



Latest updates from Dorset Council



Facebook LIVE Q&A – our budget explained

Thursday 8 February – 6pm

Have you got a question about the council budget that you would like to ask councillors? Come and ask it during our next Facebook LIVE Q&A on Thursday 8 February at 6pm.

The panel for the Q&A is:

- Cllr Spencer Flower, Leader of Dorset Council
- Cllr Gary Suttle, Portfolio holder for Finance, Commercial and Capital Strategy
- Cllr Laura Beddow, Portfolio holder for Culture, Communities and Customer Services

- Aidan Dunn, Executive Director for Corporate Development

Grab a cuppa and join our panel as we talk all things council budget, from our sofa to yours.

If you want to submit your questions in advance of the session please send them to comms@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk. Post any questions you have about council budget on the night in the comments of our live stream on Facebook.

If you can't join us live, you can watch it back on YouTube.

[Watch it live](#)



Round 4 of the Household Support Fund is set to reopen

Round 4 of the Household Support Fund (HSF) will reopen for applications at 10am on Tuesday 6 February 2024 for low-income households in the Dorset Council area.

The support will be in the form of supermarket vouchers. Citizens Advice will be allocating this fund on behalf of us and vouchers will be issued to residents who meet the eligibility criteria within 6 to 8 weeks.

Residents should apply online and the application form will open at 10am.

[Find out more](#)



Bibby Stockholm update from the Multi Agency Forum

This is a joint update from the subgroups that feed into the Multi Agency Forum (MAF), which supports operational planning of the Bibby Stockholm barge in Portland.

You can read the update below.

[Read update](#)



Dorset Council launches supportive school attendance campaign

To assist families facing challenges getting their children to school, Dorset Council has launched the "In This Together" school attendance campaign.

The campaign aims to provide support and guidance to those needing help by ensuring their children attend school regularly.

Amid national concerns about school attendance, worsened by the pandemic, both locally and nationally, there has been a significant drop in young people going to school over the past few years.

[Find out more](#)



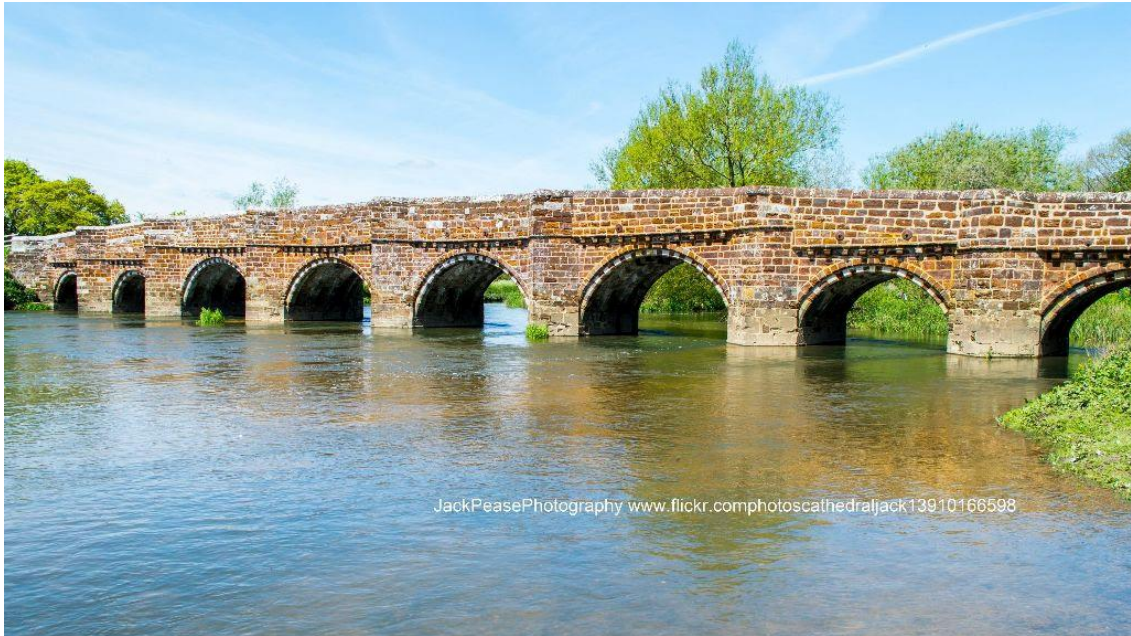
Dorset Council prepares to sell old District Council office site and buildings

Dorset Council has instructed its agents to begin marketing the vacant buildings and site of the old East Dorset District Council offices in Furzehill, Wimborne.

Following Cabinet's approval of the Council's capital programme in March 2023, Furzehill was identified as a priority to sell to generate capital receipts.

The Furzehill site consists of 2.73 hectares (6.76 acres) which was allocated for residential development and other alternative uses in the Christchurch and East Dorset Local Plan back in 2014.

[Find out more](#)



Community a step closer to adopting neighbourhood plan

A local community has taken a significant step closer to having greater influence over planning decisions in their area.

Sturminster Marshall parish council has submitted a new neighbourhood plan for independent examination.

The plan has been drawn up by residents, and agreed by the parish council, who feel confident that the plan reflects the hopes and views of the local community.

[Find out more](#)

More news:

- Cabinet approves next steps in Levelling Up journey for Weymouth

