



Latest updates from Dorset Council



Facebook live on the council's budget

Thank you to everyone who joined us last night for our Q&A about our 2024/2025 budget proposals. Our panel discussed a wide range of topics from council tax support to how we set the budget. If you missed it, you can catch up on YouTube.

[Watch the recording](#)

**Are you struggling with housing costs
or worried about losing your home?**

Call us now for free, confidential
and non-judgemental advice on
01305 221000



New Partnership Launched to Help Residents who Fear Losing their Home

We've joined forces with national charities Shelter and Citizens Advice for the first time to prevent homelessness in the county.

Experts can help with many areas of housing, such as giving legal and debt advice, help finding a new home due to eviction and in some circumstances facilitate financial assistance to enable residents to remain in their accommodation.

The collaboration was formed to make it easier for people to access help if they have concerns or worries about losing their home, by having only one point of contact to get help.

[Find out more](#)



Dorset marks second year of Ukrainian invasion

Voluntary and community sector organisations gathered in Dorchester earlier this week to mark the second anniversary of the Russian invasion and show their support for Ukrainian refugees living in Dorset.

Since the start of the full-scale invasion of Ukraine almost 2 years ago, (24 Feb 2022) Dorset has welcomed more than 1,000 Ukrainian refugees.

The event gave an opportunity to reflect on support and challenges for Ukrainians living in Dorset and reaffirm that Dorset continues to stand with Ukraine.

There is still a need for more hosts and landlords who have spare rooms or properties to support Ukrainians.

If you feel able to offer a room, annex or property, please contact Dorset Council's Ukraine Response Team on 01305 221000.

[Find out more](#)



Interested in working for us at elections in May? We're recruiting!

On 2 May Dorset residents will go to the polls to elect 82 councillors for Dorset Council as well as over 150 Town and Parish councillors.

The Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner election will also take place on the same day.

Each year we employ hundreds of staff at election time to make sure that the process is run smoothly, in an open and transparent way.

We still have a number of roles available and would love to hear from you if you're interested in working with us, particularly if you have previous experience working in a polling station.

[Find out more](#)



Dorset's volunteer digital champions help record number of people

Our volunteer digital champions service had its busiest year in 2023 with more than 2,000 face-to-face appointments.

The volunteer scheme, which also celebrated its 10th anniversary last year, held 2,063 appointments and saw more than 1,800 people.

Dorset Council has 45 volunteers based at libraries, community centres, GP surgeries and even at a café in Wareham.

[Find out more](#)



Investment in new gritting vehicles keeps Dorset moving

During this winter's freezing conditions, our gritting crews have been making full use of their new vehicles.

We invested £3.5 million in 25 new gritting vehicles. Ten are being used now, and 15 more are on order for delivery before next winter.

Some of the old vehicles were over 10 years old and were becoming unreliable and incurring expensive maintenance costs. The new vehicles are the cleanest and most efficient diesel heavy goods vehicles available in the UK, meeting Euro 6 requirements to reduce exhaust emissions.

[Find out more](#)



Dorset Council named as best Unitary Council in the country for recycling

DEFRA has confirmed that Dorset Council is the Number 1 Unitary Council in the country for recycling. We recycle 59.1% of the waste we collect, against a 43.4% national average.

They have just published the annual recycling figures for 2022/23, which confirms Dorset Council as the number one unitary and disposal authority in the country for the first time ever.

Those ahead of us are collection only councils (i.e. the figures are based on the kerbside service only, and do not include household recycling centres) which is why it's important to note the "unitary" aspect.

Thank you for helping us to achieve this!

[Find out more](#)



Making life better for Carers, how a Carers ID card can help

Dorset's Carers, often relatives or friends of the cared for person, who provide care, are being encouraged to apply for a Carer Friendly ID card to access support and discounts to make life a little easier.

By registering, which takes just minutes, Carers, can show the card when they

are out and about in their local community.

By presenting the card in shops, libraries, leisure centres, cafes and any other establishments displaying the Carer Friendly logo, the Carer knows they are stepping into a Carer friendly space.

[Find out more](#)



Dorset Youth Parliament member speaks out on school uniform

Stanley Bowden, a member of Youth Parliament and student at Colfox School in Bridport, is on a mission to make uniform in Dorset more accessible, practical, and affordable.

Stanley, who has been campaigning on school uniform for two years, is calling for schools to be more accommodating and ease the financial pressure on families during the cost-of-living crisis.

He said: "I think schools could use cheaper brands for uniforms and set up places where students can swap their old uniforms."

"I'd also like students to have more personal autonomy with their uniform and

use it to express themselves.”

"My school has made some really positive changes to its uniform policy and my fellow students now have more freedom in what they wear."

[Find out more](#)

