

Report to Verwood Town Council Wednesday 23/11/2011

1. Proposed Dorset waste collection service

Over the coming week's District Councils will each consider proposals to improve waste and recycling services across the Dorset County.

Each District will decide how it wishes to fit in with this proposed Dorset County wide Service, thus retaining its sovereignty. East Dorset will decide its policy and strategy on 28th November next.

The Dorset Waste Partnership (DWP), which is made up of the 4 District, 2 Borough and the County Council, is proposing a new collection service and disposal is introduced to replace the 12 different collections currently operating within Dorset (excluding Bournemouth and Poole). This standardised service would boost recycling, reduce service costs and help protect our environment.

Bringing collections together into a county-wide service could drive down costs, potentially by as much as £2m per year. This would improve existing services, achieve over 60 per cent recycling of household waste by 2015/16 and free up resources to spend on other public services.

The proposed new Dorset scheme will improve the service for all residents; it is flexible, easily adaptable for all households and will cope with any future changes imposed on us by legislation. With food waste collected weekly, a greater choice of recyclable materials, and a chargeable garden waste scheme for those wanting it, we should have far less residual waste going to landfill. This is great news for Dorset.

The proposed Dorset service will be put to each partner council to decide whether to adopt this service in their area. If all councils support it residents will receive:

- A seven-litre food waste kitchen caddy
- A lockable food waste container to be kept outside - collected weekly
- A 140-litre wheeled bin for refuse - collected fortnightly
- A 240-litre wheeled bin for recycling - collected fortnightly
- Glass will be collected separately in a 55 litre recycling box - collected fortnightly with the 240-litre wheeled bin recycling
- An optional chargeable garden waste service

This will be the standard service but the partnership would try to find alternatives for households which could not accommodate containers.

The new service, if approved, would be rolled out in phases, starting in June 2012 and finishing in summer 2014. If residents subscribe to the garden waste service, they will receive a 240-litre wheeled bin or a reusable bag if their property can't accommodate a bin collected fortnightly.

The Partnership has invested considerable time modelling different recycling options to find the most cost-effective and efficient for Dorset taxpayers.

2. Local Development Framework Core Strategy – the next step

January 2011 saw the conclusion of an extended period of voluntary public consultation on the early options for the future of East Dorset District until 2027.

Consulting with the public at this stage fits in with the Localism Agenda and was well received by local communities. There were 3,000 submissions and this level of public interest shows that the District Council's decision to carry out this additional period of consultation was the right thing to do. The community had been given a real chance to shape the future of the district.

The Core Strategy is a key part of the Local Development Framework (LDF), which is the new Local Plan. The Council is obliged to prepare an LDF for the period until 2027 and not to do so would make the district vulnerable to development by appeal. Having a Local Plan is essential as it enables local communities to have control over future development in their areas and was confirmed as a requirement by the government in July 2010.

The next stage of Statutory Public Consultation will commence in March 2012 for a period of 12 weeks.

There will be a Special EDDC Policy and Resources Committee meeting to deal with this single item. The meeting will take place on Wednesday 1 February, 2012 at the Barrington Theatre in Ferndown, starting at 6pm. This will be a meeting of the Committee in public, ***not a public meeting***. However, members of the public will be given an opportunity to address the Committee regarding the content of the consultation document. Full details of the arrangements will be published in good time ahead of the meeting.

The LDF has been prepared jointly with Christchurch Borough Council, because many aspects of the local plan [Core Strategy] are common to both Councils. CBC will also be considering their consultation document ahead of

an Extraordinary Joint Council meeting which is planned to take place on Monday 5 March at the Village Hotel Bournemouth, commencing at 6pm. Here, EDDC's Full Council will consider the recommendation forwarded by its Policy and Resources Committee.

There will be no public speaking allowed at this meeting, due to speaking being allowed at the Special Policy and Resources Committee.

Members will be asked to approve the consultation documentation as being sound and suitable for Statutory Public Consultation. They will not be voting on the individual merits of the proposals contained in the document. This will come at later date prior to submission to the Planning Inspectorate for consideration, which is scheduled to be in December 2012.

3. *The following item is about Government information and included as this may have not yet fully filtered through FYI.*

Localism Bill Receives Royal Assent

The Localism Bill received Royal Assent earlier a week ago. Below are two links to the DCLG website:

i) The below link will take you to a PDF of the Localism Act
<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/localgovernment/pdf/1896534.pdf>

ii) The link below will take you to that part of the DCLG website where you can view the plain English version and other fuller documents.
<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/localismplainenglishupdate>

Rural services 'worst hit by cuts'

By Ruralcity Media Thursday, 17 November

REDUCTIONS in local government budgets will leave many rural residents disadvantaged. This finding is contained in the second annual report into the state of rural public services by the Rural Services Network, representing 93 rural councils and other public service providers. This network has been campaigning for the government to reduce the gap in local authority funding for those who live in the countryside in comparison to cities.

Rural residents are bearing much of the impact of the government's austerity measures.

It highlights the impact of a 12% cut in the central government grant to local government on the frequency, management and range of services provided by local authorities in rural areas.