

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT TO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**22 September 2022**

• **DORSET UNITARY COUNCIL UPDATE**

**Dorset Council Working Together Charter.** This piece of work is now progressing and gaining some momentum. The Executive Committee will receive an updated document and timeline by way of an update and the onboarding of clerks will now take place on 19 October 2022, the new date for their conference.

The draft discussion document that I shared with the Executive Committee has now marginally changed having had a review by Dorset Council senior leadership colleagues. Today I have included in the e-news edition an explanation as to why the discussion document has been produced with a caution that it's not the actual charter and is merely to aid and inform readers.

There are a few things that need to progress and gather feedback:

- ❖ The overall timeline to an adopted charter
- ❖ A clear view of the governance sign off from both DAPTC members and Dorset Council
- ❖ How all parties performance/adherence to the headline agreement will be reviewed post adoption

The final point, 2024 is an election year in Dorset and I suspect that any charter will need to be concluded by the end of 2023 to stand any chance of going live. As such, we will need to sense check progress and take what opportunities present themselves during 2023.

• **TRAINING**

[Certificate in Local Council Administration](#) (CiLCA). Following your support at the last Executive Committee I am pleased to say we have had strong support for the first cohort starting on 16 November 2022 with Jules Owen FSLCC (FdG) whom will lead the support from DAPTC. We look to have about 10 officers for the first cohort and we have even got an applicant for cohort 2!

[Events & Engagement](#)

I am pleased to confirm that we have booked our first face to face event for **14<sup>th</sup> September 2022**. This is a Clerks' Conference and we have a draft structure for the day and guest list already in place. This event is for Dorset Council area clerks as the content is heavily geared towards content for that unitary. We have also set up a tiered pricing structure to reflect our smaller parishes membership to make it more affordable, simply with the aim of getting as many attending as possible.

**Councillors' Event / Conference** – a date has been held with Kingston Maurward for Thursday 9 March 2023 and once we have concluded the Clerks' event we will start to pull together draft content and more detailed plans. We will be sharing the date with key stakeholders too so that we can have a busy agenda and thought provoking content.

[Civility & Respect / Standards in Public Life](#)

NALC and SLCC are progressing their work on standards which includes the provision of new training courses and other resources. The focus is very much around prevention and therefore, encouraging elected members to become trained in key topic areas.

Also launched is the Civility & Respect Pledge which will be communicated at the Clerks' Conference and shared amongst members in the coming weeks – some members are already on to it! You can find more on our dedicated page [here](#).

- **OPERATION LONDON BRIDGE**

This plan for much of its life was broadly unknown and quite secretive for obvious reasons. The death of HM Queen Elizabeth, despite her age, took us all by surprise, although clearly as soon as the news broke around lunchtime the commentary implied the plan would be invoked.

DAPTC formed part of the cascade plan for Dorset Council and the Lieutenancy and quite a bit of time was allocated to dealing with enquiries, offering reassurance and interpreting the requirements of a plan that changed on Friday 11 September. The notable changes resulting from the location of death and the confirmation of D-Day in the plan, which we all assumed was 10 September and it changed to the day after.

The additional challenge of having to postpone meetings where the clear days notice clashed with the period of mourning; made for additional work the clerks could have done without. Checking social media during the last week it is clear that our clerks and elected members have done Dorset and their communities proud with an array of activities, events and processes to allow everyone to remember HM Queen Elizabeth.

The last week has been very hectic from our point of view with quite a bit of out of hours support, running alongside re-organising an 80 strong event for clerks without incurring any significant cancellation costs. We delivered on both counts, but it's not a week we'd like to do again soon!

We will be rounding up feedback about what went well and didn't go well from Operation London Bridge to ensure we make changes for next time. If any of you have any observations you are more than welcome to let us know.

**Neil Wedge, Chief Executive DAPTC – 16 September 2022**

**END of REPORT**