

Statement to the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Shadow Executive Committee -15 June 2018

Agenda Item 8 - Senior Appointment: Chief Executive

I note that the Job Description and Role Profile have been created with the support of the LGA and Penna. Both would be unremarkable for this senior appointment to a municipality of around 400,000 residents. Our new authority will have a similar number of residents to towns such as Stoke-on-Trent or Bradford. However, I would argue that Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole is of a different order. We have the largest natural harbour in the world and a beautiful coastline with world class beaches. Our lowland heaths are home to a myriad of wildlife species; some of which are found nowhere else in the country. The heaths are protected under a number of European and international agreements while our present government has in place the strongest protections for the South East Dorset Green Belt which runs along the Stour Valley from east to west. Few would argue that it is not these special places which make Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole a desirable place to live and work.

However, it is precisely these features which place constraints on our ability to develop. Internal candidates will be very familiar with these constraints; external candidates less so. Those areas of Key Responsibilities which focus on commercial development while remaining silent on constraints could be considered misleading. Those of us who look to the new authority to strengthen rather than weaken the environmental benefits of the area would like the Job Description and Role Profile expanded to make this clear.

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Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Shadow Authority Member

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