

## **Overview**

At the meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> February the council approved the budget. An increase of 3.99% will help fund the rising cost of adult social care and children's services and will also protect discretionary services.

Following the updates; the Dorset Council Plan, which will direct the councils work for the next four years, was approved. Members also approved changes to the constitution.

Feedback from the Peer Review was very encouraging. The Peer Challenge Team acknowledged that the council was working hard at developing its culture and effective staff engagement. The council's external challenge at an early stage was welcomed by the team and they felt that Dorset had the potential to be a strong and progressive council.

The good news is that the council has been awarded almost £500,000 of government funding to help tackle rough sleeping in the county. Current figures show a reduction from 35 rough sleepers in 2018 to 19 in 2019, although there was an increase in North Dorset from 1 to 4.

The other good news is that Dorset Council will share in £1 million of central government funding to help with domestic abuse services.

The Chairman has announced the first Dorset Council Community Hero's Awards which will take place on 3<sup>rd</sup> May at Kingston Maurward. It is really important that we recognise the unsung heroes in our community and I would encourage everyone to think about who they could nominate. Nominations close on 30<sup>th</sup> March and forms can be downloaded from the website.

All council meeting details and decisions can be found at <https://modern.gov.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/uuCoverPage.aspx?bcr=1>

Cllr Val Potheary