

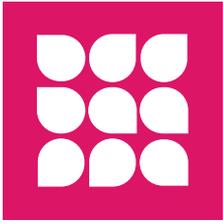
**Dorset
Chamber**

DORSET CHAMBER

2022-2023

MANIFESTO





ENABLING BETTER LIVES THROUGH BUSINESS

“

A *progressive, modern* and *inclusive*
Chamber of Commerce

”

Welcome to the 2022-2023 Dorset Chamber Manifesto. This sets out our ambitions from 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023 as the Chamber of Commerce for Dorset, accredited by the British Chambers of Commerce. We look forward with optimism and renewed energy as we continue to do our best for our members and the wider Dorset business community. The last two years have thrown unimaginable challenges at business, but I hope now is a time when we can all rebuild and press on.

The last 12 months have seen Dorset Chamber take an unprecedented focus on the importance of health and wellbeing, supporting the resilience of our greatest asset, our teams. We have tackled some key issues that are still very much considered taboo such as the impact of the menopause on women at work and mental health of our teams and importantly, our business leaders through our Got Your 6 (GU6) project. We've also done our best to help businesses as we emerge from the pandemic.

This year will see that focus develop as well as embracing ESG (environmental, social and governance) and providing a programme to help embed this within Dorset businesses. This will include a comprehensive programme for businesses to become more environmentally sustainable and aim towards Net Zero, adopt strong social responsibility and strengthen governance.

The year will see a strong plan of action that will include:

- Increasing and adding value to membership
- Building a global economy through international trade
- Providing support, information and training
- Being a voice and lobbying for business

Business does so much more than create wealth for shareholders. The role of business is critical within society. Business provides employment, helps support our welfare state and education system and provides us with enriched lives through education and opportunity. This is why the Dorset Chamber board has unanimously agreed to adopt our new vision "Enabling better lives through business".

Ian Girling
Chief Executive
Dorset Chamber



A WORD FROM OUR SPONSOR, BLUE SKY FINANCIAL PLANNING



“ESG has become a really more important issue for Dorset businesses”

As the founder and managing director of Blue Sky Financial Planning and both a Dorset Chamber Board member and Business Partner, I am delighted to support Dorset Chamber with the new 2022-2023 Manifesto. I am a firm believer in the work of Dorset Chamber, the county's leading business support organisation, accredited by the British Chambers of Commerce. I am also extremely supportive of the new vision for the Chamber, “enabling better lives through business”, and I endorse this view that business is much more than creating wealth for business owners and directors; business plays a critical role in supporting a successful, happy and prosperous society.

Embedded in the values of ‘enabling better lives through business’ is the emphasis on ESG (Environmental, Social, Governance). I've been keen to help drive this initiative through the Chamber and I'm delighted that this is now front and central in the Chamber's thinking.

At Blue Sky Financial Planning we have always had a strong conscience when it comes to environmental matters. We are pleased to state that all our clients have an exposure to investments which are deemed to be sustainable, and over 60%

of all our investment holdings embrace Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) principles.

Our behaviours run much deeper than just our investment strategies. Being a responsible business, we frequently evaluate our supply chains and where possible, use local companies who themselves invest in more resilient, sustainable practices.

Blue Sky, like Dorset Chamber, strongly believes that the culture within our business defines us. Together, we wish to make a positive difference to others and the world around us. I am delighted to support the practical advice and progressive steps that Dorset Chamber will be offering not only to the membership, but to the wider Dorset business community.

We'll be working closely with Dorset Chamber in the delivery of these plans and please don't hesitate to contact me if you'd like to hear more about our approach to this incredibly important issue.

Gary Neild of Blue Sky Financial Planning

DORSET CHAMBER

2022-2023

MANIFESTO

ADDING VALUE THROUGH MEMBERSHIP

This year will see us continue to add value to businesses through membership as well as maintain our focus on increasing membership as the leading business support organisation in Dorset. Our ethos is to:

Protect

Dorset Chamber membership will continue to provide businesses with up to £1m of vital legal expenses cover as well as access to a legal advice helpline, where members can receive confidential advice in relation to any legal or tax matter. In addition, members have access to specialist employment solicitors who can provide pragmatic advice in relation to HR and personnel management matters.

Connect

Our member-exclusive events offer our members the opportunity to connect with people, organisations and businesses that are invested in growing, learning, and supporting each other and the local economy.

We'll also offer some events to the wider business community, ensuring we support businesses across Dorset and welcome new business to the Dorset Chamber community.

The opportunity to connect is open to people within business across all sectors and we'll always aim to provide a welcoming, friendly and professional environment. You'll see a mixture of face to face and virtual events, recognising the benefits of online technology but also the value of meeting face to face.

Topics and themes will include essential business skills, embedding technology, health and wellbeing and Net Zero and ESG.

We will also continue to offer members the opportunity to promote their own training through our website, providing members with a valuable platform to connect with the wider community.

Promote

We have an unparalleled multi-channel reach across Dorset through our highly developed range of established respected media channels, including:

- **Our magazine "Dorset Business Focus"**
- **Our database of hundreds of members**
- **Video interview opportunities promoted across our social media channels**
- **Our member-only online news portal on our website**
- **Event sponsorship opportunities**
- **Support and promotion through LinkedIn**

Saving you money

One of the key benefits of Dorset Chamber membership is the ability to offer our members considerable discounts on a range of services, both through our member and our affinity schemes through the British Chambers of Commerce. This includes significant savings on roadside assistance, business healthcare cover and cash plans.

We will continue to build on our customised membership levels, enabling businesses to access a package of support that meets their specific needs.

We'll also continue to work closely with our Premier and Platinum Business Partners, positioned as champions within our business community and vital contributors and supporters of the work of Dorset Chamber.

BUILDING A GLOBAL ECONOMY THROUGH INTERNATIONAL TRADE

One of our key roles as a Chamber accredited to the British Chambers of Commerce is building a global economy through international trade. As a one-stop-shop for international trade, we will continue to:

Encourage businesses to consider international trade opportunities and seek new overseas markets. This is through general advice and support available through our magazine and website as well as bespoke advice on new markets. We also offer access to a global network of accredited overseas Chambers of Commerce through the British Chambers of Commerce.

We will also continue to expand our international trade training programme, helping businesses to develop their capacity to trade overseas. This includes introductory training to exporting as well as more complex programmes around documentation and legal requirements. Training can also be offered on a bespoke basis and members receive a substantial discount on training.

As an accredited Chamber, we can issue documentation on behalf of HMRC. Our highly qualified and professional international trade team offer first class support in terms of issuing key documentation for exporters including Customs Declarations and Certificates of Origin. The team can also offer advice on any aspect of documentation.

We will also be aiming to develop 'twinning' relationships with international Chambers in key global markets to help drive international trade.

We have an unparalleled multi-channel reach across Dorset through our highly developed range of established respected media channels

DORSET CHAMBER 2022-2023 MANIFESTO

PROVIDING INFORMATION AND TRAINING

This year will see Dorset Chamber expand the support we offer through both online and face to face events and seminars. This will include training offered by our members as well as courses delivered by Dorset Chamber.

You'll see a range of topical issues being covered including a strong focus on health and wellbeing and ESG.

We will also continue to develop the Dorset Chamber website as valuable online information resource, providing tools and advice on specific issues. This year will also see us introduce a 'live chat' facility on our website to better serve visitors.

BEING A VOICE AND LOBBYING FOR BUSINESS

One of the most important roles we deliver is our voice for business and lobbying at both a local, regional and national level. We'll continue to provide media comment and campaign for business on key issues. Our membership of the British Chambers of Commerce also means we have a powerful national voice that is highly respected in Westminster and Whitehall.

This year we will develop several sector and issue-specific forums, helping us improve our understanding of the key issues businesses face on a sector level which will inform the services we offer as well as lobby and campaign on specific issues sectors are facing.

We very much welcome an open and proactive conversation with businesses, partners and stakeholders and if you'd like to talk to us at any time, our door is always open.

WORKING WITH PARTNERS

We'll continue to work closely with our partners in both the public and private sector, seeking to work collaboratively in supporting businesses across Dorset.

We'll also continue to work closely with town Chambers across Dorset.

We also consider our partnerships within the community and voluntary sector to be vital in recognising their contribution to our economy and the valuable services they deliver.

**WE ARE A PROGRESSIVE,
MODERN AND INCLUSIVE
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
AND OUR THANKS GO TO
OUR MEMBERS, BUSINESS
PARTNERS, BOARD,
AMBASSADORS, OUR
PARTNERS, SPONSORS
AND OF COURSE THE
CHAMBER TEAM FOR
YOUR GREAT SUPPORT.**

**We look forward to working with you in the year ahead.
Ian Girling, Chief Executive**

We very much welcome an open and proactive conversation with businesses, partners and stakeholders and if you'd like to talk to us at any time, our door is always open.

DORSET CHAMBER PREMIUM & PLATINUM BUSINESS PARTNERS



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www.onbuy.com



www.aoig.co.uk



www.blueskyfp.co.uk



www.bournemouthairport.com



www.thecollege.co.uk



www.bournemouth.ac.uk



Voice | Connectivity | Mobiles

www.crystalcleartelecom.uk



www.deepsouthmedia.co.uk



Digital Storm

www.digitalstorm.co.uk

THE DOLPHIN

www.dolphinshoppingcentre.co.uk



DORSET
Local Enterprise Partnership

www.dorsetlep.co.uk



Digital Security
Progress. Protected.

www.eset.com/uk



Field International

www.fieldinternational.com



Greendale
Construction Limited

www.greendaleconstruction.com



HENDY

www.hendy.co.uk



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Our values

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| EXCELLENCE | Leading customer service, professionalism and responsiveness |
| INNOVATION | Supporting continuous growth and improvement in all we do |
| INTEGRITY | Uncompromising standards of integrity and ethical conduct |
| RESPECT | For our colleagues, our customers, our organisation and the business community |
| TEAMWORK | Universal teamwork and collaboration with a can-do attitude to support the organisation and serve Dorset |
| WELLBEING | Providing a family-friendly and supportive work and professional environment |



Dorset | Business | Excellence



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