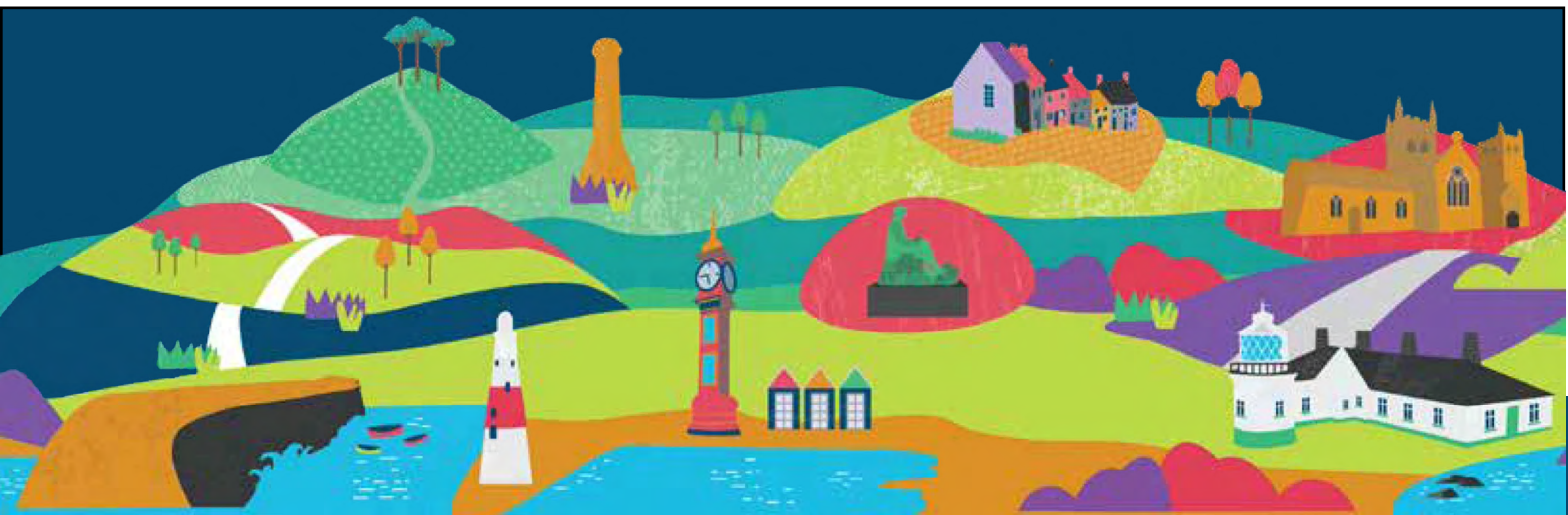




Dorset
Council

Dorset Council

5 year plan
2024 - 2029



In this plan



Introduction

Page 3

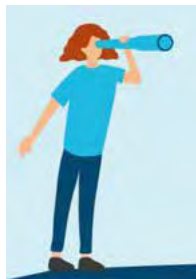
About Dorset

Page 4



About Dorset Council

Page 8



Our vision and values

Page 9

Our 4 priorities

Page 11



Our money

Page 21



Standing up for Dorset

Page 22

Ready for the future

Page 23



How to contact us

Page 24

Introduction

By Nick Ireland

Leader of Dorset Council



**Dorset is a great place to live.
We have beautiful countryside and
strong communities.**

There are challenges too, including:



- climate change
- we need more affordable housing
- the economy is not growing well
- not enough opportunities for young people



This plan is about our work for the next 5 years. It will make Dorset a better place to live: now and in the future.

People in Dorset



3 in 10 people are **over 65** years old.



The average age of people in Dorset is **52**. Across England and Wales the average age is **41**.



There are a lot of older people, compared with working age people.



Older people often need more healthcare and support.

They also have more skills, experience, and more time for volunteering.

Business in Dorset

There are **20,000** businesses in Dorset. They employ **145,000** people.



People in Dorset earn less than the average for the UK.



The number of people of working age in Dorset is going down. This is not good for businesses.



We have some great businesses in Dorset, particularly to do with the sea and farming.



Dorset's landscape is good for making renewable energy. For example, solar power and wind power.

Housing in Dorset



The average price of a house in Dorset is more than the South West and UK averages.



The average house price in Dorset is **12** times more than people's average yearly pay.



It costs about the same amount to rent a home as in the rest of the UK.



The gap between housing benefit and the cost of rent is getting bigger.

The environment

Dorset is mostly countryside, so we have some extra challenges:



- no motorways



- broadband is not as fast as in the rest of the country



- mobile phone signals are among the worst in the UK



- it is expensive to run services in rural areas

- there are opportunities too, such as tourism and education

About Dorset Council



We run **450** different services for **380,000** people. For example:

- rubbish collection and recycling
- social care
- fixing and cleaning roads
- libraries
- housing



We work closely with lots of other organisations. For example, the NHS, care providers, schools and colleges.



The council is led by **82** councillors. They are elected by local people.

Our vision



Working together to create a fairer, more prosperous and more sustainable Dorset for current and future generations.



Working together: partnerships with the NHS, communities, businesses and other organisations.



Fairer: help people to improve their health, housing and community support.

More prosperous: create better opportunities for everyone.



More sustainable: fight climate change, protect nature, support communities.

For current and future generations: make Dorset better for years to come.



Our values

We believe that everyone should be included. Our values support inclusion:



Respect

We treat everyone with fairness, dignity, and understanding.



Openness

We are honest and inclusive.



Working together

We work closely with local people and organisations.



Accountability

We are responsible for our actions and decisions.



Curiosity

We learn, explore, and adapt to new opportunities and experiences.

Our 4 priorities



We asked people in Dorset what is most important to them. Their answers helped us to choose **4** things for Dorset Council to work on.



1. Good quality, affordable housing



2. Grow the economy



3. Communities for all



4. Respond to the nature and climate crisis

Housing



People need good quality homes that they can afford to buy or rent.

Dorset Council will:



- help landlords to improve the quality of homes, and take action if we find poor housing



- prevent people becoming homeless
- make a plan about what to do with empty homes in Dorset



- find ways to create more affordable homes
- make sure that people like teachers, NHS staff and care workers have affordable homes

Housing

In 5 years we will have:



- reduced the number of families in temporary accommodation by **30%**
- stopped using bed and breakfasts for families in need



- reduced the amount of temporary accommodation
- built **100** new homes, with extra support for people who need it

Each year, we plan to create:



- **450** new affordable homes, by working with housing associations
- **100** new accessible homes
- **90** affordable family homes

The economy



The **economy** means businesses, jobs, and money. Our economy is not growing well, compared with other areas of the UK.



The economy in Dorset is based on industries like:

- farming
- shops
- fishing and other sea-based businesses
- care services
- tourism and leisure
- manufacturing and energy



The economy

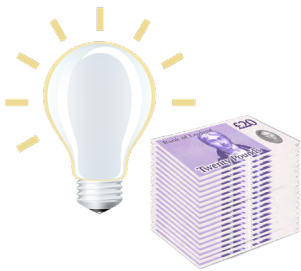


Dorset Council will:

- start a new group of local businesses to help the council to grow our economy



- work more closely with the Dorset Chamber of Commerce. This is an organisation that supports local businesses.



- find investment - money - for renewable energy projects



- improve broadband and transport
- support young people to start their own businesses

The economy

In 5 years we will have:



- created **200** jobs and **£500 million** of investment in renewable energy



- increased the amount that tourists spend by **5%**

- created **100** business courses for 16-34 year olds



- helped local communities to make plans for their own towns



- helped to create **300** jobs at the Dorset Innovation Park

Communities

We want to improve the lives of everyone in Dorset. We want people to:



- get the council services they need
- enjoy life
- support each other
- feel that they belong in Dorset

Dorset Council will:



- ask local people about the support they need, and involve them in decisions
- work more closely with town and parish councils
- work more closely with voluntary and community organisations.



Communities

In 5 years we will have:



- worked with local organisations to help people when they need it most



- improved primary school results, so more than **6 in 10** children pass their SAT tests at 11 years old



- become an 'age friendly' county
- supported more carers and older people who have no-one to help them



- created more apprenticeships

Climate and nature



Climate means patterns of weather like temperature, wind and rain.

Climate change causes storms, floods and fires.



Nature means plants and animals. They are important to Dorset and to the planet. 3000 types of plants and animals in Dorset are at risk.

Dorset Council will:



- use much less gas, diesel and petrol
- protect our land, rivers and seas
- prepare Dorset for climate change



Climate and nature



Our targets include:

- change all of our small vehicles to electric by **2030**



- put more solar panels on council land and buildings
- change our oil-fired heating systems to non-fossil fuel by **2028**



- make sure each council service has a plan for adapting to climate change by March **2026**

- recycle and compost more of Dorset's waste - up to **65%** by **2035**



- manage **30%** of our land so that nature is protected

Our money

Our money comes from:



- council tax: **82%**
- businesses like shops, offices, hotels and factories: **17%**
- UK Government: **1%**



The **4** things we spend the most money on each year are:



- adult social care: **£148 million**
- children's social care: **£68 million**
- travel: **£40 million**
- street cleaning and rubbish collection: **£34 million**



Standing up for Dorset



We will ask the Government to help Dorset. We will make sure they sure they know about:

- the support we need, for example:
 - more money to support children with special educational needs
 - investment in local businesses



- the challenges of running services in an area which is mostly countryside



Above all, we will work together and be ambitious for Dorset.



Ready for the future

We need to be ready for future events.



We call this **managing risks**.

For example, we must:



- protect our computer systems from criminals

- spend money wisely



- have enough people, with the right skills, working for the council



- check that our work makes a difference and is not too expensive

How to contact us



Main address:

Dorset Council
County Hall
Colliton Park
Dorchester
Dorset
DT1 1XJ



Phone:

01305 221000



Email:

customerservices@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk



Website:

<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk>