



1 May 2018

**Dorset Association of Parish & Town Councils**  
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## EXTRAORDINARY CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S CIRCULAR

### **DAPTC LGR survey – please give your Council's views**

The Chairmen of the DAPTC Area Committees have written to all Chairmen and Clerks of the DAPTC member councils with a simple survey.

If you have unaware of these letters, please contact your Clerk for a copy.

The DAPTC Executive Committee is aware that LGR is causing concern for some of our members, particularly about future service delivery.

Given the very limited time available to create the new unitary authorities, it is almost certain that the devolution of services (possibly together with assets) to parish and town councils will not occur by April 2019. The priority for establishing a new authority will be to make sure it is legally constituted and able to deliver safely its statutory responsibilities such as education and social care from day one.

As a new authority it will have new ways of operating and it will need, over its first couple of years existence, to decide how its discretionary services could be delivered and who by. It will also need to consider some form of local decision making given the large and diverse area it will cover. What is certain is that parish and town councils will still exist as the tier of local government closest to communities.

DAPTC believe it is important for its members that the association be involved at an early stage in the design of how and by who, services should be delivered and of the structure of local decision making. The DAPTC Executive Committee are working towards a vision of what town and parish councils would like to see in these areas under a unitary authority.

The Area Chairmen's letters, which were emailed yesterday, are asking for each council to respond to two questions on LGR:

- (a) What services you feel should realistically be retained – no need to identify who would provide and pay for them**
- (b) How your council would like to see local decision making operate, including communications.**

A form for each question has been issued with the letters. Please could the forms be completed on behalf of each council and sent to the DAPTC office, preferably by 20 May, in time for the DAPTC Executive Committee on 2 June. If that is not possible, then as soon as you are able would be appreciated.

The Area Chairmen will report on the responses to the DAPTC area committee meetings following the Executive Committee. **Please ensure that your council has appointed up to two representatives to attend.**

**Hilary Trevorah  
1 May 2018**