

Dorchester Town Council

Council Offices, 19 North Square, Dorchester, Dorset. DT1 1JF
Telephone: (01305) 266861

For information about this agenda contact Steve Newman
s.newman@dorchester-tc.gov.uk

18 September 2024

Agenda for the meeting of the **Policy Committee**, which will be held in the **COUNCIL CHAMBER** at **THE MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, HIGH EAST STREET, DORCHESTER** on **MONDAY 23 SEPTEMBER 2024** at **7.00pm**.

Steve Newman
Town Clerk

Public Attendance and Speaking at the Meeting

The Chairman has discretion to allow members of the public to speak at the meeting. If you wish to speak please **contact the Clerk by 9.00am on the morning of the meeting**. We ask speakers to confine their comments to the matter in hand and to be as brief as possible.

Member Code of Conduct: Declaration of Interests

Members are reminded that it is their responsibility to disclose interests where appropriate. A Member who declares any interest must leave the room. A Member who declares a registerable interest as a Council nominee to a partner organisation may first address the meeting as a member of the public.

Membership of the Committee

Councillors R. Biggs (Vice-Chair), S. Biles (Chair), J. Germodo, G. Jones, V. Lloyd-Jones, K. Reid, R. Ricardo, D. Taylor and The Mayor ex-officio.

Agenda

1. Apologies

2. Declaration of Interests

3. Minutes

To read, confirm and sign the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 22 July 2024 (adopted by Council on 29 July 2024). A copy of the Minutes can be found at dorchester-tc.gov.uk/Committees/Policy+Committee/Minutes

4. Financial Update – Page 3

To consider a report by the Responsible Finance Officer (enclosed).

5. Council Asset Register – Page 5

To consider a report by the Responsible Finance Officer (enclosed).

6. Cornhill Improvements Update – Page 6

To consider a report by the Tourism Development Officer (enclosed).

7. Town Centre Working Group Notes – Page 8

To receive the notes of the working group held on 2 September 2024 (enclosed).

8. Council Chamber and Town Hall Refurbishment – Page 10

To consider a report by the Town Clerk (enclosed).

9. Carbon Reduction Works - North Square – Page 13

To consider a report by the Town Clerk (enclosed).

10. Annual Discretionary Grants– Page 14

To consider a report by the Responsible Finance Office (enclosed).

11. Dorchester Business Awards – Page 16

To consider whether to again sponsor the Dorchester Business Awards (background information and email correspondence in respect of this year is enclosed – the awards have now been rebranded as the Dorchester Business Awards and the sponsorship cost for 24-25 is £335). The Council last year sponsored the Outstanding Customer Service category and the Mayor presented all of the awards.

12. Meeting Venue

Due to the works to the stairwell and Town Hall it is possible that the Council Chamber will not be accessible for the January meeting of the Committee and Council the following week. Members will be asked to consider using the Borough Gardens House.

13. Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960

To resolve “That in view of the fact that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the following matters the public and representatives of the press be excluded from this meeting during their discussion”.

14. Shire Hall Historic Courthouse Museum – Page 20

To consider a report by the Town Clerk (enclosed).

DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL
POLICY COMMITTEE – 23 SEPTEMBER 2024
FINANCIAL UPDATE AT 31 AUGUST 2024

1. Financial Position

- Month 5 spend (Appendix 1) £33k under:
 - £21k over on Treasury income
 - £14k under on Office staff due to pending pay award and staff not at top of scale.
 - £6k under Outdoor Services Staff due pending pay award.
 - £11k over on DBC Expenses
 - £10k Saving on Municipal Buildings Business Rates
 - All other under and overspends net £5k under

- Cash Position:

Account	Balance as at 30/06/24	Balance as at 30/06/24	Movement	Interest
Lloyds	85,713	93,663	-7,950	0%
NS&i	6,791	6,791	0	0.60%
CCLA Deposit	1,850,000	2,050,000	-200,000	5.15%
	1,942,504	2,150,454	-207,950	

- Debt over 30 days = £0, 0 debtors (30 June £410, 1 debtor).
- Payments list 1 July to 31 August on website. Supporting vouchers available from Financial Controller
 - **RECOMMENDED** that the Payments list, totalling £330,864.35 is approved.

2. External Audit 2023/24

- Audit completed, no amendments, one comment:

Other matters not affecting our opinion which we draw to the attention of the authority.

To be in line with best practice we recommend that when minuting the appointment of the internal auditor, the council record they have considered the independence of the appointed auditor on an annual basis.

- **RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL** that the certified AGAR for the year ended 31 March 2024 is approved and accepted.

Nigel Hayes

Responsible Financial Officer

By Spend Type	Budget	Profile	Actual	-Under/Over
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Staff	991	440	417	-23
Capital Financing/Debt	16	7	7	0
Other Payments	577	283	294	11
To Specific Reserves	341	341	341	0
Income	-199	-89	-109	-21
Net Budget	1,726	983	950	-33

By Service	Budget	Profile	Actual	-Under/Over
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Allotments	-11	1	1	1
Parks & Open Spaces	173	118	122	4
Cemeteries	-28	-2	1	3
Corp. & Dem. Manage.	63	23	21	-2
Cultural & Twinning	64	25	26	0
Municipal Buildings	375	346	329	-16
Other Services	9	2	-9	-11
Office Team	519	227	215	-12
Outdoor Services	562	243	244	1
Net Budget	1,726	983	950	-33

	Budget	Profile	Actual	-Under/Over	Balance
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Earmarked Reserves					
Tourist Information	0	0	4	4	2
MB Front of House	235	32	45	13	193
19 North Square Works	11	0	0	0	11
Municipal Buildings	0	0	0	0	62
Parks Premises	0	0	12	12	10
Planning Advice	0	0	0	0	18
Trees	10	6	10	4	18
Vehicles & Equipment	70	0	0	0	117
Play Equipment	0	0	0	0	30
Tennis Courts Reserve	0	0	0	0	7
Great Field	0	0	0	0	2
Christmas Lights	0	0	0	0	4
Apprenticeships	0	0	0	0	17
Public Realm	0			0	440
Climate Emergency	0	0	7	7	19
Corporate Projects	0	0	0	0	747
Cemeteries	60	0	0	0	93
Arts & Cultural	0	0	34	34	9
DTC Website & IT	0	0	2	2	8
Net Budget	386	38	112	74	1,807

DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL

POLICY COMMITTEE – 23 SEPTEMBER 2024

ANNUAL REVIEW OF ASSET REGISTER

1. The Practitioners Guide (JPAG) states that the Asset Register should be '*minuted and reviewed at least annually*' (section 5.59, p.41).
2. The total value of fixed assets is recorded in line 9 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return.
3. The JPAG states:
 - Assets should be first recorded in the asset register at their actual purchase cost.
 - Where an authority received an asset as a gift at zero cost, it should be included with a nominal £1 value.
 - Assets that do not have a functional purpose or any intrinsic resale value (for example a war memorial), should be recorded in the same way as gifted assets.
 - The recorded value of the asset will not change from year to year, unless it is materially enhanced.
 - Commercial concepts of depreciation, impairment adjustments, and revaluation are not required nor appropriate.
4. Members are asked to review the Asset Register, as at the 31st March 2024, with a total value of £7,711,155, as previously circulated and available on the DTC website.

Nigel Hayes
Responsible Finance Officer

DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL
POLICY COMMITTEE – 23 SEPTEMBER 2024
CORNHILL ENHANCEMENT SCHEME

Background

1. The town council agreed, some years ago, to lead a project to enhance the area at Cornhill around the Town Pump. A member Task & Finish Group was established and met to agree the broad vision for the improvements.
2. The improvements can be summarised as follows:
 - Removal/relocation of litter bins and excess signage adjacent to the Town Pump.
 - Resurfacing of the cobbled area around the pump to create a more defined and attractive open space – including improvements to the plinth around the bottom of the Town Pump (which is a Listed structure).
 - New seating/benches positioned to create a more enclosed feel around the Town Pump.
 - Repositioning of road signage at the entrance to Cornhill from High West Street
3. It should be noted that the Town Council has already invested in the enhancement of the Cornhill area by fully funding the purchase and installation of new lamp posts along South Street to a specification sufficient to enable the hanging of flower baskets.
4. There is also an ongoing initiative by the Dorchester Civic Society to reinstate a water tap onto the side of the Town Pump in order to provide a free source of drinking water. These works, which are all subject to securing funding, may also include some refurbishment of the listed structure.
5. The area around the Town Pump is designated as highway and is owned by Dorset Council, therefore, the Tourism Development Officer presented the Task & Finish Group's proposals to Dorset Council's Highways and Conservation officers for initial consideration. The proposals were broadly welcomed by Dorset Council as a welcomed enhancement of both the public realm and the Conservation Area, although there would need to be a detailed application for consent before full approval could be given.
6. Following site visits, Dorset Council officers indicated that the detailed designs for the scheme could be drawn up by Dorset Council's own design teams although it was estimated that to prepare a feasibility report (including outline designs and basic cost estimate for the scheme) would incur fees of approximate £5,500. This work would then enable detailed designs to be drawn up at additional cost.
7. Dorset Council officers indicated that this was only an estimate, but the feasibility report should provide enough information for the Town Council to agree an overall budget and outline design for the scheme. If approved, Dorset Council can then provide a further estimate for the fees required to take the scheme through to detailed design and construction.

8. Dorset Council has indicated that their fees for delivering such a scheme are usually in the order of 15-20% of the total scheme costs.
9. Given the size of fee the Dorset Council estimates that it might cost to take the scheme through the feasibility / outline design stage, it is proposed that the Town Council seeks quotes from local architecture practices in order to assess value for money. Dorset Council will need to approve the scheme design but it does not necessarily need to undertake the work itself.
10. **Recommendation:** It is proposed, therefore, that Policy Committee:
 - a) instructs officers to seek competitive quotes from architectural practices in order to develop the designs of the Cornhill enhancement scheme to a sufficient level to enable permissions to be sought from Dorset Council;
 - b) agrees the allocation of £5,000 from the Public Realm reserve to enable the design of the scheme to be commissioned.

**Tourism Development Officer
Dorchester Town Council**

Dorchester Town Council

Town Centre Working Group

Minutes of meeting on 2nd September 2024

Present: Cllrs L. Fry (chair), J. Hewitt, F. Hogwood, M. Rennie and R. Ricardo.

Apologies: Cllrs D. Taylor.

Officers: T. Hurley, N. Hayes and M. Manley.

1. **Notes of last meeting.** Noted.
2. Cllr Fry was reconfirmed as chair of the Working Group.
3. Progress reports on Dorset Council funded projects:
 - Footfall counter. Nigel Hayes informed the group that the new footfall counter had been installed on the front of the Gould's store in South Street in July and started to collect data in early August. The council has used the Dorset Council grant to pay for the counter's operation by Springboard until May 2025. The data will be shared via Discover Dorchester. Members felt that it would be useful to find out who Springboard sold the data to. There will need to be a request to Policy Committee for funding the Springboard subscription for 2025-26 although there needed to be a negotiation with Springboard as to when the initial year started given the lag between installation and the start of data collection. Also, members considered that both the BID and Dorset Council should be requested to contribute to the cost of future subscription.
 - Video interviews: Matilda Manley briefed members on the new short video interviews with local business people and showed the first interview with Kirsty Schmidt of Stay Original (Kings Arms). Matilda outlined the list of future interviewees. Cllr Rennie suggested that there should be an interview with a representative of a national retailer, such as Cotton Traders or Sea Salt. Members agreed that a budget allocation should be included in the report to Policy for funding for more interviews in 2025.
 - Discover Dorchester business resources. Matilda Manley updated the group on the creation of a new section of Discover Dorchester that would host resources for businesses (such a footfall data) – this new section is called 'Dynamic Dorchester'.
 - Report to Policy Committee on progress and budget for 2025.
4. Digital advertising screens – proposal from Pulse Smart Hubs.
(<https://pulsesmarthub.co.uk/>). Tony Hurley outlined the proposal from Pulse for digital advertising screens with additional features and the initial feedback from Dorset Council and the Tourism Partnership. It was agreed by members that Pulse would be invited to give a presentation to a wider group of partners including key officers from Dorset Council (e.g. highways and conservation) and representatives from the Civic Society and tourism sector.

5. Tourism promotion update: Matilda Manley gave an update on tourism development activities and the drafting of a new medium-term strategy for campaigns and activities over the coming years.
6. Date of next meeting. This would depend on the timing of the Pulse presentation.

DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL

POLICY COMMITTEE – 23 SEPTEMBER 2024

COUNCIL CHAMBER AND TOWN HALL REFURBISHMENT

1. The task and finish group established to look at improvements to the Council Chamber and Town Hall agreed a number of actions which were reported to Committee at the end of last year. This report updates the Committee on those actions and seeks instruction on a few outstanding issues.
2. Council Chamber
 - A site visit has been held with Enlightened (the company that installed the hearing loop system in the Corn Exchange) and it is relatively simple to connect the Council Chamber to this system. The cost is around £800.
 - It is proposed to keep the drop down screen in its present location and to install a fixed digital projector above the robe cupboard which can be connected to a laptop wirelessly but will also have the benefit of having a wired plug in available as backup. Awaiting estimate.
 - A secondary adjoining door to reduce noise from the Town Hall to be installed in December 2024.
 - Replacement Lozenge and Seal lighting together with replacement regalia cabinet lighting (all LED) to be installed December 2024/ January 2025 estimated cost £4,000.
 - General redecoration of the Chamber using the heritage colours which have been used elsewhere in the building will need to be subject to contract after completion of current works.
 - Mayoral photo album has now been brought up to date.
3. One item yet to be resolved is the possible replacement of the Council Chamber desks and chairs. The task and finish group asked that I investigate options and it would seem that the most commonly used furniture is tilting meeting tables on wheels. This style of meeting table is easy to move around, comes in a variety of colours, is stackable, allows more 'desk' space and they are flat allowing drinks, papers, pens etc to be placed on them without them falling off. The cost of purchase to seat 20 is approximately £4,500.



4. Standard meeting room chairs which can stack which again adds flexibility to the room are shown to the right. The cost of purchasing 20 new chairs would be approximately £1,600.

5. The Committee is asked to confirm whether or not it wishes to replace the Council Chamber furniture.



6. Town Hall

- The room is presently being redecorated in heritage colours to match the Corn Exchange.
- New hearing loop and PA system – alternative options being investigated. The quote initially received was in excess of £10,000 which is considered to be unnecessarily expensive.
- A number of double glazing options have been investigated and none have proved to be satisfactory either from an aesthetic or price point of view. Investigations are continuing.

7. Stairwell and Hallway

Investigation into paint peeling issues and redecoration scheduled for December 2024. Members advice is sought in regard to the painted ornamental wall panels presently located on the stair walls. These panels are for decoration only and are not required to be kept for heritage reasons.

Members are asked to consider whether or not they wish for the decorative panels to remain. If they do it is proposed that they be repainted in one of the heritage colours used elsewhere in the building.

8. Tapestries

The tapestries have been removed to the Town Council offices for safe keeping. A new location for them has yet to be confirmed. The options are the Town Hall or the stair walls. In regard to the Town Hall the long wall opposite the windows does not readily lend itself as a location due to the height of the fireplace and radiators, the location of the pillars and the twinning items already attached to the walls. The same sort of issues arise with the oriel window wall. One option would be to locate the tapestries on the wall of the kitchenette. This would have the advantage of them being grouped together and they would be immediately seen as you enter the room. The disadvantages are that they would need to be fitted in two rows of four and the lower row could be susceptible to accidental damage although they are protected with perspex screens. Also they could not be viewed if the room was in use.

The other option is to locate them on the walls, in two groups of four, on the small landing half way up the stairs to the Town Hall. The advantage of this location is that they could be viewed whilst any of the rooms were in use, they would compliment the hangings that go either side of the window and they would be automatically seen by anyone using the Council Chamber or Town Hall. The main disadvantage is that those people with mobility issues may find it difficult to access them.

The Committee is asked to agree a location for the tapestries.

Steve Newman
Town Clerk

DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL

POLICY COMMITTEE – 23 SEPTEMBER 2024

CARBON REDUCTION MEASURES 19 NORTH SQUARE

1. The Committee previously agreed a programme of works for carbon reduction measures at the Council Offices at 19 North Square.
2. The programme or works was agreed following advice from Low Carbon Dorset. A contribution to the project was also awarded by Low Carbon Dorset.
3. The project comprised of two major elements, installation of air source heat pumps to replace the gas boiler, and the installation of solar panels to reduce the amount of mains electric being consumed.
4. The air source heat pumps have been installed and are working well. Unfortunately the planning permission for the installation of solar panels on the roof of 19 North Square has been refused for the following reason:-
 1. The proposed solar panels are considered to adversely impact the special character of the conservation area and character and setting of the heritage asset. The proposal results in less than substantial harm and the harm cannot be outweighed by public benefit. The impact to the heritage asset and Conservation area are not considered acceptable and is therefore contrary to Section 16 (Paragraphs 195 - 214) of the NPPF, Section(s) 66/72 of The Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 and Policy ENV4 of the Local Plan and Policy E2 of the Draft Local Plan.
5. Prior to the application being refused discussion did take place with the conservation officer to see if a reduced scheme would be acceptable. The reduced scheme would see solar panels being fitted just on the rear elevations. This was also considered unacceptable. The only installation that might receive approval is the installation of a couple of solar panels attached to the sides of the rear extension.
6. Given the fact that Dorset Council has declared a climate emergency and aspires for the whole of the county to be carbon neutral by 2050 at the latest it is hard to understand how communities can achieve this if they are in a conservation area and permission for carbon reduction works are to be refused.
7. The Committee is asked to consider whether it wishes to appeal this decision. If it does it is suggested that a possible split decision is requested so if the inspector cannot support solar to the front façade they could grant approval to the rear which would allow for an array of 8 – 10 solar panels.
8. Town Council officers could appeal in-house but to give the Council the very best chance of winning the appeal it is proposed that Crickmay Starks Architects be appointed to undertake the process on behalf of the Council at a cost of approximately £1,500.

Steve Newman
Town Clerk

DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL

POLICY COMMITTEE – 23 SEPTEMBER 2024

REVENUE BUDGET 2025/26 – DISCRETIONARY CORE GRANTS

1. The Council has previously agreed a number of key annual core grants as set out below:-

Dorchester Youth & Community Centre		£21,200
Dorchester Joint Heritage Committee	Heritage Activities	£3,000
Dorchester Joint Heritage Committee	Heritage Events	£8,500
Citizens Advice Central Dorset		£8,470

2. Dorchester Youth & Community Centre

- Introduced in 2016 following Dorset County Council withdrawing funding.
- Initially £30,000 per annum but reduced over time to encourage self-sustainability. Presently £21,200 per annum.

3. Dorchester Joint Heritage Committee (DJHC)

- Introduced in the 2022/23 financial year following a request from DJHC.
- £3,000 pa to deliver project type improvements to the town’s heritage.
- £8,500 pa to cover heritage related events (THVF and HOD):

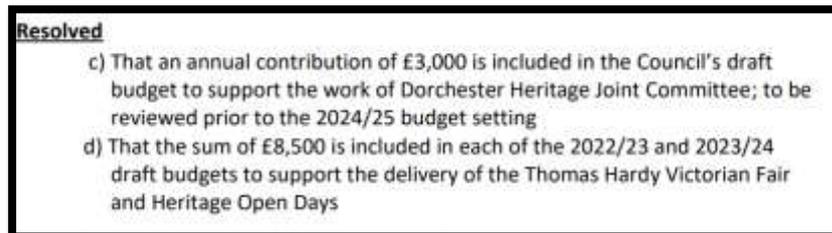


Image: Extract of DTC Policy Committee minutes, 15/11/21.

4. Citizens Advice Central Dorset

- Introduced in the 2022/23 financial year.
- Initially £8,000 pa, CPI linked.
- To be reviewed after three years:

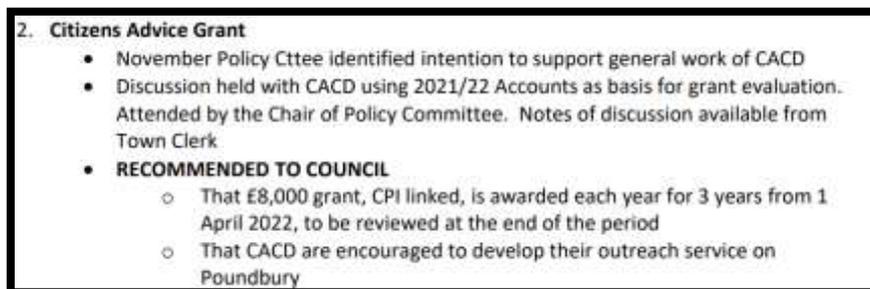


Image: Extract from DTC Policy Committee minutes, 17/01/2022.

5. Review of Existing Grants

It is proposed that those organisations in receipt of a discretionary grant be requested to submit fresh applications for funding for the next three years for consideration by the Committee prior to the 2025-26 budget setting process.

6. New Grant - People Need Nature

The Council's Management Committee in July supported a request from People Need Nature for an annual grant in respect of maintenance of the swale area at the Great Field.

The Policy Committee is asked to give consideration to the Management Committee's request for a £4,000 grant in the current financial year from the Grants Panel budget, and then, if agreed, an individual budget line in the 25/26 budget onwards.

It is also recommended that the grant be reviewed in three years.

Management Committee Extract – 15 July 2024

Funding request from People Need Nature

The committee received a report from the Assistant Town Clerk (Open Spaces) on a funding request from the organisation People Need Nature to help it with the cost of maintain the swale area of The Great Field. The specialist expertise and capacity of People Need Nature was discussed and members agreed support the request for funding and refer to Policy Committee for it to be considered as part of the annual review of revenue grants in September.

Resolved:

That a recommendation be made to September's Policy Committee that an annually renewable grant of £4,000 is awarded to People Need Nature to help it with operational, project and developmental cost for the management of the swathe at The Great Field.

Nigel Hayes
Responsible Finance Officer

DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL
POLICY COMMITTEE – 23 SEPTEMBER 2024
DORCHESTER BUSINESS AWARDS

Email request below:-

Hello Steve

I'm pleased to let you know that work starts today on the '24/25 Dorchester Business Awards, with the launch video going live and entries opening at the end of September. The awards entries this year are expected to be 250+.

Our new awards networking event and awards update will be at the end of October. Details announced in the launch video.

The awards ceremony will be in Mid March with 70+ expected to attend.

We have also added a number of additions to the awards which are:

1. The awards will be streamed live to increase the sponsors and winners exposure.
2. We are also producing a souvenir booklet post the awards made up of full page photos of each sponsor/winner's presentation and a quote from each. Copies will be distributed to all sponsors and winners.
3. Instead of winners and runners up we are now introducing both Gold and Silver winners.
4. All sponsors can now request the awards ceremony attendee list 48 hours in advance.

All '23/'24 sponsors have the first option to retain their category, which in the DTC case was Outstanding Customer Service. The 2024/25 reduced sponsorship rate for DTC is just £335.00 plus VAT.

I hope the Dorchester Town Council would like to be involved again?

Best wishes

Nigel



01935 83146

07872019522

www.marketingwest.co.uk

Background

We believe local businesses are the backbone of an area's economy, helping drive recovery and prosperity. They generate employment, they innovate, they open new markets and bring money into the local area.

Until recently there have been limited ways to promote the range and quality of these local businesses. Business awards have been county wide focusing on larger businesses with evening black tie events and high-priced tickets.

Dorchester and Poundbury Business Awards*

*Rebranding to Dorchester Business Awards this month

The Dorchester and Poundbury Business Awards are completely different. The idea emerged during the lockdown, when local businesses were being damaged by the economic effects of COVID.

To start with they are held at lunchtime rather than in the evening. Entry is free and businesses can enter as many categories as they want. The judging is independent with a panel of online judges, who don't know who the other judges are. They submit their votes online and the entries with the highest number of votes are the winners.

Even the cost of attending the awards ceremony is simply the cost to us.

The Dorchester and Poundbury Business Awards ran in 2021 and 2022 and it was clear from the start that there was a big demand from local businesses. To date the awards have received 378 entries/nominations, while over 80 local businesses leaders attended the lunchtime awards ceremony in April 2022.

The awards also have their own website: www.dandpbusinessawards.co.uk. To date the website has had (as of today) 1,303 viewings. The awards video updates and the recording of the 2022 awards ceremony have had over 400 viewings. That shows the demand for what we are trying to deliver.

Key Dates

Entries are now open and local businesses have until Monday, 30th January to enter or be nominated. The awards ceremony is at lunchtime on Thursday, 30th March 2023

Funding

The funding of the awards comes from category sponsorship. The concept of the awards has proved beneficial to local businesses throughout Dorset and we have received many testimonials (copies available) from local businesses saying how our local awards have helped and boosted their businesses.

We run similar awards in Sherborne and in Bridport and in both cases the town councils have backed the awards and become one of the awards category sponsors. Having this support in each of these areas has been a great help in the success of the awards in that area.

Our category sponsorship rate is £475 plus VAT, but, as with Sherborne and Bridport, this is reduced to £325 plus VAT for local councils.

Sponsors Benefits

1. The sponsor chooses a category to sponsor (subject to availability).
2. We publicise their category and sponsorship on our social media (approx. 3.5k followers across the three main platforms).
3. The sponsor's logo is put on the awards website with a link to their website.
4. Their logo is placed close to the streamed awards on the awards website to maximise profile (www.dandpbusinessawards.co.uk).
5. We produce a short video of the sponsor wishing all entrants success, which is played at the beginning of the awards ceremony.
6. Sponsors receive two VIP places for the awards ceremony. They announce, then present their category winner before presenting their award.
7. Sponsors can bring up to two roller banners to the awards ceremony.
8. The awards have a clear table policy, but sponsors can supply promotional materials to be handed out at the end of the awards.
9. The sponsor's logo will be in the ceremony programme.
10. The sponsor's logo will be on the screens around the venue and at the start of the streaming. Also, the logo will be on the welcome backdrop as the ceremony guests arrive.
11. The sponsor's name on the winner's framed certificate.
12. The sponsor will be photos presenting their award which will go on the awards website.

Available Categories (as of 8th November 2022)

New Business of the Year
Best Place to Work
Cafe, Pub, Casual Dining
Excellence in Customer Service

Examples of Feedback

"The Dorchester Business Awards are a significant marker of our local post-Covid recovery, a really encouraging and optimistic event that I was honoured to be part of."

Lord Fellowes of West Stafford

"The Business Awards are the best thing to happen in Dorset for many years. It is so rewarding to see how businesses across the County recognise their value and have responded by entering the various categories. Onwards and upwards!"

Barry White, Retired Solicitor, Poundbury

"We entered the Dorchester and Poundbury Awards thinking nothing ventured nothing gained. It was so nice to see businesses networking together during the awards. Not only did we win our category, but the overall best business as well! We could not believe it, We would like to say to all the businesses out there enter as you have a lot to gain!"

Nell Strudwick, Goldcrest Jewellers, Dorchester

"There is a perfect balance struck between the ceremony and the sense of occasion. There's a formula that produces a uniquely accessible, friendly format. I was inundated with messages from friends of friend, distant family and past colleagues who had seen the coverage. There remains today a clear spike in our website traffic."

James Heart, Purple Office

Nigel Reeve
8th November 2022.