

**BOURNEMOUTH, CHRISTCHURCH AND POOLE COUNCIL**  
**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD**

Minutes of the Meeting held on 01 March 2021 at 6.00 pm

Present:-

Cllr S Bartlett – Chairman  
Cllr T O'Neill – Vice-Chairman

Present: Cllr L Allison, Cllr D Borthwick, Cllr L Dedman, Cllr B Dion,  
Cllr M Earl, Cllr J Edwards, Cllr D Farr, Cllr L Fear, Cllr M Howell,  
Cllr D Kelsey, Cllr C Rigby, Cllr V Slade and Cllr T Johnson (In place  
of Cllr M Cox)

Also in attendance: Councillor Bobbie Dove  
Councillor Beverley Dunlop  
Councillor George Farquhar  
Councillor Andy Hadley  
Councillor Philip Broadhead  
Councillor Nigel Brooks  
Councillor Mohan Iyengar

159. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr M Cox.

160. Substitute Members

Cllr T Johnson substituted for Cllr M Cox.

161. Declarations of Interests

Cllr J Edwards declared for the purpose of transparency in relation to agenda item 5: Cabinet Member Report – Tourism, Leisure and Culture that she worked in the tourism industry.

Cllr T Johnson declared for the purpose of transparency, in relation to agenda item 5: Cabinet Member Report – Tourism, Leisure and Culture, that he worked for the local FA and was Chair of Sport Poole.

Cllr V Slade declared for the purpose of transparency, in relation to agenda item 5: Cabinet Member Report – Tourism, Leisure and Culture, that she was on the committee for Sport Poole.

162. Public Speaking

There were no public questions, statements or petitions.

163. Cabinet Member Report - Tourism, Leisure and Culture

The Portfolio Holder for Tourism, Leisure and Culture presented a report, a copy of which was circulated to Board members and which appears as Appendix 'A' to these minutes in the Minute Book. The Chairman advised the Board that the purpose of the item was to help generate ideas for the future and consider those issues which the Overview and Scrutiny Board would want to get involved in or consider further.

The Portfolio Holder for Tourism, Leisure and Culture outlined the key points from the Portfolio, the future projects which were coming forward and areas where the Overview and Scrutiny Board may become involved and add value. The Portfolio Holder gave a presentation to the Board a copy of which appears as Appendix 'B' to these minutes in the minute book and also provided a response to the questions which had been submitted by other Councillors in advance of the meeting. A copy of the questions and responses formed part of the presentation. A number of issues were raised in the subsequent discussion including:

- Clarification was sought on the income received from seafront tenants
- The delivery of the cultural compact, how this would be organised, whether it would be outsourced to either private organisations or community groups and the budget available for delivery.
- Promotion of exercise within the BCP area including advertising and marketing, links to public health and to those not normally engaged with it.
- Providing small leisure providers with opportunities for funding the establishment of small projects and grassroots delivery
- Local residents' concerns regarding Mudeford Beach Development and the need to be careful in terms of how the resort is marketed in the future.
- Support for grassroots sports and the Council as landlord to many organisations, offering any incentives to clubs restarting and the impact Covid has had.
- Clarification was also sought on the resort management plan for future tourism and readiness for visitors post lockdown. There was concern that the plans were not being taken through Cabinet. There would be an all Member briefing and proper governance would be ensured. Issues were raised concerning deploying resources, trigger points and communications.
- Transfer of sites to communities and the Portfolio Holder's position on a community asset transfer protocol.
- Air festival issues - including timing, greater involvement by different partners, carbon offsetting, making it a greener festival and increasing involvement over a larger area to help reducing crowding in light of the pandemic including the airport.
- Queen's Park Golf Course – The Portfolio Holder advised that he was aware of the issue raised and it needed resolution
- Bath Road North Car Park redevelopment as a leisure/cultural space. The Portfolio Holder undertook to look into this issue.

A non-Board member commented on the availability of toilets on the seafront and in open spaces. It was noted that for people to be use these facilities for recreation and exercise toilet provision was necessary. The Portfolio Holder advised that other than on the seafront toilet provision was the responsibility of the Environment, Cleansing and Waste Cabinet Portfolio. It was noted that a lack of facilities should not be a hindrance to those wanting to partake in exercise. However, toilet provision was not cheap. A non-Board member asked about the reducing single use plastics in seafront catering outlets. The Portfolio Holder commented that he took the environmental responsibility seriously but that it was a difficult time due to Covid regulations to be able to introduce something like this. A non-Board member asked about the restoration of sports facilities in Baiter Park and about ways of developing the air festival.

The Portfolio Holder went on to outline the responses to questions which were submitted prior to the meeting and which were included as part of the presentation.

The Chairman thanked the Portfolio Holder for his report and commented that there was a lot for the Board to consider in this area.

164. Scrutiny of The Future of Regeneration in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Cabinet Report

The Chairman invited the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Economy and Strategic Planning to present the report, a copy of which had been circulated to each member and which appears as Appendix 'C' to these minutes in the Minute Book. The Portfolio Holder outlined the key issues within the report. The issues raised in the subsequent discussion included:

- Development of most of the car parks within Bournemouth was already allocated to the Bournemouth Development Company and how this would be approached if they were not the preferred route to move forward.
- How would members outside of the Administration be involved going forward as member panels which the previous administration established were not continuing. If the delivery model goes forward there would be member engagement.
- The Master Plan commissioning for Poole was almost ready to go. The Portfolio Holder commented that they would be considering options. A Councillor commented that the previous scheme was not viable. A senior person whether internally or externally was needed to come in to move this forward.
- The Council was now the owner of the power station site in Poole. There were a number of adjacent sites to fit in with the broader plan.
- Changes in the Senior Leadership Team and the officer who would have overall responsibility for this moving forwards. The profits from a new urban regeneration company. It would be solely owned by the Council. This could be a difficult situation

- Whether proposals would be coming back to Cabinet or whether the Portfolio Holder would be bringing various projects back independently. Anything transferring any major sites would form the basis for a key decision. It was a massive decision to be taking for the Leader, Chief Executive and the Deputy Leader. The Chief Executive confirmed that the transfer of any Council owned sites would require Council approval.
- The number of homes which would be created through the Boscombe Sovereign Centre redevelopment, which needed to create the right homes for local requirements.
- Whether the master planning done around Holes Bay be used moving forward.
- That there was criticism from members of the current administration about content of BDC business plan. Whether the BDC could be expanded to sites outside of Bournemouth.
- What could be delivered from Council sites, Poole civic centre, Turlin Moore. There was a commitment to proper consultation on these sites.
- There were 20 percent of garages empty. These were within the HRA but part of regeneration.
- Previous work which was undertaken on the sale and development of the Christchurch Civic Office site. An extremely interesting piece of work undertaken previously on selling the Christchurch site.
- All local Councillors not just ward members should be consulted on local sites. Bournemouth International Centre site and future development requirements of the site.

The Chairman thanked the Portfolio Holder for the interesting presentation on the potential changes and challenges ahead.

165. Local Plan Working Group - Update

The Chairman gave a verbal update to the Board from the last meeting of the Local Plan Working Group which was held on 17 February 2021. The Working Group had elected Cllr Mike Brooke as Chair and Cllr Keiron Wilson Vice Chair. The Working Group were beginning the process by looking at the Urban Potential Study.

The Chairman reported that potential sites for development had been identified in a number of different ways, eventually the public consultation would identify which sites were up for debate on development within each ward. It was noted that the housing development targets were set by government. However, there were insufficient identified development sites to meet the target, with an approximate 9000 unit shortfall. The Working Group were considering how to meet targets, whether building higher in certain areas could be an option. An analysis of sites was underway utilising current planning regulation.

The Chairman advised that at this stage the group was in the process of reviewing pieces of work coming through at the moment.

The Chairman encouraged members, if they had any particular issues to share their views with the planning team. The Working Group was due to meet again on 17 March 2021

166. Forward Plan

The Chairman advised the Board that there were a significant number of key Cabinet reports coming forward in April and therefore in consultation with the Vice-Chairman the Chairman was proposing the use of both the scheduled meeting in April for consideration of a number of Cabinet reports as follows:

- Homelessness Strategy
- Housing Strategy
- Corporate Asset Management Strategy
- Management & Development of Leisure Centres
- Highway Asset Management Policy and Strategy
- Regulatory Services and Licensing Enforcement Policy
- Sale of Christchurch By-Pass Car Park
- The Council fleet Replacement Program and Sustainable Fleet Management Strategy

A Councillor commented that the Board needed to be looking ahead on future development and be less responsive to Cabinet determined issues. The Chairman commented that he wanted the Board to develop and suggested that it could look at more community driven issues in the future and asked the Board members to consider if there was any particular items they would want to see coming forward. A Board member suggested that they would like the Council to develop a plan for how Poole Quay could be improved and brought up to the level of quality for a tourism asset. The Chairman suggested that this could be considered further at the next meeting.

167. Future Meeting Dates 2020/21 and 21/22

The dates of meetings for the remainder of 2020/21 and 21/22 were noted.

The meeting ended at 8.46 pm

CHAIRMAN