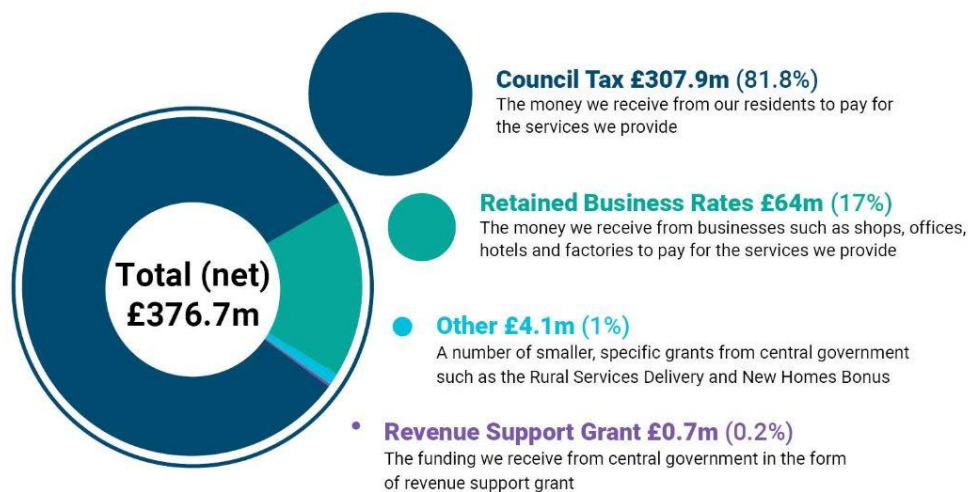




Latest updates from Dorset Council

2024/2025 - Dorset Council sources of funding



Council approves a balanced budget which continues to protect frontline services

Our budget of £377 million for 2024-25 has been approved by councillors at the Full Council meeting on 13 February. This continues our commitment to maintain frontline services, without the need for cuts to balance the budget.

This year's budget setting exercise once again took place against a national

background of extreme pressures for councils. These pressures include the high level of inflation which affects the cost of delivering council services, and also the continued growth in need for services that we provide to some of our most vulnerable residents.

[Find out more](#)



Self Service “Dog Wash” to open at Hardy’s Birthplace Visitor Centre

Dog-owners visiting Hardy's Birthplace Visitor Centre and Thorncombe Wood Local Nature Reserve can now leave for home with their furry friends squeaky clean, thanks to the new Self Service Dog Wash provided by Polygon Pets Ltd.

Fun, flexible, and easy to use - this useful new self service facility provides warm water infused with a range of shampoos and a two-speed blow dry function. Customers can select their choice of services and decide how many minutes are required (contactless payment and Apple Pay accepted).

[Find out more](#)



Become a registered childminder

If you are looking for a rewarding career working with children, that enables you to work from home, then childminding is a brilliant option.

With government start-up grants available, there has never been a better time to start your childminding journey.

We will be holding three briefing sessions in February and March for our residents to find out more about becoming a registered childminder.

The briefing sessions will provide an overview of becoming a childminder and the registration process. The Government start-up grants will also be explained.

[Find out more](#)



Council Tax Premium on second homes and empty houses in Dorset

Dorset Councillors have approved proposals for a council tax premium on second homes and an amendment to agree an earlier start date for the existing Long-Term Empty Homes premium, under the new flexibilities for councils provided in the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill, which received Royal Assent in October 2023.

For those properties classified as Long-Term Empty and Unoccupied a 100% premium will, from 1 April 2024, be applied after one year rather than the existing two years.

[Find out more](#)



People from all around Dorset have been busy sharing their views and thoughts on the future of travel and transport across the county, and there is still time to have your say.

Dorset Council and Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP) Council are running their survey until 11:59pm on 3 March 2024, allowing residents, visitors, businesses and organisations to get involved. Many people have also been talking to the councils at roadshow events.

Topics raised so far include public transport, parking, cycle routes, rail services, rural isolation, safety and congestion, and lots of innovative ideas are also being shared.

[Have your say](#)

Are we the next Council of the Year?

We are thrilled that we've been shortlisted for the prestigious Local Government Chronicle (LGC) Council of the Year Award.

Our submission focussed on our achievements since we became Dorset Council in 2019, showcasing how what we're doing in Dorset today, other councils will think about tomorrow and what we're doing to make Dorset a great place to live, work and visit.

The winners will be announced at a special awards ceremony at Grosvenor House hotel in London on Wednesday 12 June.

More news:

- [Riverbank stabilisation complete](#)
- [New residential home set to open in Weymouth for children with disabilities](#)
- [Annual dredging at West Bay and Lyme Regis 2024](#)

