



GILLINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL

FULL COUNCIL

The Town Hall, School Road, Gillingham, Dorset SP8 4QR
Tel: 01747 823588 Email: GTC@gillinghamdorset-tc.gov.uk

Minutes of the Full Town Council meeting held on **Monday, 22nd January 2018** in the Jubilee Room at the Town Hall, School Road, Gillingham commencing at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllr Mrs B Ridout (Mayor),
Cllr Mrs S Hunt (Deputy Mayor),
Cllr Mrs A Beckley, Cllr Mrs S Cullingford,
Cllr R Evill, Cllr A Frith, Cllr M Gould,
Cllr P Harris, Cllr M Hill, Cllr Monksummers,
Cllr Mrs V Potheary, Cllr Miss N Purkis,
Cllr J Robinson, Cllr Mrs D Toye,
Cllr Von Clemens.

Members of the Public There were nine members of the public present.

Members of the Press: There was one member of the Press present.

In attendance: Town Clerk, Mrs S Dobie.
Assistant Town Clerk, Mrs C Ratcliffe.

Apologies: Cllr S Joyce and Cllr D Walsh.

467. To approve the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Monday, 18th December 2017.

Cllr Frith proposed that “**the minutes of the Full Town Council meeting held on Monday, 18th December 2017 were approved as a correct record of that meeting**”. Cllr Mrs Toye seconded and the vote was unanimous. **RESOLVED.** The Chairman duly signed the minutes.

468. Questions. There were no questions.

469. Declarations of Interest: Members are required to comply with the requirements of the Localism Act 2011, section 27 disclosable pecuniary interests.

There were no disclosable pecuniary interests declared.

Full Council Meeting – Monday 22nd January 2018 (continued):

470. To receive written reports from outside bodies, if available, for consideration and approval:

a) Three Rivers Partnership (3RP) and Three Rivers Community Partnership Board of Trustees, the Gillingham Community Leisure Trust (GCLT)

Cllr Von Clemens reported that no meeting had taken place but that a meeting is scheduled for 30th January 2018.

b) Gillingham Neighbourhood Plan Group

Cllr Mrs Pothecary referred to a report that had been circulated prior to the meeting. Please refer to Appendix A. The district council has received quotations from Trevor Roberts Associates and Intelligent Plans and Examinations. The quotations were sought with the approval of the Town Council and the Gillingham Neighbourhood Plan Group.

Philip Reese, Senior Planning Policy Officer (North Dorset) recommended David Kaiserman, a senior associate of Trevor Roberts Associates since 2002 to be the independent examiner for the Gillingham Neighbourhood Plan.

Trevor Roberts Associates is highly recommended and it was one of their examiners who produced the report for the Shillingstone Neighbourhood Plan. David Kaiserman has successfully examined five neighbourhood plans and has just been appointed for the sixth. Three of these plans were for Peterborough Borough Council.

Gillingham Neighbourhood Plan Group submission documents and supporting evidence documents can be obtained on line or by visiting Gillingham Library (details as per Appendix A).

Cllr Mrs Pothecary proposed that **“David Kaiserman is appointed as the independent examiner for the Gillingham Neighbourhood Plan”**. Cllr Gould seconded and the vote was unanimous. **RESOLVED.**

c) Town Meadow Group

Cllr Joyce was absent from the meeting; there was no report.

d) Gillingham Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Cllr Von Clemens reported that no meeting had taken place but that a meeting is scheduled for 23rd January 2018.

e) Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils

Cllr Mrs Beckley reported that no meeting of the Larger Towns had taken place this month.

Cllr Mrs Hunt reported that a meeting for the Smaller Towns had taken place last week but that she had been unable to attend. When the minutes of the meeting are available, they will be circulated to members for information.

f) Health Forum

Cllr Mrs Beckley reported that no meeting had taken place this month.

g) Transport Forum

Cllr Mrs Ridout tabled two reports at the meeting. Please refer to Appendix B1 and B2. Cllr Mrs Ridout explained that whilst no meetings had taken place there had been plenty of information circulated about changes affecting the South-Western Railway and the Department of Transport Community Rail Consultation. Cllr Mrs Ridout impressed on members to encourage as many people to complete the on-line consultation (details as per Appendix B1 and B 2).

Full Council Meeting – Monday 22nd January 2018 (continued):

470. To receive written reports from outside bodies, if available (continued):

Cllr Von Clemens supported Cllr Mrs Ridout's plea to members and others to complete the DfT Community Rail Consultation. Currently Gillingham is served by 47 trains per day Monday to Friday, 32 trains on Saturday and 34 trains on Sunday. In 2016/17 ticket sales at Gillingham totalled 462,000 and continue to increase each year. On top of which the planned southern extension housing development will bring increased use of the railway network. A cheap day return to London costs £50 and a day return to Salisbury £7. Higher fares are charged at peak times. The train franchise receives a considerable income from Gillingham Station, profits from which go towards further investment into the commuter belt network. Gillingham Station needs to be upgraded from class 'C' to 'D' to attract much needed funding and improvements to rolling stock, station enhancement and car parking facilities.

Cllr Gould concurred with Cllr Von Clemens. All the focus is on London. There is no mention of local rolling stock being upgraded and the current rollingstock – nicknamed 'cattle class' – will remain for the foreseeable future. The community should be putting a considerable amount of pressure on the rail franchise to improve the current situation. Gillingham makes a substantial contribution to the wellbeing of the franchise.

Cllr Mrs Ridout reminded members that the Town Council has already sent a letter of support to the Salisbury Exeter Rail Users Group – which is the voice for rail users. Responding to the DfT consultation will add further support.

471. To receive the following Committee reports for consideration and adoption:

a) General Purposes meeting held on Tuesday 2nd January 2018.

Cllr Von Clemens proposed that **“the report of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on Tuesday, 2nd January 2018 should be agreed and adopted”**. Cllr Mrs Toye seconded and the vote was unanimous. **RESOLVED.**

b) Planning Committee meeting held on Monday, 8th January 2018.

Cllr Mrs Potheary proposed that **“the report of the Planning Committee meeting held on Monday 8th January 2018 should be agreed and adopted”**. Cllr Frith seconded and the vote was unanimous. **RESOLVED.**

c) Staff and Salaries Committee meeting held on Monday, 15th January 2018.

Cllr Frith proposed that **“the report of the Staff and Salaries Committee meeting held on Monday, 15th January 2018 should be agreed and adopted”**. Cllr Harris seconded and the vote was unanimous. **RESOLVED.**

d) Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on Monday, 15th January 2018.

Cllr Mrs Hunt proposed that **“the report of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on Monday, 15th January 2018 should be agreed and adopted”**. Cllr Harris seconded and the vote was unanimous. **RESOLVED.**

472. To receive, consider and resolve the final draft Precept for the Financial Year 2018/19.

The Town Clerk referred to the Precept that had been agreed 'in principle' in December and to a report that had been circulated prior to the meeting. Please refer to Appendix C. Also circulated was a letter from the Chairman of DAPTC to all member councils impressing on councils the need to ensure that the precept is prepared for what might come in relation to future functions in the coming months and to make sure that there is adequate provision in the precept to cover the possible expenditure which will result when the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) is introduced in May 2018.

Full Council Meeting – Monday 22nd January 2018 (continued):

472. To receive, consider and resolve the final draft Precept for the Financial Year 2018/19 (continued):

The Town Clerk suggested that it would be prudent to allow £5,000 towards the introduction of the GDPR regulation. DAPTC have arranged for training on GDPR on Monday, 26th March 2018, at Athelhampton House DT2 7LG from either 9.30am till 11.30am or 12.30pm till 2.30pm. At least two members of staff will attend and it would be useful for one or two members of the town council could also attend. Cllr Harris volunteered to attend the GDPR training, subject to his availability nearer the time.

Cllr Von Clemens informed members that GDPR is a very complex piece of new legislation and each organisation will be affected differently and that it is essential that money is allowed for this in the precept.

The Town Clerk informed members that the cost of the repair to the war memorial is likely to be in the region of £3,000. Last year the surplus for war memorial maintenance/repairs was used to fund the cemetery noticeboard that included information on the war graves. There has been no allowance made in the current precept for ongoing maintenance or repairs that may be needed for the two war memorials – High Street car park and Milton-on-Stour - that are the responsibility of the Town Council and, therefore, it would be prudent to add £2,000 on to the precept to allow for this inevitable expense. The current urgent repairs will be paid for from the contingency budget no. 5.14 as detailed in the Policy and Resources Committee minutes dated Monday, 15th January 2018, minute no. 323.

There has been no confirmation about the 2% pay award, so the additional 1% will need to be allowed for in the Precept. The Band D equivalent for the FY 2018/19 is 4105.70 (increase of 3% on last year).

Cllr Mrs Hunt proposed that **“the £2,000 contingency for the War Memorials and the £5,000 for GDPR legislation should be included and the Precept for the Financial Year 2018/19 set at £818,488.53”**. Cllr Von Clemens seconded and the vote was unanimous. **RESOLVED.**

The Town Clerk stated that last year the precept was increased by 17.07%. This year the percentage increase has dropped to 7.05%.

473. To receive a report on the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor’s activities for the last month.

Cllr Mrs Belinda Ridout, referred to her report that was circulated prior to the meeting. Please refer to Appendix D.

Cllr Mrs Hunt informed members that she had accompanied Cllr Mrs Ridout to Westminster Memorial Hospital for a Christingle Service on 21st December 2017. Cllr Mrs Hunt, accompanied by Cllr Mrs Beckley and ex-mayor, Brian Millichamp, had attended the funeral of the late Mrs Vanessa Cockarill who was a town councillor from 1999 to 2007. Mrs Cockarill was an asset to the town and had been elected Deputy Town Mayor in 2006. Mrs Cockarill achieved a great deal during her eight-year term of office.

474. Matters Pertinent

- a) Cllr Von Clemens informed members that, as an individual and not as a member of Gillingham Town Council, he had attended the **Shaftesbury, Gillingham, South West Wiltshire and Somerset Community Services Reference Group** on Monday 15 January 2018.

The group brought together representatives from Shaftesbury and Gillingham communities, Dorset, Wiltshire and Somerset Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), primary care, patient participation groups and Dorset Healthcare. It was set up to ensure good local engagement following Dorset CCG’s recent decision *“to maintain a community hub with beds in Shaftesbury Hospital whilst working with the local community until a sustainable model for future services based on the health and care needs of this locality is established, possibly at a different site to the existing hospital”*.

The role of this group is to support the project team in engaging with the community to help develop a sustainable model that meets the objectives of the Clinical Services Review (CSR). The membership also includes representation from Healthwatch Dorset, and Shaftesbury Town Council Working Party. The

Full Council Meeting – Monday 22nd January 2018 (continued):

474. Matters Pertinent (continued):

membership was scrutinised further and will now be extended to the League of Friends and representatives from the voluntary sector.

A workshop is planned on the 21st February to inform all members of this reference group of the work so far carried out in arriving at the Clinical Services Review decision, the public feedback from the consultation process and the feasibility studies carried out to date jointly by Dorset Healthcare and Dorset CCG on the community hubs in North Dorset.

Following the workshop, community representatives will be invited to meet the group informally and future events will be planned to give the wider community the opportunity to help us develop the sustainable model for the future, understand the challenges facing healthcare in North Dorset and how they can get involved and help support some of the inspirational work that is currently taking place.

- b) The Town Clerk informed members of an invitation received from the **North Dorset CCG Locality Group** to attend an **Engagement Workshop** on 31st January from 3.45pm to 6pm at The Exchange, Sturminster Newton DT10 1FH. Refreshments will be served on arrival and the workshop will start promptly at 4pm.

The purpose of the workshop is for the North Dorset CCG Locality Group to engage with its partner organisations and representatives of local communities in the development of its Sustainability and Transformation Partnership Plan to set about how GP practices and other primary care service providers are planning to sustain and develop local healthcare services over the next five years and beyond. This will be an ongoing process of engagement to ensure that this plan secures the support of local partners and input from local people necessary to achieve its key objectives. Note: car parking is limited so please park in the nearby Station Road car park DT10 1FJ. Parking is free after 3pm.

Cllr Mrs Hunt and Cllr Mrs Beckley volunteered to attend the North Dorset CCG Locality Group Engagement Workshop detailed above.

- c) Cllr Mrs Beckley informed members that Cllr Von Clemens had recommended that she volunteered to be part of the Save Our Mental Health (SoMH) – an off shoot of the Save Our Beds (SoB) group - which has been set up to save the mental health service in North Dorset. Cllr Mrs Beckley's previous nursing experience would be an asset to the group.

The meeting closed at 7.58 pm.

1. County Councillors' Reports, as follows:

a) County Councillor, Mr Andrew Cattaway

Cllr Cattaway did not attend the meeting; no report was submitted.

b) County Councillor, Mr David Walsh

Cllr Walsh was not present at the meeting; no report was submitted.

2. District Councillors' Reports, as follows:

a) District Councillor, Alexander Chase

Cllr Chase was not present at the meeting; no report had been submitted.

Full Council Meeting – Monday 22nd January 2018 (continued):

2. District Councillors' Reports, as follows (continued):

b) District Councillor, Mr Michael Gould

Cllr Gould was present at the meeting. A report was tabled. Please refer to Appendix E.

Cllr Gould and Cllr Von Clemens had attended the Joint Town Centres and Retail Study 2018 Stakeholder Workshop on 9th January presented by Carter Jonas. For information, a copy of the PowerPoint presentation has been circulated to all members via email and will be available in hard copy format from the front office.

c) District Councillor, Mrs Valerie Potheary

Cllr Mrs Potheary was present at the meeting; no report had been submitted. Cllr Mrs Potheary verbally reported that it had been a slow start to the year. A tour of Nordon Lodge is planned before the Nordon Lodge Hub is open to the public.

d) District Councillor, Mrs Belinda Ridout

Cllr Mrs Ridout was present at the meeting. A report was tabled. Please refer to Appendix F. Cllr Mrs Ridout verbally reported that although she had been unable to attend any meetings this last month owing to personal circumstances, she had circulated a report that contained useful information that she wished to share with fellow members.

e) District Councillor, Mr David Walsh (Planning Portfolio Holder)

Cllr Walsh was not present at the meeting; no report was submitted.

3. Public Questions.

There were no public questions.

PROPOSED GILLINGHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Gillingham Neighbourhood Plan has been submitted to North Dorset District Council for examination.

The public has 6 weeks from Thursday 4 January 2018 to Thursday 15 February 2018 to make formal representations on the proposed plan.

An independent examiner is being appointed and the concerns raised during this consultation will be passed on to them for consideration as part of the examination process. In particular, the examiner has to consider whether the plan meets certain basic conditions, satisfies legal requirements, and identifies an appropriate area for a referendum.

The basic conditions, as specified in legislation, are intended to ensure that neighbourhood plans are compatible with their wider context. The plan must:

- have regard to national planning policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State;
- contribute to achieving sustainable development;
- be in general conformity with the strategic policies of development plan for the area; and
- be compatible with EU obligations and human rights requirements.

If the neighbourhood plan passes these conditions and is subsequently supported by a local referendum, it will become part of the development plan for North Dorset. Its policies will then be used to determine planning applications in Gillingham alongside other relevant Local Plan policies.

Regulation 16 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 require North Dorset District Council to publicise and invite representations on the plan before the examination takes place. The consultation period is between Thursday 4 January 2018 and Thursday 15 February 2018. An independent examiner is being appointed and any representations will be passed on to them for consideration as part of the examination process.

All the submission documents and supporting evidence documents can be obtained via the following link:

<https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/article/426271/Proposed-Gillingham-Neighbourhood-Plan>
or by visiting Gillingham Library, Chantry Fields, Gillingham, SP8 4UA

Representations should be submitted on the response form provided and returned by **Thursday, 15 February 2018, at 5pm** to:

Email: planningpolicy@north-dorset.gov.uk OR

Post: Planning Policy (North Dorset),
South Walks House, South Walks Road
DORCHESTER DT1 1UZ

Gillingham Town Council

Transport Report to Full Council

Author: Cllr Belinda Ridout

South Western Railway's new timetable started 10th December 2017. Please see below, SWR press release (released Dec 17) and map of the routes showing where the new Class 707 trains and the longer trains are being introduced.

Where new Class 707 trains have been introduced, the existing train stock they have replaced is used to boost capacity elsewhere. As a result of this stock cascade, a number of trains will be lengthened from 8 to 10 carriages with others extended up to 12 carriages. However, it is not thought that the Blackmore Vale Line will benefit much from this. Longer trains on suburban services has been made possible by the platform lengthening works at Waterloo, which Network Rail completed during August 2017.

The BMV CRP (on behalf of the Friends Groups of the six stations) and SERUG (Salisbury to Exeter User Group) continue to lobby the DfT, South Western Trains and Network Rail to improve the rail service in the south west.

Longer trains and extra seats for South Western Railway passengers from this December

- **More new Class 707 trains being introduced from Monday 11 December through until early 2018**
- **New trains will provide much-needed extra capacity on busy peak routes**
- **Existing trains on these routes will reinforce services elsewhere, boosting capacity with an additional 5,000 seats**

South Western Railway passengers will soon benefit from more than 100 additional carriages and extra capacity on some of the busiest routes. This has been made possible by Network Rail's August works to extend platforms and increase capacity at Waterloo.

As part of the roll-out of new Class 707 trains, existing stock will be moved to elsewhere on the network to boost capacity, adding more than 5,000 additional seats for peak journeys by early 2018.

The new Class 707 trains will primarily go on the Waterloo, Windsor, Weybridge and Hounslow routes. The existing trains on these routes will then transfer onto Reading services allowing other trains to transfer to suburban and main line routes to help boost capacity elsewhere.

Morning and evening peak services will benefit from Monday 11 December when the new timetable is introduced. Many trains will be lengthened from eight to ten carriages, with others extended up to twelve carriages. Operation of longer trains on suburban services has been made possible by the platform lengthening works at Waterloo which Network Rail completed during the August partial closure.

Andy Mellors, Managing Director for South Western Railway, said:

“The introduction of new carriages is great news for passengers as they will unlock capacity across other parts of the network. Introducing these trains means we can make use of existing stock in the best possible way and implement real improvements in time for the new timetable this December. Between now and early 2018, passengers will really notice the difference especially during peak hours.”

Becky Lumlock, Route Managing Director for Network Rail, said:

“It’s fantastic to see the benefits of our £800 million upgrade at Waterloo and across the route reaching passengers, with longer trains and more comfortable journeys. And this is just the start. By the end of next year, we will have reopened the former Waterloo International Terminal for domestic use, increasing capacity at the station by 30% at peak times.”

The August works saw 1,000 Network Rail engineers and track-side staff working over three and half weeks to prepare for longer trains, making significant changes to platforms, signalling and tracks in one of the biggest and most complex engineering projects in Waterloo station’s history.

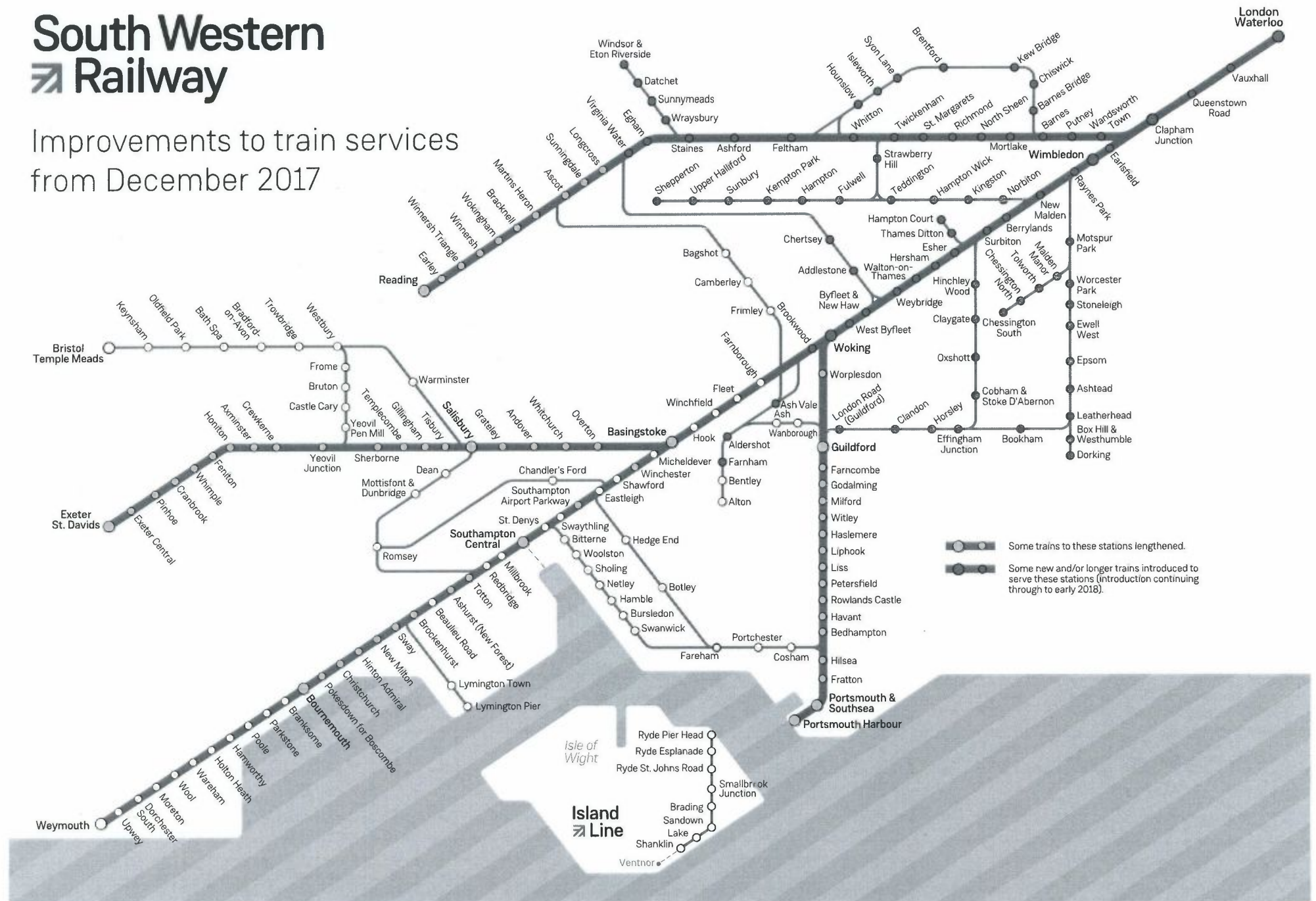
Download the new December 2017 timetables:

<https://www.southwesternrailway.com/plan-my-journey/timetables>

Attach. SWR revised service map December 2017

South Western Railway

Improvements to train services
from December 2017



Gillingham Town Council

**Blackmore Vale Community Rail Transport Report to Full Council
(The Six stations from Tisbury to Crewkerne)**

Author: Cllr Belinda Ridout

Items of interest from BMV CRP Board meeting held on 18th January 2018:

- **DfT Community Rail Consultation**

The Department for Transport (DfT) has launched a public consultation on engaging communities further in local railways and stations, further developing the potential of community rail. The consultation focuses on four themes – connecting people to places and opportunities; supporting communities, diversity and inclusion; supporting local and regional economies; and suggesting innovative ways to improve the way the railway works. DfT are looking to engage as many people as possible in during this consultation period, which ends **28th January 2018**. The link on the DfT's website:
www.gov.uk/government/consultations/future-of-community-rail-strategy

- **Funding for Wild Flowers**

Kew Grow Wild has launched their new community project funding for 2018. Awarding funding of £2,000 or £4,000 to community groups (ideally those that are hard to reach) that want to bring people together through activities that connect their community and celebrate UK native wild flowers, plants and/or fungi. Download application guidance form at:
www.growwilduk.com/content/community-project-funding-2018.

- **BMV Community Rail Partnership Christmas Campaign.**

Richard Kempton, Community Rail Manager, South West Trains, allocated each 'Friends Group' £100 for Christmas decorations and Blackmore Vale CRP sponsored a trophy for the station with the most public votes. Judges were Louise Burks, Director of the Gardens Group; Paul Brighten, retired Area Manager for South West Trains; and Stations Manager, Glen Hatherley.

Judge' Discretionary Awards of Recognition

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Best Christmas Feature | Winner: ROCKET CAFÉ, YEOVIL JUNCTION |
| Best Festive Scene | Winner: YEOVIL RAILWAY CENTRE |

Judges' Awards for 'Decoration Station' Competition

| | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Most Creative Use of a Christmas Star/s | Winner: SHERBORNE STATION |
| Classiest Christmas Tree | Winner: GILLINGHAM STATION |
| Coolest Santa | Winner: TEMPLECOMBE STATION |
| Most Impressive Wreath or Garland | Winner: TISBURY STATION |
| Most Imaginative use of Christmas Lights | Winner: YEOVIL JUNCTION |
| Finest Hand-crafted Christmas Decoration | Winner: CREWKERNE STATION |
| Most Festive Booking Hall | Winner: SHERBORNE STATION |

Winner of the Blackmore Vale Line Community Rail Partnership Trophy for

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| The station with the most public votes | Winner: TEMPLECOMBE |
|--|---------------------|

Work planned for the next quarter includes:

- Updating and publishing **Line Action Plan**.
- Assisting with **Passenger Surveys** if decide to go ahead.
- **Training:** Meeting planned with Dorset Volunteer Centre to explore capacity to offer DRB checks to volunteers, possibly other certificates such as food hygiene.

Promotions and publicity for BVCRP:

- **Newsletter:** next newsletter for winter/spring 2018 will be available online and at various stations during February.
- **Information Leaflet and new Station information leaflet:** To reprint the original BVCRP information leaflet as well as a new leaflet 'Stations & How to get involved,' containing station information and details of the Friends groups. Leaflet distribution up and down the line at Exeter, Salisbury, Basingstoke/Woking, Clapham Junction, Salisbury, Basingstoke/Woking and Waterloo.
- **Spring Photographic Competition 1st April - 31st May 2018:** To raise awareness of the BMVCRP and the stations/towns and villages it covers.

Locations:

Templecombe, Sherborne, Crewkerne, Tisbury, Gillingham and Yeovil Junction

Categories:

- **Stations:** Booking hall, gardens, trains, planters, sculptures.
- **Nature:** Flora, fauna, sunset, water, trees and landscapes in their natural state.
- **Architecture:** Buildings, bridges, interiors, industrial, historic, churches, monuments and townscapes.
- **Commercial:** Shops, pubs, restaurants, businesses and tourist attractions.
- **'Constables Challenge'** – Gillingham - Capture a photogenic image of Constable's Bridge. Gillingham (Dorset) is home to the famous bridge painted by the renowned artist John Constable in 1823. Nearly 200 years later the townscape has changed concealing most of the bridge from view. Many people do not even know it is there! Can you capture a photogenic image of this historic structure?
- **Entry guidelines** to follow. Winning photographs to be used for a BVCRP 2018 Calendar.

Minute no. 472

Gillingham Town Council

Precept FY 2018/19

Author: Mrs Sylvia Dobie, Town Clerk/RFO

Members agreed in principle to set the Precept 2018/19 totalling £811,488.53 subject to the band D figure awaited from the district council and the pending national pay awards have been confirmed.

The NDDC Band D equivalent is 3% (4105.70) therefore this does not change the estimated total precept figure. The NALC pay awards will not be confirmed within the next three months, therefore, I believe it to be prudent to leave the 2% pay award in situ.

Due to the work now being carried out on the Gillingham War Memorial I believe some funding should be earmarked for on-going future maintenance work. Propose £2,000.

There is new legislation for GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) coming in force on the 18th May 2018. Gillingham Town Council will need to make sure they comply and I attach a check list for member's information. Due to this new legislation, I would suggest a further £5,000 should be earmarked for this work.

If the above is agreed the precept total will be £818,488.53 - 7.05% Band D - £1.05 increase.

The Estimate of Expenditure for FY 2018-2019 for a Band D equivalent is £ **4105.70**

| SECT: | TITLE: | Precept 2017/18 (£): | Sum Agreed 2018/19(£): | Annual increase or decrease on Band D |
|-------|------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| B | 137 Expenditure | 51550.00 | 37955.00 | |
| C | Running Cost | 102760.00 | 113220.00 | |
| D | Utility & Contract Cost | 54880.00 | 53450.00 | |
| | Wages & Salaries | 414588.00 | 443401.00 | |
| E | Unsolicited Cost | 17296.00 | 18750.00 | |
| | Contractors | 22420.00 | 24197.40 | |
| F | Major Projects | 131100.00 | 153300.00 | |
| N/A | Estimated Expenditure | 794594.00 | 844273.40 | |
| | | | | |
| A | Income Offset | 39999.87 | 35784.87 | |
| | Contingencies held in GR | 10000.00 | 10000.00 | |
| N/A | Precept Amount | 764594.13 | 818488.53 | |
| | | | | |
| N/A | Cost to Band D | 186.73 | 199.35 | |
| | Actual cost per month Band D | 15.56 | 16.61 | 1.05 |
| N/A | % increase On Precept | 17.88 | 7.05 | |

The Estimate of Expenditure for FY 2018-2019 for a Band D equivalent is £199.35 **4105.70**

Minute no. 473

Gillingham Town Council

Mayor's Report

13th December 2017 – 15th January 2018

| Date | Event | Comments |
|----------------------|---|--|
| 15 th Dec | Carol Singing at Milton on Stour | A perfect evening spent with the villagers of Milton on Stour in the garden of the Old House, where trees were lit up, flambeaux and hot mince pies and mulled wine helped us to joyfully sing traditional Christmas carols, led by the Revd. Peter Greenwood and Revd.Eve Pegler |
| 16 th Dec | Hipp!!Bones | Visited Hipp!!Bones with boxes of sweets to thank them for the beautiful Christmas decorations for the oak tree and their entries for the Mayor's Christmas Card competition. |
| 16 th Dec | MS Coffee morning | Attending this to draw the <i>many</i> raffle tickets, picking out a few of my own! (but only took one prize!). |
| 16 th Dec | Open afternoon at St Simon & St Jude's, Milton on Stour followed by Carol Service | The church looked outstanding and packed to the brim. The first time I have sat in a service with a cup of mulled wine in my hand! A lovely service with 'action' singing – just up my street! |
| 17 th Dec | Gillingham Civic Carol Service | The big day. Collecting all the school's lanterns from the Town Hall and helping to set up in the church am, ready to greet people by 1.30pm and they were already starting to arrive and arrive and arrive. A church full to bursting amongst magical Christmas trees, flickering lanterns, beautiful singing by Gillingham Primary School Choir, Gillingham Arts Workshop and the church choir and readers from the community. Very emotional service for me. It all went too quickly. |
| 19 th Dec | Carols on the Town Meadow | Unfortunately I didn't make this event and hope it went well. It was the evening David came out of hospital. |
| 21 st Dec | Shaftesbury Hospital Christingle Service | An event which is now part of our lead up to Christmas. Accompanied by Wendy, Carol singing around the wards after a brief service in the little chapel. Such a beautiful thing to be able to do for those stuck in hospital over Christmas. And we got to eat the sweets on our Christingle! |
| 22 nd Dec | Gillingham Arts Workshop at the Library | A delightful late afternoon performance by members of the Gillingham Arts Workshop, with poems, stories, mummies play and carol singing. For all the work that goes into this, a few more in the audience would have been good. Something to look out for next year. |
| 25 th Dec | Community Christmas Day lunch at the Methodist Hall | Overwhelming! That's how I describe the experience. At that point it really did feel a lot like Christmas. Just fantastic being with the community on such a special day and found myself trying to conduct the singing at one point just to get everyone in the spirit of things! Very many thanks to all the volunteers, they are a great bunch of people to give up their time for everyone else. |
| 29 th Dec | Gerald and Joan Hunt's Diamond wedding anniversary. | Visited Gerald and Joan Hunt on the occasion of their Diamond Wedding Anniversary with bouquet of flowers and card from the TC. They were really surprised, especially when the press turned up just 5 minutes after I arrived. It was a real pleasure to be able to do this for such a wonderful Gillingham couple, both with local roots. |

District Councillor's Report – Cllr Mike Gould

I attended the North Dorset, West Dorset and Weymouth and Portland retail needs assessment workshop held on the 9 January 2018 run by their consultants Carter Jonas.

The presentation was overseen by Jill Haynes, who is the Deputy Leader of Dorset County Council and Helen Coombes, who is the Transformation Programme Lead for Adult and Community Services.

The presentation gave an overview of adult service care for Dorset and discussing the issues of Social Services and trying to create outcomes as follows:

- Delivering good health and care
- Promoting independence
- Enhancing wellbeing for local communities.

It is anticipated the final report will be published at the end of the month and I will seek to circulate a link to it when published.

Cllr Von Clemens was also in attendance.

Following the above presentation, I met with Cllr Von Clemens, Brie Logan (Business Manager, Shaftesbury Town Council), Ian Day (Gillingham Neighbourhood Plan Group) and Councillor Peter Williams (County Councillor for Bourton and Motcombe). We discussed collaboration between Gillingham and Shaftesbury and how to work towards future business and tourism development in the area.

I will keep members informed as this project develops.

District Councillor's report - Cllr Belinda Ridout

Owing to personal circumstances I did not attend any meetings or briefing sessions prior to or after Christmas (apart from a NDDC planning site visit, Stalbridge) but I attach a summarized update on LGR, taken from updates/ press releases circulated to members of NDDC.

Update on the Local Government Re-organisation programme

The Local Government Re-organisation programme (LGR) is moving at pace following the formation of the Joint Committee for the Dorset Area, involving all six constituent councils. This is a brief update on the work of the Joint Committee to date and the various procedures to be completed with the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and Parliament to create the new organisation in April 2019, subject to the final announcement of the Secretary of State in the New Year.

The Secretary of State made his 'minded to' announcement on 7 November 2017 and we are now in a period of consultation, which ends on 8 January 2018. At the end of this period the Secretary of State is expected to make one of three announcements, having paid due regard to all the representations he has received:

- To make a final decision to implement the proposed change (i.e. option 2b)
- To make a final decision to implement change subject to a modification¹
- Not to proceed with implementation

The final announcement is expected by early/mid-February 2018. If it is positive, DCLG will seek to lay a draft Structural Change Order (SCO) before Parliament as soon as possible, with a view to it becoming law by early June 2018.

At the end of February, DCLG will seek the formal consent of the Councils to lay the draft Order before Parliament. Once consent is granted, DCLG then register the draft order and lay it before Parliament. In order to meet subsequent deadlines, this must happen before Parliament goes into Easter recess (29 March - 16 April).

The process from laying the Order to it being agreed takes approximately six weeks. Once the draft SCO is registered, it is formally considered by two scrutiny committees - first on the legality of the Order and then the Secondary Legislation Scrutiny Committee, which draws it to the attention of the House of Lords. Following the scrutiny process, it will be considered by both Houses, Commons and Lords, through both debates and motions. DCLG hope the Order will be approved by both Houses by 30 May 2018. The Minister then signs the Order and it comes into effect the next day (or on a date specified).

The process of making affirmative Statutory Instruments is always complex, and critically for Dorset, the time available in which to complete it has been significantly reduced. Dorset's Parliamentary Order will be competing for limited Parliamentary time with major national priorities, including Brexit, so we cannot miss any deadlines that DCLG identify.

Update on the work of the Joint Committee

The Joint Committee has had three formal meetings and settled into a pattern of four weekly meeting cycle, with Task & Finish Groups being created to give political oversight and input into the multiple work streams being formed:

- **Service Disaggregation** – (mainly County Council)
- **Council Tax Harmonisation**
- **Electoral Boundary Review**
- **Member Engagement**
- **Area Based Decision Making**

The papers and minutes of the Joint committee can be found at:
www.dorsetareacouncils.wordpress.com

Update on Representations made

On 11 and 12 December, East Dorset District Councils and Purbeck District Councils met to consider their councils position following the announcement by the Secretary of State on the 8 November 2017. East Dorset District Council voted on the recommendation that “in recognition of the Secretary of State’s Minded to decision for local government re-organisation in Dorset in accordance with option 2b, that the Council now accepts his decision and works towards getting the best deal for the residents of East Dorset”.

Purbeck DC voted and agreed on the recommendation ‘that the Council agrees to withdraw its opposition to the reorganisation of local government in Dorset’. Both councils will now write to the Secretary of State to update him on their positions.

On 14 December Christchurch Borough Council concluded its local poll of residents. The question posed was ‘Do you support the proposal for a single Council covering Christchurch, Bournemouth and Poole’? The turnout was 53.65%. The outcome of the vote was 15.8% yes, 84.18% no. Christchurch Borough Council met on the 2 January to discuss the outcome of the poll and agreed their representation to Secretary of State, setting out an alternative to the Future Dorset proposal. Christchurch Borough Council will now write to the Secretary of State setting out a proposal that the Boroughs of Bournemouth and Poole become a single unitary authority and that the rest of Dorset remains as a two-tier structure.

In addition, organisations that were contacted as part of the initial consultation have been contacted to ask if they will consider making representations to the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State considers both positive and negative representations and officials have stressed the importance of councils making formal representations which reiterate their commitment to the proposal.

As re-affirmation of NDDC’s commitment to the proposal , a letter from Cllr Graham Carr-Jones, Leader of NDDC to Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, dated 5th January, 2018.

Dear Mr Javid

Local Government Re-organisation in Dorset

I am writing to you as Leader of North Dorset District Council, one of the eight local authorities in Dorset that are pursuing Local Government Re-organisation (LGR) following your announcement on 7 November that you are minded to approve the Future Dorset submission. You will be aware that the councils have been working together on LGR since the autumn of 2015, and six of the nine local authorities agreed in January 2017 to submit a proposal, called Future Dorset, to yourself. The other three councils have now also agreed to join Joint Committees created in Dorset, which is a positive step, and more recently East Dorset District Councils and Purbeck District Council have given support and removed their objection, respectfully, to the creation of two unitary authorities.

We submitted this proposal as a way to develop sustainable local government services in the face of tremendous budget pressures. These pressures have not diminished and my council, despite being part of the Dorset Councils Partnership (three sovereign councils uniquely served by a single Chief Executive and officer team), is under extreme financial pressure with very limited room for any further cost reductions, short of us stopping carrying out statutory functions. This year alone we have had to remove a further £1m from our cost base (net council budget of £5 million). Our council tax is so low that even raising it by the £5 allowed for only generates an additional £130,000 per annum. We have served our residents well and have worked to devolve services down to our towns and parishes. Our decision as local members to unanimously support this proposal (cross party) for LGR was not an easy one – but now we have committed to this we want to get on with it!

We need the certainty of knowing what we are doing at the earliest opportunity. Working in business as you did, you will understand the need for certainty within which to plan and run services, set budgets and ensure we can deliver sustainable services into the future. This proposal offers an opportunity to do just that. I note that the Prime Minister herself said, in a response to a question in Prime Ministers Question time that, "Of course DCLG will be looking at the issue very closely, to ensure the best result is there for the people of Dorset." I and my council, across the political parties agree this is the best result for all the people of Dorset.

The council is very much still committed to delivering the new organisation as set out within the submission. We believe that this will allow us to deliver sustainable public services into the future. If we are not able to take the bid forward the future for North Dorset District Council services is a bleak one. With previous changes to New Homes Bonus scheme, the removal of RSG and the potential impact of Tariff Adjustments there is really is little more we can do. To set this in context we have already achieved much, reducing costs through partnership working, agreeing to sell our council offices and devolving many services to our town and parish councils. Locally in North Dorset 78% of the population supported the case for change (* Source - ORS statistically valid Household Survey, not a parish poll undertaken with negative and misplaced campaigning by the smallest council in Dorset). As a council we considered all the evidence given to us and used our democratically accountable right and voted unanimously for change as set out in the submission. We have not just thought about the here and now, but what is best for the broadest spectrum of public service delivery and transformation for the next decade and beyond.*

I would very much appreciate your support in helping us to deliver the will of the majority of people in Dorset with a final, positive announcement, at the very earliest opportunity. I look forward to hearing from you.

*Yours sincerely
Cllr Graham Carr-Jones
Leader – North Dorset District Council*