

Neil Eysenck, Eggardon Ward, Dorset Councillor's report: Saturday, 15 March 2025

Details of most recent Cabinet updates

11/2/25 - [An update from Dorset Council Cabinet members on the day of Full Council](#)

5/12/24 - [Update from Dorset Council Cabinet members on the day of Full Council meeting](#)

Recruitment of new Chief Executive

Sam Crowe, Director of Public Health will be acting up as Chief Executive from 1 March until a permanent successor is in place. This arrangement will need to be ratified by the full Staffing Committee on 12 March. Having been part of the Senior Leadership Team since 2019, Sam will provide stability to the organisation and ensure that the council continues to operate in a smooth, safe and legal way. It was decided at Staffing Committee on 21 February that only members of our existing SLT who would not be applying for the permanent role, could apply to be interim Chief Executive. This is to avoid any perception that the interim Chief Executive might have an advantage in the competition to become permanent Chief Executive.

Applications closed on Sunday 23 February and there has been significant interest in the role, which has seen more than 130 people applying for the post.

Shortlisted candidates will face a rigorous assessment process including technical exercises and stakeholder panels. A Staffing Committee made up of councillors representing all political groups on the council will recommend the appointment of the next Chief Executive, and the final decision will be made at a meeting of the Full Council on 10 April.

Dorset Council Budget

Dorset Council's budget of £417.2 million for 2025-26 has been approved by councillors at the Full Council meeting on 11 February, with substantial investment earmarked for essential frontline council services which local residents and businesses rely on.

Due to the national funding formula set by Government for councils, Dorset is heavily dependent on council tax for funding of the essential services it provides. Council tax will increase next year by just under 5 per cent (3 per cent plus 2 per cent for the adult social care precept). The increase is equivalent to £1.91 extra per week for a Band D property.

Dorset Council continues to provide a range of support for those residents hardest hit by the cost of living including additional support for low-income households. This includes our [revised council tax reduction scheme](#) which came into effect on 1 April 2024, allowing eligible working-age households to claim up to 100 per cent of their council tax bill.

Audit of Financials from 22/23 and 23/24 now completed.

Audit includes aspects of work relating to standard financial audits for the year plus also additional assurances over value for money achieved by Dorset Council.

Audits found some financial reporting issues in finance and a significant weakness that was highlighted by Dorset Council to their auditors was also reported on regarding Procurement processes. Work is not ongoing to look into root causes of the failings in procurement.

What's on my mind

Continuing Highways challenges – Still pushing for a meeting with Head of Highways Ops