

Our Priorities

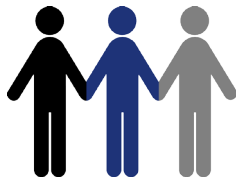
Contribute to a Stronger Local Economy



- Help to stimulate economic growth so that the district offers better jobs and prospects for local people
- Increase the number of new homes built within the district

Empower Thriving and Inclusive Communities

- Build strong, inclusive and sustainable communities that empower local people to influence and provide the services that matter most to them
- Support vulnerable people so that they can live healthy and independent lives



Improve Quality of Life



- Enhance the quality of life of people living and working in the district
- Safeguard and provide opportunities to enjoy the natural and built environment now and in the future

Develop Successful Partnerships

- Create a leaner and more focused organisation to protect the delivery of local services
- Services that are shaped and focused on the needs of our customers
- Partnerships that give the county a stronger voice to influence and shape Dorset's prosperity



Key Facts and Challenges



West Dorset is renowned for the quality of its natural and built environment and this is a key element of the area's identity and prosperity

At 418 square miles West Dorset is the largest of Dorset's districts and the population of around 99,500 is expected to grow by 7% over the next decade. The district is a predominantly rural area supported by small market towns and has a relatively low population density



West Dorset is a popular place to retire and over 28% of residents are aged over 65. Younger people are moving out of the area because of the affordability gap between house prices and wages. The 20-44 age group is significantly under represented compared with the national average

The district falls within the least deprived half of districts in England

Earnings are lower than average and unemployment rates are low compared to the national average. There is a high number of small firms and 10% of those in employment work from home



West Dorset has the highest proportion of employees in knowledge intensive services in Dorset. 31% work in the public sector including 16% who work in the health services. A further 7% currently work in tourism. There is an over reliance on public sector jobs which are susceptible to further cuts

West Dorset has over 44,000 households in the district and this figure is projected to increase by 9% by 2021. The average house price is 7% above the national average



The area has a rich historical environment with around 4,300 listed buildings and 71% is within the Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Most of its spectacular coastline is protected as part of the Dorset and East Devon World Heritage Site

The Council needs to make significant cuts to its budget at a time of increasing demand for some front line services



WEST DORSET DISTRICT COUNCIL CORPORATE PLAN 2016-2019

Contribute to a Stronger Local Economy

	The outcomes we want to achieve
Help to stimulate economic growth so that the district offers better jobs and prospects for local people	Coordinate with Dorset C.C and other partners the key projects which will realise the significant economic growth potential of the Western Growth Corridor and ensure alignment with the Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)
	Secure initiatives that will increase the supply of housing and affordable homes that are built and reduce the number of empty properties
	Improve job prospects for local people by developing access to training so that they have the skills that businesses need to help grow the local economy
	Secure the delivery of the infrastructure that is needed to support people and employers to work in the district
Increase the number of new homes built within the district	Invest and promote plans for sustainable economic growth in the market towns so that they continue to prosper
	Actively promote the area as a tourism and visitor destination and as a desirable place to do business

Empower Thriving and Inclusive Communities

	The outcomes we want to achieve
Build strong inclusive and sustainable communities that empower local people to influence and provide the services that matter most to them	Empower and support communities to deliver services and projects so that they have a say in shaping growth and the quality of life in their neighbourhoods
	Ensure that people who are vulnerable or in hardship are supported, feel safe and more able to live independently
Support vulnerable people so that they can live healthy and independent lives	Promote the district as an area that is inclusive and accessible and supports and engages people of all ages
	Actively promote health choices and lifestyles with our health partners so that people are able to improve their physical and mental health and well-being

Improve Quality of Life

	The outcomes we want to achieve
Enhance the quality of life of people living and working in the borough	Protect and enhance the character and unique qualities of the coastline, countryside, the built heritage and areas of outstanding natural beauty
Safeguard and provide opportunities to enjoy the natural and built environment now and in the future	Engage with the Dorset Waste Partnership and Dorset C.C to ensure that the district is kept clean by delivering an efficient and high performing refuse and recycling and street cleansing service
	Ensure people feel safe in their neighbourhoods by working with the Police and other partners to maintain low levels of crime and anti-social behaviour
	Deliver modern, responsive planning and other frontline services that support growth and promote social health and well-being

Develop Successful Partnerships

	The outcomes we want to achieve
Create a leaner and more focused organisation to protect the delivery of local services	Develop a modern innovative workforce that is motivated and empowered to deliver lean and agile customer focused services
Services that are shaped and focused on the needs of our customers	Improve organisational effectiveness and ensure that the strategic priorities of the partnership are met
Partnerships that give the county a stronger voice to influence and shape Dorset's prosperity	Maximise income through effective asset management and trading activities and realise the significant savings targets that are set out in the Medium Term Financial Plan
	Ensure that our customers have access to the essential services that they need through digital self- service and other channels by making best use of the technology available
	Work with our partners across Dorset to reform and shape the future of local government to ensure that it is sustainable