

Possible roles for England's town councils post-Covid and Brexit Views from the town hall, and beyond

Respondents' verbatim answers to all questions (from trial and main online surveys)

Question 1: should have more powers in relation to local area policy development and implementation?

They should indeed have more powers in relation to local area policy and implementation, but not necessarily as the result of C-19

I think that if there are any major projects/monies to be spent on a Town the local community and Council should be consulted...always, but particularly during Covid when communication is so difficult.

I think there is a skills deficit in most Town Councils and more power should only be given if competency can be proved and relied upon.

This cannot be determined in isolation from ability of individual staff and willingness of the elected members to accept training.

The powers need to be monitored by a public body.

This depends on the individual councillors taking part.

It should be a courtesy at least!

As unpaid councillors they lack accountability and usually have little or no experience of the responsibilities they are elected for.

Additional powers I'm happy with as long as the finance comes from our new Unitary Council and the town council are left carrying out implementation without the funds. We are changing from a 3 tier system in May 2021 to a 2 tier.

Many people have commented how contradictory and confusing the messages from central government were. In small communities where local networking is very affective especially those communities with a high population of elderly residents I believe that local councils might be best placed to develop policy and guidance.

The status of Neighbourhood Plans should be enhanced

I feel a review of how Town Councils are funded is required. Policy generated at Town level is far more targeted than projects instigated at county or national level. The capacity of volunteer Council members to fully represent their ward and work full time in many cases excludes many good people from serving. The position of Town Councillor should be given the same consideration as volunteering for the reserve armed forces, allowing the Councillor to benefit from the flexible approach to time off provided to reserve forces volunteers.

The present arguments about changes to car parking policy in Dorset are a good illustration of town councils where the car parks are being left out of the loop. The issue is not yet settled but it began as a top down declaration of change with no opportunities to comment or adapt the charging regime to meet the specific needs of the locality. The centre doesn't always know what is best.

There is often a feeling that the council is powerless. More powers would make the Town Council more relevant. It is all about the figures for implementing the development and ticking the box, rather than the impact on the community. Town councils are the first tier of democracy, well placed to understand the issues of the community they serve.

District Councils annually pass over one or more element of their responsibility when they have to make savings at Level 2 Government. Parish and Town Councils should be part of that dialogue pre-handover. In keeping with the spirit of subsidiarity, I think that the idea of differentiated devolution to community level makes sense - and is entirely in keeping with the UK's messy way of dealing with local government reform! So more powers

AUTOMATICALLY for those communities which FULFIL CERTAIN CRITERIA WHICH INDICATE THAT THEY CAN EXERCISE those powers successfully. And a subset of those powers for those communities which can't fulfil those criteria but which WANT to take them on anyway, as rubber-stamped by a local referendum.

Question 2: are town councils potentially well-placed to develop and implement local policy/ies?

The makeup of the two local councils of which I am an ordinary member is a mixture of personal and professional skills, which on occasion affects their ability to comment on, or create, policy documents. Finance to draw on funds to hire professional advisors is extremely limited, resulting in limited professional analysis in most cases. As a result, the speed of response, and depth of detail involved in policy creation activities is very limited.

Well placed to but not always competent or well managed.

Surrounding Parishes in the past have demonstrated that they do not want to have encroachment.

The development and implementation of local policies requires good research and drafting skills. We would need more staff to do this properly depending on the number of policies .

Self interested councillors tend to impose their personal opinions rather than the overall interests of the residents.

With support and investment in development

Most of our councillors need better training to make informed responses. The paucity of individual capabilities is sad, we don't attract people of much quality and then politics sadly gets in the way of common sense

Locally we know what our residents want where the new unitary council and their councillors will have a larger constituency to manage and looks like being full time .

Only if councillors have relevant experience from industry or academia

Not set up with the staffing resources that would be required.

From what I have seen in my short time as a councillor, Town Councils absolutely are well placed to have more powers but a lot of Town Councils don't appear to be that forward thinking and proactive and often have limited staffing who in many cases would need upskilling if more powers were taken on. Absolutely think town councils should have more power we would just need to ensure the correct level of support was given as well to help them take on more.

The views of Town Councils are regularly ignored when planning applications are considered by District Council Planning Committees

The town council in Sherborne has like other Dorset towns been busy in shaping its policies to meet the Climate Emergency. In our case by purchase of electric powered vehicles, looking to install solar panels on buildings on the Terrace Playing fields, energy efficient flood lighting and a tree planting programme.

We would need further resources before we could effectively look to implementing policies

One of the most effective things TCs can do is consultation, through surveys, fora, questionnaires.

More aware of the local situation and infrastructure.

While I believe TC's bring localism to proceedings I believe there needs to be sound checks & balance protocol in place.

Yes well placed but am not sure the calibre of councillor will be able to deliver what would be required

TC will need more funding to do this task. Council Tax should now be paid by UK Government. Council tax end. As most income goes to council tax and Bailiffs.

Question 3: assume that town councils have been given greater powers over policy development and implementation, do you think local democracy would benefit?

It would depend what those extra powers were, but generally the more democratic the more fractious. But good debate results in better decisions but also leadership commensurate with the strength of the democratisation

There can be benefits but could cause more local acrimony unless there is a pre agreed plan of action, supported by professionals not council officials.

It purely depends on the individuals on said Town Council. It could potentially become very political, which I would hope not.

Local democracy would undoubtedly benefit, but while greater controversy is probable if not inevitable, this needn't necessarily descend into fractiousness.

Without provision of funds and sufficient training in the scope and use of policy development powers, they would simply not be used.

An education process would need to be rolled out for the public to understand the implications of their vote and Councillors would need to show better accountability including minimum levels of training.

Local democracy has the potential to become much closer to the community but only if the quality of the membership and staff is assured.

Whilst I agree one has to avoid polarised political party positions which can override local consensus

Flat pack democracy and independents already arguing for greater small town democracy.

It would depend on the political balance of the Town Council. They could use the Town Council as a stick to bat the government.

The gulf between town district needs sticking plaster and is non existent with the county.

Neighbourhood plans would work well I believe but other areas could cause issues. especially where large amounts of money being used. We have already had this with the town council supporting the purchase of the library after the county council were getting rid of many in the county as a cost saving exercise.

There seems to have been a growing push back from some quarters against sensible public health measures. I am not clear how local government could manage this wider issue.

If done well, then local democracy could definitely benefit because a Town Council can understand the views of the public better at the local level and councillors can play a role in involving local people more, for example through approaches like people's assemblies.

Generally speaking there has always been a failure on the public's part to distinguish which council does what. This was worse when there were three tiers of authority. However, as the now gone districts pulled back from having a local presence leaving the town council as the only office where the public could drop in, towns have been assumed to do everything. The reality of course was quite different. If the new unitary authority decides to delegate more people may recognise the towns as important decision makers in their own right.

I think the Council would evolve and would see more engagement with the community.

You are making the presumption that the Rural areas of the council are fairly considered and financially represented.

There would be more interest in being a TC and there would be more interest in elections for same.

If residents get the "feel" for developing and implementing policy, much greater engagement would follow.

Local democracy in a small town can mean "The usual suspects" having a say.

Question 4: if town councils were to be given more powers they would need, what ... for example?

The increased expectation of using greater powers. Current councillors neither sought nor were voted in for increased power. Some might want to opt out and others might be co-opted.

Compulsory training for councillors and stronger legislation for dealing with councillors who would, if in employment, be subject to disciplinary or dismissal due to their behaviour.

More training (and trained) staff.

Local town councillors should be independently audited (and publicly) on their effectiveness in using their time and funds to work imaginatively for their local community.

Ability to raise finance other than from local council tax. For example, access to car park revenue, business rates and Business Improvement District (BID) allocation, bigger Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) allocation.

In my view the case for more Town Council powers depends essentially on whether or not the County in question has gone 'Unitary'.

Increased allowances in order to allow young people/working people to be able to afford to participate in local democracy.

The ability to pay allowance for dependent carers would significantly increase participation, especially by younger people.

I think that training should be compulsory ... perhaps a small fee to cover the time this would take if it is compulsory. Also, a clear distinction described between parish/town and Borough councils.

Better IT support for councillors in terms of access to equipment that is fit for purpose. More training for Clerks to achieve a minimum standard with succession planning as standard.

Keswick - there is a loophole where holiday lets pay business rates not council tax - and they get business rates relief so the council does not get ANY money from these.

Keswick - I don't want to put more tax raising powers as that is not fair on our precept payer whose burden is increasing as the number of holiday lets/second homes increase. Instead more funding from central or local government.

Planning approvals / rejections, in the light of the Glover report which threatens to remove local input into planning.

Accommodation

Staff would be needed with expertise or the ability to gain it.

Control over highways within the area that markets occur including parking, access, routes. etc. Control over car parks and roadside parking so that they can be managed to work in conjunction with rather than against markets and traders need for parking.

Business taxes paid locally, not nationally. Development levies coming to the Town councils directly with proper consultation between developers and councils.

Full time councillors to deal with the various items that need looking at.

I don't buy into this younger people rubbish. I believe age isn't the important thing, it's dedication and application and an open mind.

Currently have a precept which we have been lowering but this would need to rise.

The capacity to seek sustainable revenue streams through commercial partnerships, with any new devolved responsibility equating to a proportional increase in funding from the overall council tax money collected by the

unitary authority (Cornwall Council). In other words, assets cannot be devolved without the associated funding and or a reduction in that community's council tax liability.

... I've ticked anything which improves and encourages participation in local democracy would be good. If the plan is to do more then it's likely to require more staff with well trained decision makers in the driving seat. I think the present tax raising powers are fine as long as central government keeps out of it. At town level I think there is benefit in keeping it a part time evening activity where the whole council plays a full part in decision taking. I think trying to professionalise this tier of representation is quite difficult. Spreading the responsibilities around those elected is a force for good and ensures that one or two are not overburdened. It's that latter worry which I suspect puts some young people off.

That the rural culture is fully considered and finance is available and not all the taxes are channelled to the Town.

Town councils and councillors are not well placed to receive additional powers without additional training on planning, procurement etc. There also needs to be increased oversight from and accountability to the parent local authority.

Training in communication and consultation platforms. This would hugely increase the workload and responsibility of both Councillors and Staff, much more financial support from central govt would be required

Under the General Power of Competence (GPC), councils broadly have the power to do all of the above but lack the resourcing to do it. Community services are far better managed by town councils who are best placed to identify local needs and to provide accordingly.

Appropriate management protocols for officers and staff to ensure rate payers are getting value for money from public sector employees.

Considerably better control over standards of Councillor behaviour (as per national discussions extant).

Fundamental rethink in the selection of Councillors and a greater time commitment from those elected.

The residents can not support council tax as they are going to food banks and working. gig economy relies on resident not to go over the minimum tax/National Insurance to pay threshold.

In our case there are too many overlapping responsibilities which do not allow for quick, locally based solutions to be implemented.

Town Councillors come and go ... wax and wane.

Services require committed attention and time.

The whole council usually changes each 4 years, unlike third rotation of District Councils. This can obviate continuity of knowledge and individual leading roles.

Changes in rules on expenses to cover childcare; permanent change in law to allow for online meetings; the ability to properly deal with code of conduct issues internally, including through local sanctions, particularly to mitigate risks to the Council arising from employment obligations.

Question 5: does the local authority structure in your county (ie county/borough/district, or unitary) make it more or less likely - in your view - that your town council could take on increased responsibilities (provided, of course, that the responsibilities came with commensurate powers!)?

I feel the town council is too small a cog in the governmental machine to contribute much in a nationwide (indeed global) context.

"More or less" than what? More than we have now is still in a state of discovery. Work in progress, interrupted by abrupt realignment because of Covid 19. Currently I would not be able to define what power/ responsibilities we have. The Councillors handbook 2019 seems quite quaint now!

Wiltshire is a big County with 252 parishes. The centralised unitary authority in Trowbridge is often out of touch with local issues.

Determine local uncontroversial planning applications - like South Somerset etc from years back.

There's no interest from the principal authorities to devolve power because, I presume, this would erode their reason to exist.

Wiltshire is a unitary authority and many services it provides have been/are being transferred to Town & Parish Councils. Many of these transfers are being made under duress as there is no accompanying transfer of resources. The alternative being that the service will be discontinued. This includes Public Toilets, Children's Play Areas, Street Cleaning, Maintenance of Parks and Open Spaces.

Dorset Council is operating a very collegial relationship with the town and parish councils, particularly demonstrated in a practical way during covid-19 response efforts.

The council's Neighbourhood Plan should enable the Town Council to develop policies that are possibly "town specific". The town councils could stress affordable rented housing, green infrastructure.

Most of the Town Councils in our local area would, in the main, wish to take on increased responsibilities but our Unitary Council would be / is reluctant to allow them to do so.

Local town councils have plenty of power to act on their local communities - and have very few restrictions on how they do it. They have very few statutory responsibilities, and have tax-raising powers at present which are uncapped!

We are seeing more responsibilities shifted from county to local without any increase in budget, no win situation as we may suffer higher council tax in a low wage and a high population of pensioners in the Dorset county.

We lost the status of Borough Council in 1974 but fortunately kept some of our assets. Two years ago Dorset Council became a unitary authority they are in enormous debt and control lots of happenings in our Town that our Town Council could deal with much more efficiently if they controlled. The housing policy for an area like ours is one that needs some "common sense" applied something I see little of these days.

Dorset's new "unitary" Council appear anxious to hold on to every income-generating power they currently have. This attitude might well preclude any real opportunity for town councils to fund the costs inherent in taking on a more strategic role.

Dorset is now two unitary councils. I feel Dorset Council, our unitary will become happy to share some of their responsibilities.

Loss of district tier has meant that unitary (county) tier feels more remote and less responsive to local town information (for example, local transport and other infrastructure needs; local businesses requirements).

Our Council Tax is already high and it would be difficult to justify it going up further. The Unitary Council is in disarray following reorganisation, covid and massive loss of staff experience. Irrespective of whether we have more powers, their inability to function will curtail any ambitions we have.

Recently created unitary authority under financial pressure and need to concentrate on strategic issues. Town council has an appetite to take on more operational responsibilities ... town council 25 miles from unitary UQ. Town council already delivers, in part, unitary services - car parks and toilets. Well qualified and experienced staff team.

They are now unitary with more to do and less ability to do it all with decrease in finances especially more so following COVID.

It's more a matter of 'should' than 'could'. It could be done under either local authority structure, but the need for it increases greatly in a so-called 'Unitary' area.

Three tier system - always have to ask permission to do anything, even simple things. We have had to buy back everything over the years and it is always a battle to do anything significant.

Having removed a layer of Bureaucracy in Dorset allows Town and Parishes to have a greater role in local affairs.

Dorset Council is one of the new authorities and so far has seemed to be forward thinking.

There are great opportunities in the possible transition to unitaries that Parish and Town Councils could be the beneficiaries of appropriate community asset transfers but need to be given time to develop appropriate funding models including agency and contract models.

Highways; property project development; power source development – local.

If Gloucestershire went unitary (or as Mayor of a market town, I would say went from 3 tier to 2 tier.) then there would have to be a split of some functions would migrate upwards to town councils and some downwards to the new unitary authority. In my pyramid of democracy national government is across the broad base, then there are one of two layers of local authority with and the tip town and parish councils which are the most in touch with local affairs.

Our local structure is large Unitary Dorset Council with parishes/towns of varying size. Some parishes are in position to take on more (tourism, care and maintenance of local environment as a partner in social care) but would need technical/legal support from the unitary.

3 tiers - too much resistance to giving anything up, even though they can't afford it!

Somerset becoming a Unitary Authority allows scope for the TC to apply for more responsibility (ideally with funding to support).

We have a large town and town council so it could definitely take on increased responsibilities.

As a town and district councillor I believe strongly that different levels of local government can work together with the right motivation behind this action.

District Councillors would not want to give up their responsibility and associated remuneration, in my opinion.

Two levels to deal with. I feel that as a Town Councillor/ Fundraiser/ trustee of The ... Educational Trust who actively takes part in the welfare of the children. From experience alone in this council, it's more about climbing the political ladder/ plus having a title, out of 16 Town Councillors only myself and one other Councillor are actively helping the residents, so in a word No, we have a district Council which is led by the Majority Party sadly this means that the purse strings are always kept tight. I have had to beg fellow Councillors to pass a grant for the Charity who helps School Children. We know families will be struggling to buy uniforms due to this pandemic, unfortunately the Council as usual passes it off as it's not that bad! Due to their lack on reality I think ... should be renamed The Land Of Rainbows and Unicorns!! Because COVID FAMILIES WHO ARE FINANCIALLY SUFFERING DONT EXIST HERE!! Until we have total democracy in all Town, Parish and District Councils, the people will carry on suffering. I thought a Council was non Political I was so wrong in assuming others actually cared about our Residents.

Keswick is the 'cash cow' of Allerdale. Allerdale have poverty in many areas and sees Keswick as the revenue generator. We give Allerdale £3m a year from our car parks our swimming pool was closed during COVID and unlikely to re-open. The others in Allerdale have re-opened.

The Borough and County Council relinquish powers like a dying persons grip. They will only give out powers to TCs if they are u able to manage themselves. Once an organisation has authority they don't like to let it go.

North Yorkshire is just starting the process of devolution and Thirsk Town Council is hoping for more control of assets ,funds and powers.

Those with power tend to like having it and are reluctant to delegate it.

They don't listen to anything we say or recommend.

Our Unitary authority is too remote.

Rural and large shire. Small town councils with minimal resources and aged memberships, often part time staff and inadequate accommodation.

Hopefully in the next two years we will become part of a unitary Authority and then it will be possible for the remit of the Town Council to expand but until then it is not possible.

I am not sure that the time available for councillors and their quality is sufficient. Some councils have difficulty recruiting councillors.

Our town council does not have the expertise, either staff or councillors, to take on detailed extra work of this kind.

The District are the planning authority and we as a town just pay lip service to any unwanted applications, we are also not given enough support within the local plan , they do not listen to our rationale.

The whole structure is complicated, paternal and difficult to navigate. Perhaps we have too many layers of governance!

As a town councillor my experience is that we are more engaged with local opinion and can influence county policies

With a two tier - County and District - structure, it seems unlikely that the senior tiers will be prepared to pass on responsibilities unless forced to do so - turkeys do not vote for Christmas!

The localism agenda is popular but you need dedicated councillors who will need training. A great deal to ask

This district council gets in the way. Our District Council is neither local or strategic. we are trying to fulfil the same role. a move to unitary would be beneficial for us.

In my view the optimum for Bedfordshire would be a county unitary 100% parished (some significantly large) with enhanced parish powers.

Unitary authority politically dominated and hence some areas benefit more than others. Politics have virtually no role in TC agendas.

Autocratic, controlling LA will not cede authority - especially if they lose revenue to local level.

I think that Local Government reorganisation with larger LA groups and no County Councils would bring democracy closer to the electorate. Then the Town Council's role would also expand.

Waverley Borough consists of 4 main centres each having a town council. the remainder of the borough is served by another 17 parishes. However, the majority of the services are provided within the main centres and the Town Councils accept they each serve a distinct hinterland. The individual Town Councils are more likely to understand the needs of the areas they serve than the Borough.

Cornwall Council does not delegate power, it only offloads that which cost money and is a legal requirement for them to pay for.

I personally think that local TC's are in the best place within the community to access local knowledge & properly implement any structural changes that will benefit the local community.

Devolution is well underway here already.

Rutland is already a unitary authority.

Yes, we have area boards which are a steppingstone between the district council and these could be merged into the Town Council so the Town Council has control of more of the budget and how it is spent.

Our Council has been trying for 4 plus years to take on responsibility for local services but Wiltshire council have stalled all our attempts.

We have a simpler Unitary Council structure as opposed to County and District Councils.

Our unitary Authority is (I think) quite keen to give more responsibility to Town Council. Planning is the acid test and we DO have a Neighbourhood Plan which is deferred to in the county's Local Plan (mostly!).

I'm a town councillor in a unitary county. Area boards are a makeshift approach to localising spend across the county, but stronger town councils with better interaction with county and Westminster would remove a layer of bureaucracy and place the onus on the council to get jobs done.

We have no power to grant or refuse planning applications. Most infrastructure improvements are carried out by District and County and we have very limited input into their priority and detail. Services are centralised, putting more rural populations at a considerable disadvantage compared to urban communities.

The move to unitary status means that while most District council responsibilities go up, some would be better moved down to Town councils.

Mainly because we are under both a district and a county council it is difficult to see them relinquishing anything profitable. This applies to less obvious sources of revenue such as planning.

Being covered by a County Council, District Council, a National Park authority and our own Parish Council it is already difficult to find the right responsible person.

Greater ownership of assets in our Town has been investigated, but the District Council will not release those assets to us. This is stifling plans for development and increasing social wellbeing in the town.

Our town council is suffering from lack of experience, democratic practices, and dominated by self interest.

Unitary council dominates and will be difficult but well worth while to prise some powers away and back to Parish/Town Councils.

Districts the gateway to government money, county Tory led for centuries, National Park has planning, town councils and parishes ceremonial for many in Devon.

County is trying to take over district, so we are already struggling!

Infrastructure, roads, transport etc needs to be on a larger scale. Lack of experience and unaccountability lays open misuse of power.

Just about to go into Unitary Authority, next May. However as a TC we have not been consulted on what our role should be, effectively shut out from decision making.

It is difficult to anticipate the detail but financial pressures are making it more likely that the local authority will devolve some functions and services to town and parish councils.

Much more like and rejected for some activities as no funding was attached.

The County Council wants to devolution!!

Further devolution from District to Town councils in Lincolnshire can only go so far without the abolition or restructuring of local authorities, as so many services are provided at district and county level which would be better provided by towns and parishes.

Somerset is going through a change of governance at this time and the two options are both talking to TCs & PCs about devolved authority.

In our large rural area, Devon County have at times struggled to deal with things that could well be managed more locally (such as drain clearance) if more funds were allocated to town councils.

Lincolnshire County Council wish to devolve power upwards by creating an even larger authority and getting rid of the District Council. I believe devolution should work downwards and more power given to people who live/work/represent people in that area. A large number of councillors within the county council don't even think they are responsible for the town I represent.

My area is a county and district/borough structure that has looked at the unitary options a number of times in the past but it's never really got very far. In my personal view I think a unitary with beefed up responsibilities for

town councils would be potentially better. There is very little at district council responsibility level that couldn't be done at a county level whereas there is plenty of stuff at a county council level that couldn't sensibly be done at a district level. I think there is an exception there for a borough council in that they are usually in big towns that often don't have a town/parish council below them. In a district council which invariably does have a town/parish council below then the district often intrudes in things that could in many cases be better done at a town council level (for example our district council is carrying out "vision" exercises in its key market towns but it is very much led by the district and with the district council's views appearing to be more important than the local peoples views. Such an exercise should be led by the local organisations like the Town Council, local Chamber of Commerce etc.

We have the capability to do this provided that appropriate financial support is available (and not just to assist younger people from becoming councillors).

Somerset is set to have either one unitary authority or two unitary authorities, possibly as early as 2022, and both proposals encourage the devolving of a range of services to those parish/town councils which would like to take them on.

Highways and traffic in particular - road closures for instance are announced by fiat at the moment, without even consultation. Local planning powers could also be returned to the TC. Both would of course require additional staff, planning in particular given the very high number of listed buildings here.

I live in a three tier area which is quite crowded! Unitary government supported by strong town councils is best.

As some services are already being devolved from the district council, and there is more talk of unitary authorities I believe, with the aforementioned criteria in place, that we could take on more powers (especially if combined with a neighbouring parish council that would allow economies of scale).

I've answered no difference because I feel that jury is still out on this one with a still new unitary in Dorset finding its way. Difficult at any time but more so in such interesting times. What is clear in Dorset is that the members come from very different backgrounds. I don't mean socially but those who came from West Dorset have a different mindset to those from other districts where there was no or little opposition to the ruling group. Throw the former county members into the mix and it becomes an odd set of bedfellows.

Our town is within Northamptonshire which is within the final throes of reorganisation and becoming a unitary authority. As a result, I think we are ideally placed to take on more responsibilities.

All Focus is to the Urban Habitations. Rural considerations are bi passed. Diminishing Green belt.

We have a clerk a d councillors who are willing to take responsibility for street cleaning and the powers to enforce people to maintain their properties in the town centre.

If the money came with more responsibility. We work very closely with Isle of Wight Council and our local county councillors to try to improve standards in the town.

They don't want to do themselves out of a job and loose their generous pay packets to volunteer councillors at the town end on the scale.

They are quite constrained in terms of what they can do and variable in terms of their ability/willingness to engage.

With the likelihood of more Unitary authorities, and the disappearance of District Councils, more powers will be devolved to Town/Parish councils.

Isle of Wight Council have a track record of delegating assets and services to town councils, who enthusiastically take them on, and then increase local precepts to pay for them. However, they do not take on the necessary staff and skills to efficiently administer these additional powers and budgets.

The responsibility would have to be agreed by Central government that it could be passed to Town Councils.

We have a small Unitary Authority who try to frustrate all moves towards greater local powers as they seem to want to control everything (especially money) themselves.

Ivybridge is a town of c.14000 residents in the South Hams - it is by far the biggest town. The Council has a track record of taking on some of the statutory duties of the District council. It is well placed - in theory - to take on more, eg post Covid recovery - roles. However, one feature of the current council composition is the dependence of a very few senior councillors and the marginalisation of newer ones, even though these councillors may be experienced in other ways and 'forward thinking'.

My local authority structure goes: town-district-county in planning; town-district-national park. We feel somewhat at the bottom of the ladder. but that also means we really need more power, for instance to challenge the Highways Authority.

I suspect a period of austerity when Covid-19 is over to repay national debt. This will mean County/District Council's cutting services.

The county/district/parish structure here tends to restrict the parish level role.

Working in a 3 tier environment, the tiers above (District and County) are all too aware of their own immortality and thus seek to protect and covet their existing services.

We are a non political council. our unitary authority spends a great deal of it time doing politics. to the detriment of everything else. It is also, and has been for at least 100 years, gravely immured in Masonic matters. We have to fight to get things done, and we have also had to take on a large amount of responsibilities, previously overseen by the County. needless to say, we struggle to find the money to pay for these things.

We would need a change from a 3 tier system to unitary

District Council often unwilling to share information with town council, and more often than not do not consult with town council.

More enforced changes to responsibilities rather than an open dialogue.

My belief and that of many others here in Cornwall is that this is a council in desperate need of reigning in and needs to listen to the many communities that make up the county.

The Town council receives very little support or help over quite small things at the moment so cannot see this improving.

The potential for change exists however the capacity within town/parish councils does not.

Our local authority does not like us lower authorities to participate enough.

Planning issues we respond to are not listened to much.

Local people know and should have more management of their own issues.

As a Unitary authority Town and Parish Councils are now plugging the gap left by the District Councils.

Skipton has 3 tiers of local government - parish (town) council,

Craven District Council and North Yorkshire County Council.

The District Council will disappear in the proposed local govt reorganisation so the parish (town) council will be able to take responsibility for local issues previously dealt with by the District Council.

Already in law, but need Management /administration/financial grade trained Clerk and trained workforce. Increased responsibility = increased UK Government funding.

We have a 3 tier system of Local Government and this can be cumbersome.

I live in Birmingham, so my answer is probably irrelevant to your survey. However, I would favour neighbourhood councils in Birmingham - e.g. the current Frankley council, which is an accident of history - but MUCH smaller than the recently created Sutton Coldfield parish council which I think has 100,000 people!

Sevenoaks Town Council produced a draft post covid Town Recovery Plan in consultation with many businesses and local residents and was not able to pursue due to views from other tiers of local government or

apply for relevant funding which is always directed to other tiers of local government. the local community was very disappointed and disillusioned. A copy of the Plan could be provided if helpful. The District Council holds the 'Charter' for the High St market which it charges the Town Council to use. The local residents, market traders and town council would like to increase operating days - but the District Council will not agree.

I don't really know.

Need to transfer powers / assets back to Town. With that would go additional funding to look after those services.

They would want to grant it or agree to it.

District Councils no longer there so potential gap for local voices.

More likely that it will take on increased responsibilities - and we are allowing for that financially and in other ways - but more support and better structural strength is needed to support it - including other tiers of govt getting out of the way, and providing modern legislation as opposed to running things based on Local Government Act of 1972.

Question 7: If you believe that town councils should have more powers, what powers should they be given that they don't have now?

I do not see the post Covid19 world as requiring different mechanisms to those we have now. The area boards in Wiltshire adequately fill the gap between town and parish councils and the unitary county.

1) Be more public. Find a way to engage with our electorate, bearing in mind that genuinely and understandably many do not want to be involved. spear head initiatives and support those who request it. publish a "revival" plan. Move quickly with the understanding of changing Government diktats.

2) Make sure we have the will to do it. As I said earlier, some of us really did not knowingly undertake this brave new world of local "councillings" when we put ourselves up for election! We need though to hold on to some of the bigger issues...climate change and our continuing assault on the environment. I do not know about the pre-1974 council structure but I do know that we can spend an infinite amount of time discussing processes and structures; it is a habitual displacement activity. better to get on with what we have got.

3) getting things done is hard; if certain things had been easy to push through, they would have been done years ago. we need to be "can do" and set ourselves achievable but expeditious deadlines.

The Wiltshire Unitary authority is continually devolving responsibilities to town councils but with no additional funding other than increasing the town precept. The rural parishes, surrounding market towns, charge very low precepts yet their residents make full use of the facilities and amenities provided in the market towns, who are under pressure to keep increasing their precepts to pay. This model is unsustainable. In the past the market towns were at the centre of a Borough and tax was raised equally throughout the area. Now the people who live in towns are subsidising the amenities of those living in surrounding parishes surrounding those towns.

Local councils well placed to organise local track and trace; plus organisation of actions to help local vulnerable people

This council has taken on a lot of work supporting local community during the covid lockdown. For example, we established a help line alongside a promo campaign to get to know your nearest neighbour, volunteer transport for shopping and prescription and hospital visits. And we financially supported community groups too. In future, once the pandemic has declined, I see the need for at least some of these additional services to continue. In the longer term there is a need for parish councils to support communities in being more resilient

The Neighbourhood Planning process should be strengthened and financially supported by Central Government. Town Councils should be reinstated as statutory consultees in the processing of planning applications.

To determine planning applications IF it wants to and has the resources to do so. Highways and Public Transport. Social housing and community support.

More powers in housing, parking and transport. A greater influence in Planning. Statutory right to be consulted on Licensing. Promoting tourism. Car parks.

More say over local planning and Highways.

In charge of business rates and to deal with things locally for all residents.

Town Councils should have the power to control/restrict traffic in their centre and receive the income from parking. They should be given more control over the development of a county-wide Local Plan.

Infrastructural development to ensure a vibrant community. More money raising powers

To implement new schemes or block changes made by higher authority if it is of benefit to the town and its residents. As a Town Council often has a far better and deeper understanding of its local economy.

Market. Parking, Tourist and other town promotion.

Local Plan Policy determination - control over housing numbers and land development is the only power that will change the town from "being done to" towards "being one by".

Operational responsibilities, e.g, car parks, toilets, asset management (but not necessarily maintenance and capital investment costs), low level highway maintenance, harbour management.

Precepting powers to increase; planning at local level.

In a 'Unitary' county, planning powers predominantly, but other former District or Borough functions too (where feasible). Districts and Boroughs were given certain powers for certain definite reasons, which are still as valid today as they were in 1974.

They need to be able to request the powers that they feel competent in. This could be through a sort of charter standard that must be reached before they take things on. I'm thinking open spaces management including church yards, licences, delegated planning powers for small projects like extensions, car parks, signage in town, library, fixing minor potholes on town centre streets and pavements, street cleaning in town centre, control of local markets.

More control over local decisions.

More control over planning approvals (but this is changing at the moment, so we need to see what happens). More control over the local infrastructure and what happens with money spent by national and local government on things like roads, cycle paths as the like. Local public transport systems.

P&TC should be able to hold, manage and develop community assets on the same basis as if it was a CLT with long term asset locks which cannot be unpicked by a future council. Statutory powers to provide libraries and information/advice centres. A statutory DUTY to develop a Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) for the area of the Parish/or jointly with neighbours a joint Neighbourhood Development Plan. A legal right to provide any community based service on an agency basis (at the cost) of a district county - including eg highway maintenance, street cleaning and public space maintenance an obligation for any main authority to delegate local decision making to a joint committee of members of all tiers inc. parish councillors representing a parish or group of parishes. There should be clearer rights of parishes and towns to call attention to service delivery issues that districts and counties need to attend to I would model this on the power of complaint in the Housing and Town Planning Act 1909 to require provision of housing and unfit housing.

Ability to develop, manage, and fund local housing projects. Powers to manage transport affairs in locality.

More planning powers regarding local development especially to develop their NDPs. Fundraising. Planning housing for locals. Environmental sustainability. Relevant services development.

Parking enforcement,

Make Traffic Regulations Orders and manage road closures for events. Enforcement powers on environmental issues (not just delegated). Power to appeal planning applications. Power to organise local recycling. Planning

powers for minor applications. Great powers with regard to neighbourhood planning. Power to operate car parks.

Car parking, some traffic flow options, market rights, greater influence over local development/planning, street cleaning, green spaces, business rates, to name but a few.

It isn't that they need more powers but they do need to be consulted over any big spends (over £25,00) in their town, with some power to have their voice heard.

This would be dependent on the locality and the level of partnership between the town council and the other tiers of local government.

Town development and powers of planning and parking enforcement. Powers to enforce listed building compliance.

Planning authority. Business rates. Larger towns acting as hubs for surrounding villages attracting additional precept.

Training to understand the enormity of this situation. Emergency Financial Help For Our Residents.

Planning - I appreciate the Glover report is still being discussed and that will change things further. However, we have the issue where we are consulted by the Local NDP but then get 'overruled' even on items where the council unanimously votes for/against etc. Licensing - again we have the local knowledge but these applications get agreed by Allerdale without any input from the Keswick Councillors. Planning, environmental health, minor roads and licencing.

Parking, Events, Markets, Litter penalties.

Planning authority not just advisory to national park authority. Rejection of proposals that are counter to the local strategic plan. Councillors should not be councillors for extended periods of time. One of ours just quit after 40 years!

Greater say over planning and highways decisions and involvement in the Local Plan.

Licensing. Advertising Control. Road safety.

None yet. Can only ever be based on a rigorous assessment of their competencies. Alternatively, local people should be the ones to suggest which basic services they are most dissatisfied with being delivered in its current way. They could then be told what the cost of taking charge of it locally might be and decide accordingly.

Power to raise local taxes e.g. tourist; power to establish a code of conduct for members; powers to improve local transport, infrastructure/roads, planning.

I think we should have more powers over local services, especially within the Town. But it would also be useful to be able to work more closely (formally) with other Market towns in our area.

None.

I have long had the view that town councils are not fit for purpose in the 21st century. There needs to be radical change. Extra powers on their own will not help. Better to go up a tier and give more powers, if necessary to district/county councils.

Planning and Highways decision-making. We should hold a bigger say in development of our town, we know what is needed more than the District. Right now we have the potential to influence rather than decide & even that influence is strongly bounded / controlled by over arching policies decided elsewhere so it does all feel a bit like tokenism at this level.

Planning issues relating to housing; air pollution monitoring; community infrastructure – schools, GP surgeries and road traffic control.

Responsibility for public footpaths, minor road maintenance etc.

Basics like road repairs, pavements, public rights of way things that make a difference to residents at a local level. I believe that we have enough powers for most things. It would be better to have power over the areas where we don't have control, such as public toilets and highways.

Final say in planning.

Most powers are already there, it is having the space to use them. A bigger role in planning policy and place shaping would be beneficial.

Increased powers in Planning/Development Management, Leisure, Local Highways. Greater influence over local policing prioritisation. Footpaths.

Personally I believe that communities would be best served if we had the continental model of local government with far more powers and responsibilities at local level and far less at County/district.

Traffic. Parking. Planning. Licensing.

I don't think I know enough about this to comment wisely.

We would need greater funding and officers.

A town council that has the power of competency has the power to provide the majority of services it may wish to do so.

Power to raise money. Power over planning and highways.

More input on Licencing Laws with local Establishment's which will help regulate and bring Unscrupulous Landlords & Establishment's back in line within current Legislation.

Power to decide on lock down dependant on risk. Decide on car parking charging in towns. Retain business rates.

Planning decision making authority where there is a made Neighbourhood Plan as in Uppingham.

Final say on planning, in particular large scale housing projects.

More power to control development (planning) and to maintain (service) the local open spaces and street scene. Business rates should also be shared with the local community so that they can be used to help develop industry.

Automatic General Power of Competence. Failing that, a power to provide health services and fund economic development.

Planning, lighting, local roads etc.

Stronger planning, environmental and infrastructure influence.

Planning for housing, health, education, industry and environmental protection.

Off road car parking and public toilets could be transferred to the Town Council.

Certainly more influence over planning many of our recommendations are routinely ignored.

Ownership of "common" land like parks, playgrounds, car parks, facilities etc. The ability to negotiate directly with highways departments. The ability to determine services that should be provided. And the ability to provide them if possible.

Local Planning Determination. Operate local Transport. Road safety and road improvement. Control of Sport facilities. Rubbish and recycling collection.

They can already rise taxes no legislation to stop, lack of local data a problem, need some mechanisms for reconnection between parishes for scaling up innovation.

Anti social behaviour, dog fouling and litter fines.

Small planning applications and a louder voice to influence policies.

Again it comes down to accountability. Creating their own standing orders can destroy democracy. There has to be more powers to oversee and correct misuse of power than at present, this will be especially so if more power is devolved down.

Powers without the finance to implement them are purely notional. We can and do raise a precept but this comes on top of Council Tax. So we might dream but cannot realistically expect to implement.

Some residents regard the town council as a 'toothless tiger' as it currently has no regulatory or statutory powers when it comes to issues like planning, for instance. The Neighbourhood Plan does provide an element of that but there is a widespread view that higher up authorities can work around or side-step Neighbourhood Plan policies should they wish to. My own view is that our local authority does respect and consider Neighbourhood Plans but I do have some concerns about the centralisation of some planning powers should the Government's White Paper on the reform of the planning process goes through. Residents are often surprised to find that the town council does not have the authority to enforce planning or parking restrictions etc and is purely a consultee in these processes. I would like to see town councils given more 'say' and clout when it comes to issues like housing development and the provision of infrastructure. I think there could be a key role for town councils working with voluntary groups on issues such as the improvement and protection of publicly owned open spaces or 'softer' community initiatives such as community arts etc.

Direct access to the services they will be responsible for (environment, road safety ie gritting). Representation directly to the unitary authority.

More say in planning and social service requirements.

Responsibility for their own planning decisions. without the need for a panel made from councillors who are not from the area under consideration.

Decisions on planning applications.

Greater planning powers (power to decide, not just comment on, major developments). Greater resources to invest locally - housing, infrastructure, innovation.

More control over local highways, planning, transport and the ability to scrutinize county council.

This is currently being discussed with a local group of parish councils.

Traffic regulation, parking, public transport. Amenity provision. Planning decisions.

Highways management. Play parks and open spaces.

Education, road repairs, lighting, planning permissions.

More powers around planning - the only real opportunity town councils have around planning is to do a neighbourhood plan but that has limited value as all it can really do is fill in the odd gap in the districts local plan which covers loads of towns/villages so from what I see the local plan doesn't really take that much notice of what the town council's views are (and by extension the residents' views in our case as we are just reflecting in our responses what residents think). Housing - it seems quite tricky for town councils to really get involved in housing but to my mind whilst they would be unlikely to be able to deliver big developments they certainly could help deliver or facilitate smaller developments focused on identified need in their town. In our case the vast majority of housing development is being done by one large national developer that does the absolute bare minimum to get a development through planning and thus the houses don't completely met our identified housing need and they don't contribute to issues like climate change or affordable housing. If Town councils had more powers in housing as well as more support then I could easily see them either being able to deliver small developments or facilitate community led efforts such as Community Land Trusts.

A greater say in planning decisions, particularly those affecting large scale developments and the core High Streets and matters concerning traffic management/highways.

Just about everything that a district council currently has.

Local (but not strategic) planning. Parking and traffic control. Open spaces and parks.

Highways Maintenance. Car Park & Parking Management. Planning & Licencing.

Town Councils should have more power to influence Police staffing levels and be able to influence the local police teams work focus to address anti-social behaviour. Town councils should be able to provide their own enforcement officers and retain any fine money collected to put back into prevention schemes. More robust powers to influence planning decisions and power to prevent aggressive development by big companies until any required identified infrastructure is delivered.

Bus passes are by far the most requested item followed by taxi licences. Parking policy if not control of and income from car parks. Getting this right can have a big impact on economic regeneration particularly now that town centres as shopping destinations are under such pressure from home deliveries and online retailers. It follows that towns should have a greater say in planning decisions beyond that of being just statutory consultees. It has been the case for some time that fewer and fewer planning applications are getting before elected members and with the new unitary authority it is getting much worse. It would not be an exaggeration to say that less than 1% of applications are seen and determined by elected members. Perhaps some role could be found with important applications to ensure appointed town councillors could be part of the planning committee making the decision. Back in the day, now at least twenty years ago, West Dorset had a Northern area planning committee that met every month in Sherborne. It dealt with a significant number of applications at each sitting and there was real democratic decisions making on view and in public.

I think we should be given a wider remit of managing more spaces within the town and taking responsibility for town properties (town hall etc.).

Enforcement on maintaining buildings particularly those which are listed.

Keeping the Town tidy and more power over local highways.

More power in local planning requests.

Planning decisions parking and rates.

To override what the Borough council implements.

Planning authority.

I'm not sure they should. In my experience town councils are often very focused on a narrow set of issues and often not very dynamic.

Becoming more for planning than just statutory consultees, more control over parks and open spaces and leisure facilities.

Powers over planning applications. They have the local knowledge.

Powers to operate local car parks (yes they can do so at present but this gives a VAT issue), powers to run local bus services (not currently allowed) Powers to actually grant/decline Planning Applications (we have a "made" Neighbourhood Plan that allocated sites for development but we are still at the whim of the Unitary Authority as to how they interpret it on Planning matters. I would also like us to have more powers over Highways matters.

I think the powers they have now are sufficient. It is probably more a case of working in conjunction with local groups, charities, organisations and the community.

More power over local Planning matters. Power to raise a precept to provide services which may be seen as the preserve of other councils (eg Children's centre provision by Devon County here has been decimated since 2010).

A more serious role over planning issues and road/safety issues.

More power in local planning; The Neighbourhood Plan is an excellent example, but the pressure of development is inexorable. More power in lobbying Highways for local requests for speed control, parking, active travel provision and enforcement - more power in providing local (and rural)public transport solutions - more power in setting standards for biodiversity and wildlife protections.

It would be beneficial to my Council to manage the enforcement of our car park "in-house". Currently we need a third party to do this on our behalf.

Markets, Planning, Roads/pavements, Traffic, Assets.

Cut out one tier of rural local government.

To be included in business development partnerships. To require the transfer of more local functions and assets (esp. car parks) from county and district councils.

Planning

It's not so much about power but about identification and recognition. We are not currently capped in precept increases and thus, in some respects are able to do anything under the GPC however, town councils suffer from the electorate not knowing who we are, what we do and why we exist. It is not therefore a question of lacking power but lacking recognition and respect

Ownership of the facilities that they expect us to run and pay them for the privilege.

Local Planning, Cleaning and verges, Input into local housing needs.

Powers over local planning and powers to develop town

Over roads, parking, pedestrianised areas.

Rental, leasing and tendering arrangements managed locally not at District level.

Greater input into the where, when and how of budget allocations relevant to the particular town council.

I would like to see much more interaction of the younger people. This could be allowing classes at schools to have a forum with councillors and be witness / participate in TC meetings.

Ability to influence business rates. Employing local police, enforcement officers. Control over local licensing. Educational structures. Planning refusals and referrals.

It would be helpful if the General Power of Competence were available to Councils on qualification/merit without the 'electoral mandate' percentage element, as this is outside the control of many parishes. Their own ability/qualification of the Clerk should be the criterion - they cannot force people to stand for election! I do not believe that they are in a position to take on more power and, locally, I think that this has been demonstrated during the Covid-19 outbreak. Against that they have demonstrated, during the same period, an ability to deal with the more human element of government.

Some limited planning powers. Parking and limited highways powers.

More powers on planning. More financial inputs that happen in their town.

Local transport.

In Skipton's case Tourism was managed by both Town and District Councils. The Town Council should have complete control over Tourism and Events, including responsibility for the Town Hall, to provide a focused and structured campaign which wasn't available before. The Town Council should have responsibility for street furniture and signage to ensure consistency throughout the town.

Planning green spaces/forest/sustainable drainage solutions, external/internal environment, Trees. Only because the District Council has not carried out these tasks.

1. Right to run classes in all schools in the area, outside school hours. 2. Right to run classes in all public sector leisure facilities in the area at fee rates which are the same as paid by the public. 3. Right to buy houses for letting as social housing at subsidised rates to people on benefits. 4. Right to subsidise public transport in the area for people on benefits through a travel card scheme. 5. Right to run activities in all public sector buildings at fee rates which reflect those paid by the public.

Access to national funding programme. Ability to make changes that impact their local parish. e.g. Licensing, Charter Markets, Asset Management. the legislation as per 'Closed Churchyards' should be used e.g. the parish has a right to operate facilities unless it chooses not to. would save a considerable amount of public funds spent in disputes.

Planning, we have a problem with flooding that is not referenced at Local Authority level regarding planning. Roads, local transport, planning authority status, housing (social).

Don't now exactly what powers they have now. However there appears can be a lack of consultation from the County/ Unitary on planning and transport, and other policies. Where they are consulted, question over how much weight (power?) and influence they have. But 2-way process, unclear what guidance exists to Unitary authorities on requirements to consult meaningfully. Also, more responsibility needs proper due processes and standards (of candidates, elections, and running of Town Councils) and training etc.

The ability to deal locally with Code of Conduct issues that may impact employees, to mitigate risks in that area. Greater ability to work 'cross border', and to take statutory decisions otherwise reserved to higher tiers of govt, but which have local impacts - crime, social care, education and the like.

Question 8: If you believe that town councils are well-placed to develop and implement local policies, what policy areas do you believe could (should?) be addressed?

Policies surrounding the services identified above.

Wrong development, building styles and low carbon. Electric charging points.

Influence over green issues (eg power generation / carbon neutral building design for new and old dwellings)

Future projects, rather than their general role of monitoring and commenting on business (eg planning applications) which are decided elsewhere.

The Housing Policy is my biggest worry. Education - the fact Lyme Regis does not have a Pre-School and it is controlled by Dorset Council

Climate change. Apprenticeships. Pop up/start up policies for young entrepreneurs and suitable accommodation for the same.

Town's appearance. Reasons to live in it and to attract the outside world.

Housing, Local economy and most importantly BUSINESS RATES.

Traffic, transport and parking and other infrastructure, particularly that associated with new developments.

Tourism, local economic development.

Planning Policy

Planning, Infrastructure, Taxes Public Transport.

Anti-poverty - based on Section 1 Equalities act 2010 - the Unimplemented provisions

Community well being

Community safety

Economic development

Public health

Housing, transport

NDPs, and anything that does not have an impact outside of their parish eg shop fronts and small scale planning decisions but they would still have to find safe for housing. Transport. Health. Planning housing for locals. Environmental sustainability. Relevant services development.

Mostly planning, regeneration, highways and environment.

Sustainability, licensing, economic development, planning, environmental.

I believe that Town Councils should work with the Neighbourhood group and have power to implement what is agreed on this plan and power to ensure other authorities cannot work against what is in the plan for the town.

Town centre regeneration, planning policy, infrastructure etc.

Planning, Infrastructure development, Community engagement policies. Employment development plans etc

Planning, Code of conduct.

Until All Councillors prove themselves to be competent, knowledgeable about the needs of the many then I feel nothing can be altered until a Training Programme has been completed.

Planning and Licensing.

For us Local Occupancy houses and the loss of houses to holiday lets are very big issues in the Lake District National Park

Marketing, Planning policy, Leisure provision/facilities.

Parking and Transport, Local housing provision, Licensing hours, Advertising signage. Where to place speed moderating measures.

Number of times the grass is cut if TC is paying. Same for any public toilets, street cleaning, litter picking. Only if out of local precept.

Planning, roads and infrastructure, high street regeneration, climate change.

Policies relating to local services, social services and provisions as well as caretaking services, there is much confusion about who does what and this needs to be simplified and duplicating of infrastructure to support these service removed.

This would have to be long term so that the quality of councillors could be improved. At present it is difficult to fill the posts.

Town councils are not well placed to carry out extra work of this kind. Town councillors in the main do not have the education or resources at their disposal to make a difference. With few exceptions, town clerks and staff would find implementing any new powers time consuming and this would hinder the real work of town councils.

Town regeneration.

There is always a grave concern about giving extra responsibility to a council if it is one that is not well managed . Historically the public have not scrutinised the meetings of a council and therefore the danger exists that it would be a personnel view of some members of a council rather than what is right for the town.

I think / feel that local communities should have the opportunity to influence all the decisions that impact upon them. I also believe strongly that we need a shift to decentralised administration and services if we are to enhance our resilience in the face of current & coming challenges.

air pollution Road traffic and planning decision making on new housing developments.

Health and wellbeing priorities .

Planning related, public transport, heritage matters, commissioning local health matters (I.e. anti smoking campaign) dementia care, affordable housing.

Environment, social inclusion.

Planning and Highways investment.

As in Europe, local services, primary education, local roads etc.

Planning and development policy. Transport policy.

Be able to offer more support and activities for young people including job searching /interviewing skills, counselling, confidence building. Possibly recycling collections and local recycling facilities from Town Centre sites etc. This would need to be coordinated across the towns. Any use of larger recycling facilities offering recyclable refuse sorting still need to be coordinated to get economies of scale when built. We have lost area recycling facilities during this pandemic.

Housing needs

Planning, Small Businesses, building control are all main complaints of local people.

Implementing Local Licencing Laws also Planning Applications. As a local town council we can only recommend & pass on to county council to approve. If county choose to ignore our recommendations then we need to know why & have a proper means of appeal. They are well placed but not well resourced. Town Councillors are under valued.

Planning, Environment, Highways.

Planning, social care, preschool care, opportunities for personal development.

Health and economic development. Town Councils should receive percentage of business rates in their geographical area.

The relative weakness of town councils powers attracts a lazy way of recruiting councillors. Equally, small councils divided by party lines creates unnecessary political feuds that hurt the community. We have a party-free council so all councillors' skillsets are available at committee level. However, because it's an unpaid and voluntary position, few people step forward and those that do are often just looking for something to keep them feeling of worth. Often, that leads to poor quality governance and impoverished democracy.

If town councils were given the budget that is spent on them by other authorities to plan themselves I believe they would deliver services and facilities that would be better suited to their local population

Planning, traffic management and assistance for those that need it.

Planning; Flood Control; Social Services; Well Being; Foodbanks; Social Housing; Employment.

Transportation & Local Road Safety, Sport facilities, Devolution of facilities to be speeded up.

Alternative economic strategies, Revitalizing democracy, Social enterprise important for rejuvenation, jobs and wealth creation.

Dog fouling and litter.

Assisting with economic development ideas and planning policy development.

Sustainability. local environmental concerns. Implementing on a small scale ecological and conservation policies in line with national guidelines.

Which comes first to policy or the means to implement?

More say on planning issues and more influence when it comes to Active Travel initiatives - walking, cycling etc.

climate change, tree planting, transport ,green spaces, recycling, childcare/nursery provision, local work opportunities.

Policing, social, building fabric.

A stipend to help the volunteer carry on after a period of time served.

Planning policies.

Housing, transport & highways, licensing, renewables.

Over Development, local highway issues, local environment.

Planning, transport, leisure.

Having developed strategies for youth engagement, crime prevention and environmental management.

Planning

Locality planning for the future. Transport. Economic development.

Highways Policy. With regard to Planning far more gravitas should be given to these towns that have developed and adopted their own Neighbourhood Plan.

Policing, Planning, Social interaction of young and elderly with enhanced provision of recreational and social activity space.

Road maintenance, highway markings/speed limits and street lighting are the most common cause of concern for local residents that they feel we should have more say over.

Sherborne are making efforts to present the positive attributes of the town with the creation of a new website that meets the needs of residents. We don't feel anyone else is going to do this for us so there's a worry of being left behind, particularly as we start to come out from under the shadow of the pandemic.

Road and property maintenance, greater input into local planning decisions.

Proper consideration of the villages and rural areas.

Planning, enforcement.

Local planning

All areas and to be consulted more before policies are implemented.

Planning, Recreation and Leisure.

Planning.

Planning for sure (see comments above regarding Neighbourhood Plan conflicts with Unitary Authority) plus Highways matters. In particular traffic management matters.

The pandemic has highlighted gaps in community services and support. The ability to signpost to other organisations and possible grant support for particular projects might be the most appropriate role.

Planning as above. Also highways management - we have major problems, progressed at glacially slow pace when we feel we know local needs much better than County Hall.

I would like to see town councils being able to enforce penalties for pavement parking, speeding, engine idling, anti-social road use - controlling volume and speed of traffic through the town. Provision of local bus services. Greater powers to protect and enhance biodiversity, for instance wilding of land, reduction of verge mowing schedules, allotment allocation and policies.

Local support for vulnerable people.

Implementation, monitoring and review of made Neighbourhood Plans.

Town centre/ High Street regeneration. Transport planning. Climate change.

town councils could have powers to deliver children's/young people services.

Housing, jobs, traffic and sustainable living.

Town centre enhancement and support. Environment issues. Say in local housing needs.

Planning, local tax, self determination.

Cycling and active transport.

Improving business arrangements for sole traders and small or emerging local companies.

Crime including CCTV monitoring, Highways budget and planning matters needs to be properly addressed with better coordination and engagement with respective officers.

Securing wildlife areas. Create “dark sky” areas, energy efficient programmes ie solar – (PV and wet) include ground and air pumps., “swamp” the Town with electric car charging points. Interaction with other TC to create a major social event ie a unique festival ie music / balloon etc.

Control anti social behaviour

Planning, High street regeneration, Enforcement/Police, Licensing.

Local transport and social infrastructure. More emphasis in planning policy on Neighbourhood Plans. Local Licensing etc.

I do not think they are, the continued fragmentation of policy making increases confusion within the public. Well demonstrated by the increasing splits between England, Scotland and Wales; one country numerous tax, benefit, regulations and laws.

Integrated service provision. Linked powers to collaborate with adjoining Councils with a shared interest or project.

Involved in all policy planning.

Local Planning Policies. Regeneration. Environmental.

Local highways street cleaning / planning to help us make the best of our local area in half the time, we can be more proactive rather than purely reactive as larger authorities tend to be.

Sustainability. If the Town Council can provide a lead, it could lead a cultural shift for all residents.

More training and more trained officers need to do this task. Councillors are only advisers and do not do the work.

More influence over some planning issues and how funds are allocated locally to support the infrastructure of a growing town.

Education, housing, transport, leisure and recreation.

Flooding.

As above but would need a transfer of funds (% of Council tax) to employ staff, equipment, etc.

Planning and environment (incl. Neighbourhood Plans, local housing, transport, and ‘green’ policies); Community needs and volunteers (all sectors incl. arts); Health, social services, youth.

Health and social care, education, youth services, economic development (particularly a cut of business rates), ecology and environment (up-river and down-river, air quality management etc).

Question 9. If you can, having answered/considered the above questions, please expand on your previous answers. For example:- 1) What more do you think town councils might have to do in any event in the post-Covid19 world? 2) If you think they could/should/must do more, what must change to enable this to happen, eg: re-establish, in some form, previous geographical/power/responsibility arrangements; or develop new ones that better fit with the move to unitary councils? 3) Anything else you'd like to add?

If the relationship between the Principal Authority and the Town and Parish Councils is good, there is less need to devolve powers to the T&PC sector because all bodies can work together for the benefit of their area. The General Power of Competence provides much of the power needed but the major limit comes from the staff capacity and financial resources of the Town Council.

Town council will need to look at the viability of high street businesses, maintain the goodwill of Covid-19 where people helped the vulnerable. There is a need to engage with and WITHOUT the internet.

1. Provide flood-recovery accommodation and resources. 2. Local powers to remove bureaucratic hurdles to encourage water mills to provide hydro-power / enable turbines to be built / allow solar panels to be fitted. 3. Remove unhelpful legislation which militates against the construction of on-shore wind turbines.

Councils should probably suspend their committee structures in favour of open public meetings around general topic areas, such as unemployment, poverty, young people etc. They might consider engaging more closely with local people, such as direct calling on people, allocating volunteers to look after the wellbeing of individual streets - social and upkeep etc. Your questions rather suggest that more power should be transferred to the 3rd tier of government, but really it is about releasing the powers that they already possess but 'lock down' in formal structures that are largely irrelevant to getting things done. A local council could be seen instead as a dynamic 'working party' which is able to respond rapidly (dispensing small funding etc, and galvanising volunteers) to local situations - rather than focusing at present on low-level reporting endlessly to 'higher' authorities, such as police, district councils etc.

Provide working councillors with separate IT equipment as everyday work and councillors work cross contaminate.

Perhaps alter the boundaries to bring the smaller out lying village Parish Councils to come under the nearest Town Council.

I have been running the Community support for Lyme Regis since March, I am looking to extend that after Covid (whenever that might be) because I believe that Community Support should be there for residents always. I am looking into making our group a CIO so we can continue with the work we have already done through Covid. We have a large aging population and an increasing young population. It needs support.

The Dorchester Tourist Information Centre will probably not be funded by Dorset Council for much longer and this responsibility will fall to the Town Council - the same may well be true of public toilets. If Dorset Council were to pass over control of the town's markets to the Town Council, decisions on their future and their re-generation could be made more easily and more swiftly. Dorchester has one of this country's most attractive, historic and architecturally rich High Streets. Its ambience and grandeur however is lost in the constant two-way traffic which pollutes the whole street all day long. The town has a remarkable story stretching back some 6000 years and has plenty of existing evidence of that story and the people and events related to it. A traffic-free High Street would act as a powerful catalyst for the regeneration of the town centre focussed on experiential heritage. To attract younger people onto the Town Council, councillors should be limited to serving two consecutive terms before having to stand aside for at least one term. This would give more people the opportunity to serve as councillors and, equally significant, allow the Town Council to be perceived as being more representative and democratic. A new relationship between the Town Council and Dorset Council needs to be negotiated. This process is hindered by the opposing "politics" of the two bodies. I look forward to the day when those who want to act as representatives of and for their community at any level, feel at ease to do so as Independents.

We need more responsibility for our own destiny. Gillingham is situated on the northern tip of Dorset and arguably has as much in common the rest of Dorset as it has with Wiltshire an Somerset, the adjoining counties.

Historically it has always been forgotten by the rest of the county. However it has a railway station, within 2 hours of Waterloo and is within ten minutes of the A303. It has an expanding skilled and retired population as property is on average £100k less than nearby town's and a highly sought after secondary school. It has a green ethos with Large open spaces and plenty of development potential land.

Response to loss of high street retail will be a major problem. Attracting visitors, new businesses and new ways of making the town attractive and not run-down - nor desperate-looking as some can do. Re-establishment of something linking towns with their hinterland without it seeming to be the town taking them over. Public conveniences and dealing with local litter and planning blight.

We are still evaluating what the impacts of post Covid shifts, eg in office workers no longer working in town, will have.

Post-Covid 19: local councils fill the gaps left by principal council as they reduce services in response to income loss and additional costs incurred by Covid 19. Changes: examine town and parish boundaries to develop economies of scale in service delivery; be clear about who's doing what and have in place clear inter-authority protocols; principal authorities sign up to relinquishing absolute control of services and assets, i.e., they don't try to be a shadow authority and/or construct painful service level agreements; funding follows service and asset transfer; local councils develop better governance and management skills; mechanisms are strengthened to improve proper and impartial local decision making.

We may need to take on more of the 'local' work i.e. toilets Tourism markets local local car parking? Enforcement. This would only work if the relationship was established with other towns & parishes locally wishing to do the same otherwise cost benefits would not fit then an established legal satisfactory way of taking on some of the statutory task but with a means to fund them. Unitary will be unlikely to give away money making riles or mix and match if devolving it will need to be to all.

Town Councils should counteract the moving of decisions further away from the people affected by them, which is what happens in so-called 'Unitaries'. Big is not beautiful. Post-C-19 is pure guesswork and I'm reluctant to try and forecast what Town Councils might need to do more of. Powers should be extended to meet whatever is better performed by TCs post-C-19. After all, local accountability is most clearly demonstrable at Town level. Perhaps better distinction should be made between the powers and responsibilities of Town and other Parish Councils, given how often non-Town PCs are short of Members.

Raise their professional standing by raising precept and employing qualified, competent staff to deal with the new realities eg zoom meetings, etc. I think a more regional/urban council is needed for some functions that smaller parish councils could buy into, while others might remain a County wide affair. Certainly some aspects of the current parish boundaries need changing - eg business parks in some parts of the town fall into neighbouring parish areas with far lower precepts and business rates. Similarly housing estates that cross boundaries - who adopts them and looks after utilities? It's about ambition - TC's have the possibility under Localism to do anything they want or feel able to do. At the moment too often they are stopped by four tier government and historical ownership of charters, land, etc. TC's have few if any statutory powers but so often they do a better job - eg Cover 19 food response and charity support locally was tremendous, but funded almost entirely by the TC with no compensation from above. Almost everything that an ambitious TC tries to do has to go through vested interests who invariably seem unwilling to change or let go, resulting in double taxation really. eg TC employ extra bins and litter picking resources - why?

Currently control of the town is managed between Town and Dorset Council, an example is that County has control of the towns car parks which includes parking charges. Toilets are another contentious area. Too often remote land lords have a significant impact on Town Centres problems and the Town Council are better placed to work with them.

Developing new policies in conjunction with the Dorset Council to ensure the best services to the people of the town.

Regeneration of public space.

There should be devolution of powers from Unitary to town/parish councils. TC/PCs should be able to develop housing schemes locally. The direct consequence of CV19 has been increased home working, which is likely to

persist. There will be a reduction in the need for office space, but there will still be a need for manufacturing. Better local infrastructure (broadband, power) will be required for home working: changes to personal taxation (possibly a local levy) should reflect this, to generate income to TCs/PCs. Modifications to business rates for manufacturing should be made, with a greater portion being fed back to TCs. This will require increased capability in financial management and responsibility, locally. Some method of encouraging localised take-up of solar generation should be made, incentivised by TCs.

1) Some local road planning decisions should be taken in conjunction with the Highways authority to aid two centre recovery. 2) If unitary is forced upon Gloucestershire towns and the neighbouring Parishes may need to work closer together. There needs to be differing ways of working between the unitary and say a small rural parish, with a part time clerk, that does little beyond mowing the rec and running the village hall and a town council that has a full time staff and undertakes all sorts of projects.

Develop a council which reflects local diversity. Be more transparent.

We will undoubtedly have to put more money into community support - we already are - to deal with the inevitable poverty and distress caused by mass job losses. We would like our District Council to do more, but they lack the staff, leadership and funds to act in a timely and effective way.

Building and managing communities with emergency supplies, helping the financially disadvantaged / homeless, supporting businesses, Signposting to other agencies, creating safe outdoor spaces, supporting the arts/venues, encouraging greater activity, working with schools/educational establishments for vocational training.

As climate change is our major threat I think a fund for each Town should be given to the Town council to only be spent on adapting the area for flooding , and to improve energy use and emissions.

A regulation body for town /parish councils Is needed now further powers would need this in place

We need to realise that every Councillor should be out helping in our community. We don't have any figures to go by regarding the impact Covid has had on our Town. It seems it all comes under West Oxfordshire. It's embarrassing when a resident asks me how many cases we have and deaths since the start of the Pandemic. The Way The Government Has Handled This From Day One Has Been Atrocious. It's like leaving a monkey in charge of a nuclear reactor!

Our area is in the process of becoming a Unitary Authority - so this will change a lot of things. The Town Councils have the local knowledge and support of local people, however we are volunteers. I have been a Councillor for 18 months and attended ALL evening meetings but can't attend during working hours when the bulk of the decisions are made. I will do my four year term and then stand down as I am not available during the day. Also during our 'COVID World' the remit and work load has increased - I am very visible in town (I live and work in town) and so get lots of questions etc the vast majority are outside the remit of the Town Council - but when residents are unable to get hold of Allerdale/Cumbria they access ourselves for assistance.

No.

Government financial cuts may result in further reduced funding for local services such as youth provision, library support. Bus route support. Community centres, parks. These will need to be supported locally to maintain communities.

Make hands/face/space a regulation not a guideline. A Post Covid world is a dream. We are really taking about various versions of a with-Covid world.

I think that there should be the opportunity to expand the TC area to include adjacent parishes that pay significantly lower precepts but take advantage of the facilities of the town.

Town councils should be given more powers and finances to allow them to use local knowledge to improve matters in a number of areas. At present we compete with priorities elsewhere and are in competition with others for available money. We know our area better than the next tier of local government but it often feels like we are banging our heads against a brick wall when we try to get things done or changed.

Seems you're not interested in the views of DISTRICT councillors who are arguably a good deal closer and more involved with parish and town councillors? Short answer to your question is that town and parish councils will do exactly what they want to and no more, or less. In my experience, even when offered greater powers/controls over something very local, such public toilets, or a street market, they will say not over our dead bodies. This even when offered a reasonable amount of financial support to deal with any increased financial burden. This suggests that town/parish councils need to become a non-political version of district councils, covering larger and more financially sustainable areas. Have a minimum level of full time staff AND some sort of training to avoid to avoid some of the more extreme behaviours currently seen in these meetings.

Post covid will/has see the rise of the community and in order to save local councils from becoming an irrelevance they have to be prepared to engage with, work with and support community growth. In some communities the council is seen as, and is indeed, remote, old fashioned and populated the 'great and the good.' change is hard and it brings about conflict, and councils are going to have to have strategies in place to manage this. Engagement will be essential, embracing new ways of working: virtual/hybrid meetings/flexibility of working practices. Unitary councils are not the panacea. They are devolving services with no devolution of power or the ability to raise money locally. They are doing this without assessing local capabilities.

Town Councils are well places to understand the immediate need of there local population and this enables them to be more knowledgeable and reactive in situations like Covid. In terms of post reconstruction after an event like Covid, they are in more direct touch with residents needs and more aware of priorities.

None.

As I have already stated, and my views are well known, town councils should in the main be abolished. Parish councils also need to be challenged in their usefulness. Many councils sit upon large reserves, which could be put to better use. Town councils have a civic function and that's about it. Every time there is an election, the vast majority of councils have to co-opt or run with limited numbers. Simply giving extra powers to parish and town councils is of no use if the will and competence to use those powers is not there.

Post Covid 19 is not a matter for a council it is a matter for the whole community to take responsibility for ensuring their and others safety, in terms of what a council can implement has already been changed (hand sanitizers etc) This Country has to get back to something like normal in order to survive.

I would support a shift to whole community deliberative decision making with collaborative agreements negotiated and agreed at levels that make sense in terms of servicing communities appropriately but we aren't about to rebuild our democratic system by choice now are we?

Town Councils are best placed to engage with and support their local community. In a post COV 19 world we should be able to determine the balance of our town in term of housing development application and the impact these increases have on the existing infrastructure E.G. Road traffic, air pollution and schools and GP practices. We should have powers to supports our local businesses and citizens in times of emergencies rather than relying on the county council for financial support. I also think we should have a greater role in supporting Mental Health initiative and be given funds to promote Dementia Friendly towns rather than relying on local volunteers.

Town Councils are under pressure to help those in financial need - support for local food banks, holiday meal schemes etc. This is likely to continue. There has been no financial support for such projects from central government - all the funding has gone to principal authorities. We think that a move to unitary authorities may push more responsibilities onto Town Councils - this must come with suitable funding. In rural locations, it seems likely that a cluster scheme of a town council with neighbouring parishes, may be the best option for devolution of services as smaller rural parishes are unlikely to have the skills or indeed the inclination to do this on their own.

Inevitably TCs will have to pick up some of the slack as the parent authorities will have less money to go around. TCs must focus on local issues and not become too ambitious as happens. They do not always have the skills set and knowledge to make decisions on important matters and will need legal advice/guidance. Local councillors are willing volunteers but cannot always dedicate too much time to the job. And job it is.

Increase the provision of public toilets by providing better facilities.

help the local business and charity sectors to recover and evolve to deal with the post COVID conditions.

Moving to a unitary system would be very beneficial, there would be a clear strategic authority and a clear local authority. Currently districts are not sure what their role is, this will be even more so with the changes to the planning system.

Health Service planning seems to be a closed book. Town Councils should have much more effective access to the health service planning process. Also where there are issues relating to health service performance little interaction seems to be currently possible. In general there is currently no adequate interaction between medium sized towns and their hinterland.

One area where local town councils will have a lot of work to do post-Covid is to rebuild enthusiasm in local communities for public events. Many longstanding committees have disbanded during the pandemic. Equally important, Town councils will have to work hard to revive their town centres where many more shops have closed permanently. Major publicity campaign will be needed.

There is currently a huge disconnect between local needs and the ability of local representatives to deliver those needs. This has led to lack of faith and trust in local politics at the small market town level. The needs of those towns and the way that traffic, parking, licensing, and their interaction - especially the changed dynamics that occur on market days, are completely unique to the local geography. The attempt to develop strategy on planning at the higher tier seldom reflects the unique local character and needs of a market town and this is well evidenced by years of disastrous policies that have negatively affected the local built environment and failed to take account of the unique local character generated by the presence of a market. Post Covid there is an opportunity to regain control over these elements and use that control to enhance and develop the local character, with a particular steer toward developing the external streetscape so support street markets where they exist with the benefits they offer to healthier open shopping experiences and the fostering of local business and the retail opportunity for local small producers.

Groups of Borough Councils should replace County Councils with Town Councils more locality based.

Post Covid is mainly what do we do with a Town Centre, we also need to put in place start up business premises, encourage small business. We need to look at how we fund care for our children. We need to have a more stringent control over money handed for care and social.

As a town council & this being our first experience of the Pandemic of 2020 in our lifetime. I think we could, should & must do more, we also need to re-establish our methods & application to enable our Local Businesses & Independent Traders to prepare better for future Emergencies. This may & will require us as a town council to re-evaluate our responsibilities in relation to geographical & power in our Community.

This council will earn £0.5 from CIL due to its N Plans. It could do a great deal more with the money if empowered e.g., carbon free town goal.

I would suggest the council continues to be a social hub for the community.

It would appear that local and national government have been running round like headless chickens making sure that they cannot be criticised for their response to the pandemic and at the same time letting services deteriorate. Try getting a parking blue badge or renewing your driving licence. Working from home is not working for a lot of government agencies and authorities. These are not town council jobs but need sorting. My town council responded well. May be a little cautious in developing new covid safe working practices.

Town Councils should not have a limit placed on S.137 expenditure and should not be threatened with capping every year. This would enable them to contribute towards health initiatives in a more meaningful way.

Difficult to give a considered answer, but I am a believer in a 'big Council' where town Council (parish) should take as much responsibility as possible for the life of the town (consider France). There is much confusion in the mind of residents as to who is responsible for what! BUT the council will need to consider its capacity both staff and councillor wise before expanding responsibilities.

From before lockdown even started, we began recruiting a volunteer group and co-ordinating those that already existed. It proved highly successful in caring for the isolated and vulnerable. It also brought the community together more. Months in, we are seeing the effects of frustration and mental instability amongst the young and increased anxiety amongst the elderly. We are ill-equipped to deal with this but are working with charities and

the Unitary council to see what we can do. My fear is that we're just scratching the surface, because we're not trained and we're not funded. Better coordination with police, schools, NHS, social services and local authorities would help hugely and though I think we're punching well above our weight, we need to be upgraded to make it really work.

If post Covid planning looks anything like pre Covid planning we are not preparing for either the next and imminent pandemic or the social collapse, food shortages and lack of habitat that the current climate and environmental crisis will bring in the next few years. Travel restrictions for goods and people, more life threatening pandemics, increased flooding and food shortages mean that local areas will have to work towards being more resilient and self sufficient. It seems likely that the current capitalist structure will collapse under this pressure so we should be planning to replace them with community co-operative replacements. Although the science tells us this is our likely future, it is not inevitable and we may have as long as ten years to plan for it we will be seen, in retrospect, as irresponsible if we leave our preparation for the future, what ever it brings, too late. To put this into context, we didn't plan for the industrial revolution and have spent 200 years clearing up the mess and mistakes. We didn't plan for the two world wars last century and we lost millions of lives and took decades rebuilding Europe. We need a system that is better prepared for the challenges of the 21st century than our current, outdated system of local government.

1. The Town Council is best placed to recognise business and families that are struggling it would have been good for us to have had a discretionary fund for this. 2. if we move to a Devon Unitary Council the Town Council must be able to take responsibility for some of the areas currently managed by South Hams eg Planning, local assets car parks and Lower Ferry and areas they currently control Manor Gardens and North and South Embankment.

We have already instigated a greater community based action plan. See more details here:

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/nov/22/local-people-improvise-pandemic-solutions-stick-community-politics-flatpack-democracy>.

To give town councils more powers without checks and balances is totally wrong. It is almost impossible to remove councillors. TOWN COUNCIL should be in a position to have an overview of the community but this only works if those involved behave with integrity.

The town boundary review needs to be decided and implemented, control of local transportation to get a better fit between need and provision. Ability to decide on waste collector either to buy into Unitary provision or commission own to best meet our people's needs.

Covid response has demonstrated level organization in small rural towns, but volunteering is not the only answer. Need strategic capacity to address increasing inequalities, lack of services, jobs and 25% of households bring either poor at work or poor not in work. no point in galvanizing democracy if it is not anchored with a commitment to securing income and health, and an appreciation of the environment. This is the objective of Be Buckfastleigh a Well-being Centre supported by sponsors such as Nesta, Riverfords and Others.

It will keep our high street and public open spaces clean.

If smaller units such as town councils are given more powers then both the elected representatives and the staff have to be more accountable. The latest trend towards zoom and such like meetings, is destroying democracy and openness. Unlike previous council meetings, the public do not generally attend and, worse still, have to be invited to speak or be cut off at will if they do log in. This system allows the chairman, and a few dominant councillors to over ride the wishes of the public...mainly because they are not made aware of all the facts. There must be some safeguards to prevent corrupt practices and cover ups if these types of meetings have to continue. What I have seen during these COVID times, fills me with alarm as I see cabals forming, lack of delegation, lack of a consensus in decision making as dissenting voices can be silenced or not invited to speak. Many town councillors, in small towns, have no real experience of the workings of government and their training is not compulsory, they are invited to attend training days, and in my experience several new councillors chose not to attend any. There is also the issue of employed staff and the guidance given to them. It may be that the traditional role of town clerk has to go. At the moment, the efficiency of the council and its staff is down to one person. If this person is inexperienced, lazy or ineffective, then the whole running of the town is in jeopardy. At the moment, a town council is only as 'good' as it's clerk. Experience has shown that a clerk who is ineffective in delegating and supervising staff, or challenging councillors when necessary, or failing to keep the

communication channels running smoothly, can potentially bring the town into disrepute. The powers of the mayor and clerk will have to be disseminated by creating new supervisory roles.

What could be done has not been considered by our town council, and we fear that particular roles could be dumped on us and we are left to explain to our constituents why they are paying more money. Then consider if we have the expertise to run a market, run local recreation etc. At this point TCs are just talking shops but suddenly they have to morph into local democracy. It is a big ask.

Good question. I can envisage town councils having to become more involved with 'high street' issues - chambers of trade, changes of use from commercial to domestic property, a co-ordinating role with voluntary and business groups etc. For that to happen effectively would require more training for councillors and, to some extent, a blurring of party political boundaries. I hear good reports from towns such as Frome and Marple which no longer have party-political representation at town council level, with councillors standing for their respective political parties at the next tier of local government. I am a member of a political party and sit on both the town and Borough councils but can see that at a town council level the party-politicking can get in the way and prove counter-productive. The boundary issue is complex as there are wards which overlap with Parliamentary constituencies and historic boundaries - that's a thorny issue - like a giant Rubik's cube!

Encouraging to shop local; improve and seek new companies to set up in the town; work with local NHS and GP on improving health and well being of all residents; support and try to reduce the use of food banks; look at ways of providing support and facilities post covid for loneliness, mental health of young and old.

Local town councillors are well-intentioned volunteers working for the benefit of their local town. Some possess good local knowledge from residing in the locale and sometimes carry their own professional working qualifications into the council chamber. The Town Clerk and assistant/s are usually the only members that are remunerated by way of an annual wage. Being a volunteer town councillor brings a lot of reading and studying of vast swaths of documentation and researching, which puts a lot of younger generation off. This needs to be addressed somehow, to attract younger members to serve their community in my opinion.

Remuneration for elected town councillors to reflect the added responsibilities. Only expenses paid at present

We are currently doing a lot to coordinate support for the community. We plan to do more about mental and physical wellbeing (this work started before the pandemic). We also plan to redouble efforts to revitalise the town centre scene.

One of the most important things in my opinion is to demystify local government. Get rid of outdated processes such as religious observance and costume etc and encourage young people to get involved in local democracy.

County Councils are too remote to understand the particular needs of small market towns, particularly at the edges of their district. There is far too much rubber stamping, especially in planning, local objections and desires are ignored. All our local town councillors live here and have a 'vision' for the particular needs and wants of our residents which go un-heeded both by County and, to a lesser extent, District.

What must change - as someone who works in local government at a higher tier I have been really shocked at how badly the system that Town Councils operate under. The rules and processes they operate under seem quite different to Districts/County councils as it seems that Town Council staff can do very little without Town Councillors approving things to the micro level. Whereas at District and County levels, councillors set the vision and strategy and then empower paid staff to enact it. If a district or county council ran in the same way that a town council does then it would cease to function as it just wouldn't be able to get anything done. This needs to change.

Sorry but time simply does not allow for me to write an essay but happy to expand at a later date!

1) Grass and hedge cutting, footpath maintenance, street sweeping, public open spaces management, burial ground upkeep, street furniture provision and maintenance. 2) Creation of a unitary authority for the county and at town council level a return almost to the age of urban district councils.

Hadleigh used to be a borough, then a Rural District Council. Some aspects of that old approach are now too large for a town council - public health and education for instance. These County level powers would be beyond

a town, but most of what the DC does could be passed to a TC, and the remainder up to county. This DC contains only 2 towns of any size so it would seem a fairly easy subdivision.

The unitary Council experiment in Cornwall has failed dismally. The electorate feel disenfranchised and remote from the decision makers. The County Council is bureaucratically cumbersome and this deters many residents from engaging, allowing large vocal pressure groups to dominate agendas promoting political / party aspirations above local interest. All local town councillors should be independent as their only allegiance must be the community they are supposed to serve.

Local authorities have endured a long period of austerity and although it seems that at present a lot of money is being dispensed by central government it's not being done too wisely. The purchase of PPE is a good example. I feel that a renewed squeeze is likely and this is bound to be harmful to local democracy. If higher tier authorities respond to renewed belt tightening by pushing some responsibilities down on to parishes and towns without an allocation of finance then this will not be good for the creation of harmonious working relationships.

At the moment, councils tend to attract very similar councillors (often retired) and doing the role out of voluntary duty. Post COVID, with increased responsibility, the council needs to look more like a governing board with councillors appointed based upon skillset and the value they bring. We therefore need to encourage younger, talented people to join the council. But to do this we need to make the council relevant and less like a sketch from Vicar of Dibley. We could learn from school governance structures where governors are both elected and appointed with distinct responsibility. This year is important for the council - with COVID affecting everyone, the role it needs to adopt strongly is to be the voice and support of the community.

Grant funding from the County to enable the town to keep the centre clean and safe for residents and visitors.

Help struggling families with day to day living powers to arrange our own high street eg shops rates parking charges.

County councils are distant from Town Councils and District Councils are in-between. In our area both of the two higher councils are Conservative so it is all a case of what their political masters want and not what is good for the community. The Town Council is grass roots and therefore in touch with the requirements of the community.

I'm more in favour of the third sector doing more at the place level supported by the local authority. With one very notable exception the town councils I've been involved with at part of the solution, but not likely to represent the main driver for change.

Most "town" councils have no more powers than Parish Councils and this will need to be discussed. Most new councillors appear ignorant, sometimes willingly so, of Governance and Process and the role of the Clerk. They seem always to rebel against the Clerk and think that they are in control and should line manage everything. We have been quite lucky during Covid as the Town has pulled together, the Market has remained open throughout and businesses have adapted.

During this pandemic our Town Council has continued to meet virtually by Zoom and I certainly feel that for Committee Meetings at least that this should continue as the medium of choice post Covid. In normal physical meetings we hardly ever have members of the public present but on Zoom meetings we have attracted some interest from the public. Unfortunately our Town Hall has largely been shut during the pandemic and this has led me to the conclusion that we should debate whether or not in the 21st Century there is any need for the Council to maintain such a costly asset or would we be better to sell it and invest the money raised in affordable housing. In my town we are twinned with a French Town and I am constantly impressed with the system of local mayors and their powers seen in France. I would like to see directly elected Mayors in England's Market Towns. In my opinion this would bring the level of accountability to the people served and make democracy all that more real. With directly elected Mayors would need to come more powers of the type that I have outlined above and again I would recommend to the researchers that they look at the French model.

Town and Parish councils can be more responsive to their local population as they know them better and have a great interest and desire to ensure that their local area is the best it can be for the people who live there. The local authority continues to look to the town and parish councils to take over facilities such as public toilets and play areas which gives localities more autonomy but also comes at a cost by way of maintenance.

Post Covid, there is the potential for much needed town centre re-generation. This is hampered by the three tier system. For example, the District Council (which is also the palling authority) owns town centre land, but is motivated by filling holes in its own budget than by local need. Meanwhile, Devon County also owns land which is prime for a park and ride system, but may be holding onto it for future sale as housing land. Never an easy balance of power to redress, but there is more than a feeling that currently the Town Council is always junior.

I am afraid I cannot put more sensible answers here. We do not have unitary councils here and currently work quite well with our borough council and councillors.

A post Covid world is a Climate and Environmental Emergency world. More than 30% carbon emissions come from transport. TCs should be able to take local decisions to support a culture shift away from car dominance, to support a local rural economy, to support local food production and adopt practices that improve biodiversity and nature.

I think the country will be poorer with lots of unemployment. all Councils will need to support these families.

Local councillors deciding local issues. Adopt the governments Planning for the Future White Paper, including the influence of Neighbourhood Planning.

The current structure and a prevailing culture of severely restricting precept increases are likely to combine to prevent any significant changes. Only a move to unitary status along with significant asset transfers would be likely to change mindsets and perceptions and prompt a re-evaluation of the Town Council's role.

Town and parish councils have been one of the core, primary providers of community services during covid-19. They have been instrumental in supporting individuals with activities such as prescription runs, food, social isolation. It is not enough to say that town councils have the power to deliver these things already (they do) as it simply then runs the risk of being a duplicate or add on service to that provided by other tiers. There needs to be a clearer demarcation of responsibility to avoid duplication with one council (whichever tier it may be) being the primary deliverer for a particular service or provision. At the moment, there is disparity and disunity in delivery of community/youth services. It feels almost as if each tier is in competition with one another rather than trying to provide the very best service for the community; that may of course be true for politically motivated councils. I am an advocate of unitary authorities having worked in both unitary and 3 tier council areas. our county council is so remote and detached from the reality of what happens in our town and county area that residents miss out on funding and opportunities as these are largely focussed around the larger urban areas of the county (with presumably the highest political count).

We need the freedom to develop future strategies that will benefit the current 4 areas of Deprivation. we need the freedom to decide what will benefit all of our constituents. In a very small town bursting with second homes and of this week, not a house to rent anywhere, we need to have a comprehensive strategy to protect the interests of our more disadvantaged young people. we also need to break away from a system allows one bus company to serve the entire island, and charge outrageous fares.

A review is needed of our county' 3 tier system. More localised decision making with an enhanced role for Town/ parish councils.

Town Council is more in touch with local population. Neighbourhood planning should be done without necessity to follow District Plan. County Council far too remote to meet needs of local residents.

With regards to local budgets one example would be the budget for town improvements and enhancements there is far too much money and effort wasted by the principle administration arresting local thinking and the strangling of engagement with local chambers of commerce and other local bodies.

First - in a total Covid free world is to have a massive party for the young old and indifferent. Congratulate ALL the services who had a part in fighting the pandemic. Help to create an attitude of "what we have on the door step" this partly being local shops. Encourage young people to enter the local council, maybe with a sweetener because people in the 20,s 30,s 40,s 50,s may have "better things to do and nobody listens to me attitude"

The town council as the lowest rung of democracy is the closest to the electors and as a result are the only real face to face communication that many people get. Lockdown and Covid restrictions have been left to the council to advise local people on as the interpretation has been exceptionally difficult. There are clear issues with the Town council and unitary authority so cannot see any change in terms of budget purses and responsibilities between the two organisations. The simplest change that needs to happen is the removal of suspicion and to open a meaningful dialogue with both parties.

It seems that many parishes will be almost forced to 'sweep up' Principal Council services that have been impacted or ceased in many areas of operation, yet they are frequently not treated as credible alternatives - often treated quite dismissively. It was salient in the judgement handed down in the landmark Ledbury case re standards, that parishes are too-often seen as not capable of managing their own affairs - this is no doubt true in many instances, but should not be the prevailing view of a whole sector comprised of 10,000 councils. The tidiest way to resolve many of these issues is a simple shift to a Unitary + Parishes model, with parishes given similar powers to present Districts, albeit limited to local area, but if this is not achievable there should be some requirement imposed upon County and District-level authorities to pass assets and services they cannot support down to local councils who may ask, and who then need the appropriate powers to manage these.

Town councils are close to the electorate, highly prone to radical change in the face of a relatively small number of voters/pressure groups. On the plus side they are undoubtedly the more human face of government, easily accessible and more easily capable of adapting to current situations. To increase their range of responsibilities and enhance their authority within the local government hierarchy changes the essence of the organisation and, in my opinion, makes it the poorer for that change.

Where possible to foster and promote local communities to be enabled (through statute) or other means, ways in which they have representations and powers to effect change. As it stands today we are consulted about our communities, but have very little powers to affect the direction of change and it's nature. This has to change. While understanding that there needs to be central powers for housing, commercial development, Town Councils can and should not just be consulted but be a part of the integral planning process. It sometimes feels like we are passive bystanders in our own community. I hope that helps.

The main thing is have a voice to be heard and listened to. More training and more expertise. Redefine area's of responsibility.

Councils need to move from the ethos of managing place i.e. managing land assets etc to managing people i.e. developing projects to meet needs of the local community. In our town we are looking to fund mental health drop ins for young people as this is a much needed under funded resource in a small rural town where young people are cannot get into the larger towns where are better serviced with mental health support. Similarly we working in partnership to pilot a meals on wheels project in the town to help housebound residents and at the same time support local cafe's who are providing the meals.

Post Covid town councils need to encourage business start ups to populate empty shops. Having pop up markets provides a foothold but national government (and landlords) need to recognise that the change in retail landscape has been transformed by Covid. Rents and rates on the High Street need to be adjusted down to current market values. If handled correctly, High Streets will become populated by independent niche retailers increasing visitor numbers and creating the virtuous circle we all are looking for.

As the UK Government can only advise. The TC/DC/CC hands are tied. Only when the UK Government make law and not 'Guidance'/'Best practice' than thing can be done. RED tape need to be returned.

Mainly supporting local businesses, trying to reduce the number of unoccupied potential business premises and generally improving the town centre.

The areas that flood most regularly are the poorest, we would like to do ameliorations in this area, costly groundworks and ensure that we can refuse any planning that is in any area that is in a potential threat the land nearby. I feel the LA, while wholly supportive at times of flood have no idea of the problems this town has. There seems to be no forward thinking.

Need to transfer responsibilities back from District & County level for key infrastructure matters. Too much time is wasted in having to consult with layers of local govt. which means work is delayed & expensive in terms of time with limited resources at our disposal.

Stronger partnerships with County health organisations and local surgeries/ pharmacies; support volunteer networks either directly by co-ordinating certain groups meeting town needs, or sign-posting to village based groups; supporting local businesses (incl Chamber of Commerce) and business innovations that may have come about because of Covid; supporting other social and cultural initiatives (and facilities) meeting community needs in the local area; leading on environmental improvements and policies (housing and infrastructure design, nature, cycling, walking, waste reduction, local heritage) for the town and surrounding areas.

We will use the Localism Act as far as we possibly can - but we are reliant on Principal Authorities in various way, particularly for action on roads, social care, schools and the like. The planning system is also increasingly centralised, which is a major issue while Neighbourhood planning is being undermined.

Question 10: what are the implications, if any, of Brexit for your town council?

Specific to Marlborough Town Council there are no implications. In terms of the UK's and the local area's long term prosperity the effect will be catastrophic. We have seen Honda in Swindon announce its closure. Mini production (Oxford & Swindon) will be badly affected. Airbus in Bristol and Fordham will wind down. The list goes on.

1. The effect on businesses which export into Europe, ie farmers, cider producers, cheese makers etc. 2. effects of those who import from Europe. several shops in town rely on European goods and components. We have a major European business. 3. education, mainly private. adverse of effect of raised university fees for Europeans. The European HMC scholars we currently educate here will not be able to afford the new termly £27,000 university fees so will not apply for the scholarships as they currently do, which until now, generally led them to top English universities. this is a loss to us all.

Some companies in our town will close, causing unemployment. Farmers will struggle financially. The economy will suffer. The Council will face a whole host of new problems.

No massive implications.

I don't know

Desperate

Don't know

Increased unemployment, business/shop closures, increased local hardship /poverty, lack of candidates prepared to serve an increasingly hostile local community, resulting in lack of drive and enthusiasm, and poorer services.

Directly, no implications. Indirectly, the potential shift to the economy will impact what precept demands can be levied whilst remaining affordable and as such, what public services and projects we are able to deliver.

Not yet clear.

Possible increase in fuel prices but little change in Town Council activities as such. We have two large international employers here. They may be affected.

Brexit is one component of change which, if combined with other issues, could contribute to situations leading to social unrest. Politically, on its own, Brexit is not a concern to a local council.

Probably has more implications for the larger employers in the town regarding licenses logistics and import Tax. I am a strong supporter of Brexit so bring forth the day we cut away from the Apron Strings of Europe

We have a fishing community which could be affected.

The true impact of leaving the European Union will be felt in different ways. These will become clearer over time and the Town Council may have a part to play in supporting those in our community who will lose the most as a result of this extraordinary backward step. Covid 19 and Brexit will lead to a number of fundamental changes in how much can be done for whom and by whom. Keeping in touch with those we represent, staying vigilant and being ready to assist where necessary will become a basic part of the Town Council's role in the future.

None

Unknown

Good question! As its going to have a damaging affect on the whole of the UK, as it already is, the repercussions on the economy are undoubtedly going to trickle down and affect local authorities and in turn Town and Parish Councils.

None directly, except in so far as it has implications for the various businesses in the town. The effect Brexit (and Covid) will have on the economy in general and food prices in particular will be of great concern!

None of any immediate consequence, beyond the wider implications nationally.

Hmm. I guess the main risk for a town like Lyme Regis is the adverse affect Brexit could have on the national economy and how this filters down. Future labour restrictions on foreign nationals could hit the tourism economy's labour market.

We have not discussed it.

At town council level unlikely to be relevant although local planning policy may change and or environmental, for seaside towns the loss of European support may be detrimental and this goes into other grant areas. Brexit a change for the worse!

I don't do much crystal-ball gazing. We'll have to see.

I have no idea! But I imagine people will discover it takes them longer to get to Europe, more red tape, fewer visitors from EU, lower food standards and some increased structural unemployment in town as a result. But that's just cynical me! Less input on EU schemes such as Twinning events, student exchange, Erasmus, I honestly don't know until we find out what the terms are.

Not really sure on this, far too complicated.

The impact on the Town Council and the Town in general is not likely to be different to the rest of the country, but in general I consider the impact nationwide will be a significant down turn, this coupled with Covid19 is going to mean hard times for the foreseeable future.

It's a social and economic disaster and will have serious consequences for a long time.

Overall reduction in national prosperity will affect Dorset badly (historically funded about 20% less than other counties), with direct impact on local services (health care, policing, social support, transport, infrastructure) which will seriously affect the local population (rural, elderly & infirm, disadvantaged & less well-off). Without the possibility of EU infrastructure and project investment, the district's facilities and infrastructure will suffer badly in the coming years. Agriculture will suffer due to the lack of EU support and investment, directly affecting agricultural activity and the sector's employment prospects. For both councils, we will be presiding over a slow degeneration of local communities, without the resources or powers to intervene.

Not sure, but if anyone knows what sort of Brexit we will be getting please do share the knowledge.

Local fisherman will be happy.

less opportunity for young to expand their ideas study and work. More inward-looking,

Who can tell! But not likely to be beneficial. My feeling is that it will impact on jobs, compounding the impact of covid19. We still have a number of big manufacturers in our area who I fear will be hit hard by exports.

Business impact. Cost of living. No doubt several things which have yet to come to light.

I think the implications are the same for the whole country...more expensive foods and goods. Less jobs.

Difficult to estimate.

Whatever the implications are, there is nothing we can do to change or influence it, so we will have to deal with the fall out when it affects our community.

Farming community will be affected.

Sadly my Town Council live in a permanent state of Denial unless it benefits individuals that is!

Brexit will damage our local economy - the farmers are very concerned. My business (retail) is closing next month and Brexit has already had a negative impact on it and then COVID came So the impact will be indirect i.e. the local economy being affected which then reduces the funds for the Council etc etc.

Crazy idea, but it's here and we must deal with it.

Implications will affect businesses. These businesses are the ones that support local services and causes.

Tourism will increase as the value of the pound will sink. OR Tourism will sink because international travellers will not want to visit a basket case.

Pro-Brexit; give us more control of our small market town.

Not sure what Brexit means as all information is vague as far as the town council is concerned.

We are a tourist town and many hospitality providers recruit staff from other EU countries.

None, we haven't got one.

None immediately, but I am sure we will feel the impact.

We currently form part of the Heart of Wessex Programme, a part of the European Rural Development programme. With Brexit the UK will cease to be a part of this in the last few years our area has had the benefit of over £2 million of funding into local business and projects. Which in turn has been responsible for lots of rural job creation. We await to hear if the UK government will be replacing this programme.

Not aware of any, but would not be surprised if there are problems.

I am not aware of any implications for our council. Personally, the sooner the better!

Possible disruption to supply chains.

Brexit in my humble opinion will not impact to greatly with the way the council operates.

None specific to our town that are not shared across the entire British population

If there is no agreement with the EU then costs of goods and supplies will increase and standards of living will fall.

None!!

Limited. We may see more unemployment so help will need to be provided there.

None that we can see.

nothing directly, though it will have an impact on the towns main manufacturer and everyone else as the result of higher costs if deal or no deal. there is nothing better than what we had.

None

If either Brexit or Covid have negative economic effects, reduced funding for the unitary council carries the risk (based on previous experience) of the Town Council having to provide services abandoned by the unitary council, and having to fund them ourselves. So far there has been no obvious effect on relations with our twin towns (in France and Poland) although it is early days.

Reviving interest in our European links post-pandemic will be difficult. We have links with France and Poland.

I believe that the impact will be detrimental. I cannot see how the necessary changes required to deal with the global environmental crisis can be achieved by state actors. It is my firm conviction that the EC is one of the best placed organisations to enact the structural changes required and ensure that they are implemented. At the same time I believe there is huge scope for the daily decision making to devolve to a truly local level working within the larger legal and compliance framework that Europe can offer to manage transport, agriculture, etc at a Macro level.

If we do not have a deal with the EU then I expect goods coming into the country will be delayed and more expensive. Likewise exporting will be a more bureaucratic process. there is a complicated set of changes to implement. The time is limited and there are insufficient experienced people to do this in the UK. We are not a predominantly manufacturing town but it is based on services and public sector so not as badly as some other parts of the country. If we do not have a deal with the EU then a deal with the US would be more necessary but I fear the poorer quality of food products (hygiene) and higher prices for pharmaceuticals from the US - crippling the NHS budget.

To be determined.

Do not know and no one has informed us of any.

Brexit is going to have an effect on our business community if the incumbent government dose not have a clear strategy & implementation programme.

I can't see although I suspect that many seasonal farm workers have already gone back to their home countries which may impact on housing issues.

Opens up a whole raft of opportunities in tourism and community business support. Bring it on!

It is an irrelevance.

Little.

On the town council very little except maybe a need to reduce the precept and some of our more ambitious projects like improving the public realm. On the community it could be massive hitting employment hard - a vicious circle not helped by Covid-19.

It is a little early to say but it could include a reduction in tourism income from EU visitors. This would affect shops and the hospitality sector. It will affect imports/exports from our local businesses (especially industrial ones). This could have a knock-on effect on employment levels and so on.

No more or less than anywhere else. It's a disaster!

Jobs will be lost and the large local farming community will face major economic issues. We have a lot of care homes with foreign carers, so I'm not sure if they'll be able to stay.

Until it starts to bite I'm unsure how the implications of a new recession, higher unemployment and possibly reduced food and medicinal supplies will affect the town and what we will be able to do to mitigate the worst effects on our population.

Brexit is a huge self inflicted wound but at the Town Council level it will make little difference to our activity.

I can't see how it would affect the day to day running of Dartmouth.

Unknown, but expecting greater levels of poverty and unemployment than we see right now. Greater hardship. Greater use of Foodbank (our foodbank usage has grown 700% under Covid-19 and Brexit will hit this further)

This rather depends on what government agrees with the EU.

Not significant, may reduce some red tape re-grant applications, etc, a handful of local businesses may be affected in some ways. Fishing will have major impact on some nearby towns but less on Liskeard as far as we can tell. We will need to keep careful watch so that if an impact arises we can react appropriately.

Do not think it will have particular problems but the country will be in disarray.

Post Covid has shone a light on the significance of care and of very local support groups, some of which are run by town councils and other not. The response team in Buckfastleigh is a partnership between Be Buckfastleigh, the town council, and St Luke's Church.

None.

Since they all voted for Brexit and I didn't, I think they weren't capable of thinking that issue through

An unknown at the moment. As a town which is dependent upon visitors and holidaymakers, there are obvious implications if travel restrictions are imposed.

Who knows, but probably not positive. We were founder members of European Charter Towns but that has sadly gone.

No specific implications beyond those for the UK as a whole.

Personally I think its a tragedy , but locally could mean loss of jobs and more people requiring support.

Some small businesses will be effected. For the council no obvious implications.

It's not been discussed within council chambers.

Unsure.

Nobody knows!

The loss of businesses such as GKN and the impact on local jobs. This has already had an impact plus the lack of directive for supporting green energy.

Not sure at this time.

Apart from national implications, we may be sitting on the end of a long linear lorry park for Portsmouth Docks.

This is not yet entirely clear, but, losing grant funding from Europe for various schemes to help end deprivation and lack of opportunity in rural communities could be very, very damaging.

None that I am aware of.

I think Brexit is only likely to have minimal implications at Town Council level though it will have far more serious implications at District and County level.

Nothing that won't affect the entire economy!

Loss of ability to bid for EU regional funding.

Minimal I'd say.

Local businesses, who heavily rely on exporting, will be badly affected and the town council needs to be able to support them.

Unknown, we wait to see.

Unknown. A controversial issue however in the town.

I'm not aware of any immediate ones, but our local businesses will make us aware as they happen.

What a difficult question. If we were nearer Poole Port would we be concerned about continental lorry traffic being held up? If we had a livestock market we'd certainly be worried about it's continued existence because of tariffs on trade into Europe. Like many places the potential loss of EU Labour is a concern, particularly in the NHS and wider health care. The successful garden centre here has regular deliveries of plants from growers in the Netherlands. How will that trade be affected? What will be the economic impact of the new trading arrangements on ordinary high street shops. With Brexit compounding the effects of Covid will the UK become a bargain basement for foreign investors buying up distressed British businesses. The larger shop units are here

already empty. What impact will this have on our town. It's ironic that just at the point where the government pressed ahead with leaving the EU new signage popped up across the town designed to help the visitor find exactly what they were looking for and to boost the trade of the town. It was very stylish and paid for of course by an EU aid programme.

We don't know. At the moment it is difficult to tell.

None

None Known

Not sure

Farming community

To be seen

Get it done

Affecting the local economy.

Not a great deal probably.

Sorry I don't know.

Disaster!

None other than macroeconomics and particularly tourism...but post covid staycations may prove positive.

None.

We are a rural community with 20% of our population comprising of the staff and pupils of a well known Public School. They are also our largest employer. Their pupils are drawn from all around the world so Brexit is unlikely to be that much of a negative impact. Our second largest employer imports mainly from China and sells in the UK so again little negative impact. Our local farmers may be negatively impacted on any exports but most seem to sell within the UK at present.

None directly but of course it will affect all our residents!

That was a sneaky way of getting attention!

It is difficult to answer, Covid has led to a splendid community response, but the Council itself was slow to respond.

The major impact on the town, as I see it, will be on living standards as people (potentially) lose jobs and see prices rise (Covid led to a massive increase in foodbank use here) and a slump in property prices could adversely affect hundreds of residents who have recently purchased houses. The Council could carry on as it is, turning a blind eye to this. Or, it could choose to increase its community outreach. There may, indeed, be opportunities for new businesses to emerge here in the town, or locate here because of relatively good infrastructure connections. None specifically but I personally think it will be bad for the UK (and Europe) but worst for us.

Increase in HGVs travelling on strategic routes through the town from Newhaven. Difficulties for local food and drinks producers. Many and unforeseen at the moment, I suspect.

None that I can think of.

Not too sure at moment.

No significant implications.

Negligible or none.

Hopefully none but the populations economic strength may be shaky for a while.

none as I see it as we have always tried to purchase and award local contracts. we actively discourage the use of the likes of Amazon. It is important to shop local in all respects if we are to protect our retail high streets.

Disaster, our child poverty levels will be off the scale.

No direct implications.

Just concerns over the uncertain future we appear to have at present.

No deal will be a disaster for us in our rural area. A lot of our local projects are funded by EU.

As a marine and boat building industry reliant on seamless trade with European companies for supply, staff and visiting yachtsman it will be disastrous. We heavily rely on low paid workers for tourism, agriculture and care providers for an elderly population. Freedom of movement in these sectors will not be positive.

Possible surge in racist abuse and other discrimination.

I really don't know other than the absolute shit show Brexit is for the nation in terms of what the money spent on coming out will curtail public spending for many years to come. I know the impact on my business, most of which is absolutely ridiculous in the context of REACH regulations.

No EU funding for local projects.

Still waiting to see but hopefully exciting opportunities will follow.

Would like to see the Town embrace Brexit but welcome EU tourists to visit East Devon and relieve them of their Euros.

There are no immediate issues although unless an agreement comes into force there will be noticeable issues around pricing and affordability of basic foodstuffs.

Same general effects as on society as a whole; although we anticipate, initially, a general slowing effect on supply-chains and less choices available in many areas. Travel to/from our French and German Twin Towns may be more complicated, and potentially more expensive, but this is a minor point for the Council - it will likely hit hardest things like local school or sport clubs/cultural exchanges. We presume that travel inward will be affected and therefore tourism may see some slowdown. We await the effects with interest!

With any change comes uncertainty and as a Town located on the edge of the New Forest and benefiting from tourism we cannot say what impact it will have either positive or negative.

None yet, but are awaiting the outcome from the negotiations. We have several very large distribution warehouses, many of whom will import their products. Only time will tell whether the outcomes are positive or negative.

The unknown. Supply. Cost.

Not known but we are home of some major companies such as Suntory Beverage and Food GB&I, and SPP Pumps who supply into European markets. We are twinned with a French town but we don't see Brexit bringing any barriers to that.

No comment!

None

If you can answer that you are a better man than me. Here we are with days to go and still nobody knows what is actually happening. Which ever way you voted it's an absolute shambles.

Sleaford is a historic Town. 65%+ is over 55+; 28% are commuters to London, Peterborough, Nottingham, Leicester, Lincoln, Boston., Armed Forces bases. 4000 children in schools of catchment area of 18 miles in all directions. Retirement and residential services. No road connectivity to industrial sites. Failed to comply with 'Manual of streets 2007' UK Government guidance.

I don't feel qualified to answer this question.

Realisation that we are 10 years out-of-date in use of digital communication, end of city centre dominance, likely flight to the suburbs and countryside, recognition of role of volunteers in local communities as fundamentally important players in most public services in the future.

Nothing specifically for our parish.

Who knows?

Difficulty in obtaining resources if needed from outside UK.

Erasmus project unclear.

Town Twinning not as easy ... 90 days out of 180 means frequent Euro travellers may not wish to spend 14 or 7 days from their allowance on this activity. This would include me.

Don't know! Being a rural area I suspect implications for farming and local food businesses is one.

Same as elsewhere - huge economic uncertainty, exacerbating all other issues. A reason we've swallowed this year's spending increase, rather than passing it on through the precept ... household incomes under enough.