

Reshaping your Councils

CONSULTATION QUESTIONNAIRE

Please read the consultation document or go online for information about our proposals. To give your feedback to Dorset councils about their proposals, complete this questionnaire and return it FREEPOST by 25 October 2016; or give your feedback online by 25 October 2016 at reshapingyourcouncils.uk

Compared to the government funding received in 2010/2011, this year the nine councils in Dorset will receive £142 million less in government funding, with more cuts expected in the future, so they need to make savings. Dorset's councils want to protect the services that they provide as far as possible, and believe that it is better to make savings by reducing administrative costs, cutting out duplication and being more efficient wherever possible.

They may still be unable to provide all of the services that residents use today, but Dorset's councils believe that they should focus on making savings in management and through reducing administrative costs.

To what extent do you agree or disagree that Dorset's councils should focus on cutting out duplication and reducing administration costs wherever possible? PLEASE TICK ✓ ONE BOX ONLY

Strongly agree <input type="checkbox"/>	Tend to agree <input type="checkbox"/>	Neither agree nor disagree <input type="checkbox"/>	Tend to disagree <input type="checkbox"/>	Strongly disagree <input type="checkbox"/>	Don't know <input type="checkbox"/>
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If the existing NINE councils were retained (option 1), major savings would need to be found and it is likely that many council services could not be provided in future.

Dorset's councils believe that they can make savings through simplifying local government in the area and replacing the nine existing councils with two new councils.

This would cut out large amounts of duplication and bring potential savings of at least £108 million in the first six years. The changes needed would have a one-off cost of around £25 million and Council Tax would not increase as fast in the areas which currently pay the most, as rates are harmonised across the new areas.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to replace the NINE existing councils (option 1) with TWO new councils (options 2a– 2c) in order to protect services as far as possible?

PLEASE TICK ✓ ONE BOX ONLY

Strongly agree <input type="checkbox"/>	Tend to agree <input type="checkbox"/>	Neither agree nor disagree <input type="checkbox"/>	Tend to disagree <input type="checkbox"/>	Strongly disagree <input type="checkbox"/>	Don't know <input type="checkbox"/>
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Dorset's councils recognise that there are many different factors to consider when thinking about the future arrangements for local government in the area. They believe that it is important for any future arrangements to provide:

- » **Accountability:** democratic decision making that can be locally influenced and ensuring residents know how to raise issues to their local councillor and how to have a say on future service delivery
- » **Quality:** frontline services that are sustainable, cost-effective and equipped to deliver good local services in the long-term
- » **Local Identity:** a recognised local area that reflects how residents live their lives and how businesses operate
- » **Access:** keeping services as local as possible for as many residents as possible
- » **Value For Money:** cutting out duplication, increasing economies of scale and improving efficiencies

Dorset's councils recognise that they will need to find the right balance between these different criteria when deciding the best arrangements for local government in the area.

Please rate how important you think each of these criteria are using a whole number between 0 and 10, where "10" means that the criteria is critically important and "0" means the criteria is of no importance.

PLEASE WRITE IN A NUMBER BETWEEN "0" AND "10" IN EACH BOX

Accountability	Quality	Local Identity	Access	Value For Money
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

If the existing nine councils were replaced by two new councils, there would be a number of different options for the areas that each of the two new councils would cover.

Dorset's councils are currently considering three specific options based on different groupings of the existing local government areas. **The information document sets out key features including financial information on each of the three options.**

If two new councils were created, to what extent do you support or oppose each of the possible options that are being considered?

PLEASE TICK ✓ ONE BOX IN EACH ROW

Areas covered by Unitary Council A	Areas covered by Unitary Council B	Strongly support	Tend to support	Neither support nor oppose	Tend to oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't know
Option 2a							
Large Conurbation: Bournemouth, Poole, Christchurch and East Dorset	Small Dorset: North Dorset, Purbeck, West Dorset and Weymouth & Portland	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Option 2b							
Medium Conurbation: Bournemouth, Poole and Christchurch	Medium Dorset: East Dorset, North Dorset, Purbeck, West Dorset and Weymouth & Portland	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Option 2c							
Small Conurbation: Bournemouth and Poole	Large Dorset: Christchurch, East Dorset, North Dorset, Purbeck, West Dorset and Weymouth & Portland	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

DO YOU HAVE ANY FURTHER COMMENTS?

If you have views on the options or any further comments, please tell us. If there are any alternative options that you think we should consider, please explain the alternative option and tell us why you think this would be better.

PLEASE ANSWER IN THE BOX BELOW AND CONTINUE ON A SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CONSIDERING EQUALITIES AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Dorset's councils have a duty to take into account the impact of their decisions on human rights and people with protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 (age, disability, sex, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy, maternity, race, religion or belief, and sexual orientation).

Are there any positive or negative impacts that you believe that Dorset's councils should take into account in relation to equalities or human rights? If so, are you able to provide any supporting evidence and suggest any ways in which the organisations could reduce or remove any potential negative impacts and increase any positive impacts?

PLEASE ANSWER IN THE BOX BELOW AND CONTINUE ON A SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

INFORMATION ABOUT YOU

What is your full postcode?

This will help us understand views in different areas

If you are responding on behalf of an ORGANISATION, which organisation do you represent?

Please give us the name of the organisation and any specific group or department.

Please also tell us who the organisation represents, what area the organisation covers and how you gathered the views of members.

PLEASE ANSWER IN THE BOX BELOW AND CONTINUE ON A SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

If you are providing your own PERSONAL RESPONSE, please answer the questions below...

Dorset's councils have a duty to promote equality and we want to make sure that we include all parts of the community in our consultation, but these questions are optional. We will take all consultation responses fully into account when making decisions, regardless of whether you provide your details.

PLEASE TICK ✓ ONLY ONE BOX FOR EACH QUESTION

What was your age on your last birthday?

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Under 16 | <input type="checkbox"/> 55 to 64 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 16 to 24 | <input type="checkbox"/> 65 to 74 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 25 to 34 | <input type="checkbox"/> 75 to 84 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 35 to 44 | <input type="checkbox"/> 85 or over |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 45 to 54 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say | |

Do you consider yourself to have a disability?

- Yes
 No
 Prefer not to say

What is your gender?

- Male
 Female
 Prefer not to say

In which local authority area do you live?

What is your ethnic group?

- White
 Mixed or multiple ethnic groups
 Asian or Asian British
 Black, African, Caribbean or Black British
 Any other ethnic group
 Prefer not to say

Are you employed by a local authority in Dorset?

- Yes
 No
 Prefer not to say

If yes, which local authority(ies) employ you?

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME

Please return the questionnaire by Tuesday 25 October 2016 to your **local library** or:

Opinion Research Services

FREEPOST SS1018 · PO Box 530 · Swansea · SA1 1ZL

If you have any queries about completing the questionnaire or need assistance to do so, please call ORS on **0800 3112126** or email **Dorsetcouncils@ors.org.uk**