

**Council which voted no to super council asked to think again, four months on**

15 April, 2016

COUNCILLORS who voted overwhelmingly against plans for a ‘super-council’ in Dorset will be asked to reconsider the options at a meeting next week.

Plans for a council covering south east Dorset were foundering in December last year after 20 of 28 councillors in East Dorset said they didn’t wish to discuss any of the proposals further.

Their decision also ruled out discussions for a ‘Pan-Dorset’ authority.

Just hours before the meeting, Councillor Ian Monks, then-leader of the district council, resigned from his post by letter.

Former leader Cllr Spencer Flower has now returned to the head of the council after being elected leader of the East Dorset Conservative group at a special meeting in February.

Now councillors will be asked to reopen the debate at the full council meeting on Monday, April 18.

Chief executive [David McIntosh](http://www.bournemouthecho.co.uk/search/?search=David+McIntosh&topic_id=3831) will tell councillors that the move is prompted by a number of factors, including the Cities and Government Devolution Act, which now gives the government the power to put its devolution agenda into practice, even in the face of local opposition.

Since the December meeting all eight other councils in Dorset have agreed to examine the options put forward.

Cllr [Robin Cook](http://www.bournemouthecho.co.uk/search/?search=Robin+Cook&topic_id=3680), portfolio holder for change and transformation at [East Dorset District Council](http://www.bournemouthecho.co.uk/search/?search=East+Dorset+District+Council&topic_id=3822), said: “When members took the decision not to be involved in the work to look at future options for the county we did not know about the government’s powers with regard to their devolution agenda nor were we aware of just how much government grant we would be losing in the coming years.

“It seems sensible that members now re-examine that decision in the light of that extra information.”

But Cllr Steve Lugg, chair of the district council, said: “A very clear and democratic decision was made in December and I stand by that - if councillors are not consistent, they will clearly need to explain that.”