanked in introductory speeches and other linked events. The option to purchase an advertisement in brochure at a discount of 50%. 12 complimentary tickets for events. Further tickets can be purchased at a 20% discount. Invitation to launch event. Reserved seating. £5000 (joint main sponsor £3000)

Gold Sponsor: Your company name listed on our website and in front of the festival brochure as Gold Sponsor. Your company mentioned as Gold Sponsor before each event. The option to purchase advertisements in the brochure at a 50% discount. 10 complimentary tickets for events. Reserved seating. £1000

Silver Sponsor: Your company name listed on our website and in front of the festival brochure as a Silver Sponsor. The option to purchase an advertisement in the brochure at a 50% discount. 8 complimentary tickets for events. Further tickets can be purchased at a 20% discount. Reserved seating. £750

Headline Event Sponsor: Your company name and logo printed in the festival brochure with listing for the event by a well-known author and acknowledged as sponsor in the details of the event. Your company logo and name listed on our website. The option to purchase an advertisement in the brochure at 50% discount. The option to introduce the event or to have your company thanked as sponsor in introduction to the event, and name and logo displayed on the screen prior to the event. 6 complimentary tickets to the event. Further tickets can be purchased at a 20% discount. Reserved seating. £550

Event Sponsor: Your company name and logo printed in the festival brochure with listing for the event by an author and acknowledged as sponsor in the details of the event. Your company logo and name listed on our website. The option to purchase an advertisement in brochure at a discount of 50%. The option to introduce the event or to have your company thanked as sponsor in the introduction to the event and name and logo displayed on screen prior to the event. 6 complimentary tickets to the event. Reserved seating. £375

£450 – Full page advertisement in the brochure (225mm x 155mm)

£225 – Half page advertisement in the brochure (150mm x 110mm)

£125 – Quarter page advertisement in the brochure (75mm x 105mm)