

Ward Councillors Report September 2026

Best Start Local Plan

The launching of this plan brings together partners from health, education, Best Start Family Hubs, early years settings and the voluntary sector to give a shared commitment to give every child the best start in life and reduce inequalities.

Homelessness prevention

Homelessness prevention continues to exceed the national average, work in identifying households at risk will help with the prevention work as well. DC has secured £1.1m in government funding to assist local efforts.

Devolution (Wessex)

Discussion continues on devolution and local government reform across Wessex, with the new prime minister there is renewed interest in how this will be approached. DC leadership has been working closely with leaders from across the region to ensure that Dorset is well placed to have an influence.

Community Flood Plans

DC Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Mgmt are looking into the flooding caused in parishes during last winter including Storm Chandra. Doing a Community Flood Review will help them to better understand the causes, impacts and measures to reduce these in the future. They would like to arrange meeting with PC councillors, CHO, and me to share experiences, raise concerns and local knowledge. Please contact Andrew Proberts to arrange a date if you are interested.

New Political Map for Dorset

A review of the number of councillors, wards and ward names for Dorset Council by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (an independent organisation)

Draft recommendations can be found via the link below.

[Dorset | LGBCE](#)

Community Conversations

English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill sets out a requirement for Unitary Councils to establish neighbourhood governance so that decision making is closer to residents and made by people who best know their local needs.

A programme of planned conversations with community clusters, Litton Cheney is clustered with Burton Bradstock, Puncknowle, Swyre & West Bexington, Shipton Gorge, Long Bredy, Bridport and Lyme Regis. Cluster members will include parish and town councils, voluntary and community Sectors, health and other partners operating in the area. The conversations will inform the council on how it can work differently to achieve better outcomes for residents.

The first meeting will be organised in the next month.

