

BOURNEMOUTH, CHRISTCHURCH AND POOLE COUNCIL
CABINET

Minutes of the Meeting held on 23 June 2021 at 10.00 am

Present:-

Cllr D Mellor – Chairman

Cllr P Broadhead – Vice-Chairman

Present: Cllr M Anderson, Cllr M Haines, Cllr M Iyengar, Cllr R Lawton,
Cllr K Rampton, Cllr M White, Cllr S Baron, Cllr N Brooks, Cllr B Dove
and Cllr J Kelly

Lead Members: Cllr S Baron, Cllr N Brooks, Cllr B Dove and Cllr J
Kelly

Also in attendance: Cllr S Bartlett (Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee)
and Cllr P Hilliard

Apologies: Cllr M Greene, Cllr N Greene and Lead Members Cllr H Allen and Cllr
B Dunlop

12. Declarations of Interests

Councillor Nigel Brooks declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute Nos. 20 (Bournemouth Development Company LLP Business Plan) and 22 (Annual Review of Housing Wholly Owned Companies) and remained present.

13. Confirmation of Minutes

The Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 26 May 2021 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

14. Public Issues

The Leader advised that there had been no statements or petitions received on this occasion but that four Members of the Public had submitted questions all relating to Agenda Item 9 (High Streets Strategy (Update)). The questions were read out on behalf of the Members of the Public and were each responded to by the Portfolio Holder in turn. The submitted questions and responses are set out below:

Question from Geoffrey Furnell

Will Councillor Broadhead consider the way in which the Christchurch Regeneration Subject was handled.

Were all Christchurch Town Councillors and BCP Councillors representing Christchurch contacted directly with full plans and costings?

Response by the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration Economy and Strategic Planning

I thank Mr Furnell for his question. I have no idea which Christchurch Regeneration subject Mr Furnell is referring to. At present, the only project we have even started thinking about is the regeneration of the former Christchurch Civic centre. Even this is at a very early stage and I will be first liaising with Christchurch Councillors and the Town Council before beginning any formal work on scoping that project. We currently have no other projects in Christchurch but are certainly on the hunt for good ideas, which will of course be led by the public. As such, the full plans and costings associated with any projects is £0, as there are no projects in the pipeline.

Question from Peter Fenning

“Within the BCP regeneration proposals for Christchurch Town Centre is one to establish a community hub within the area of the Christchurch bowling green. Is Councillor Broadhead aware that this site is within the Christchurch Central Conservation Area and is a protected Scheduled Ancient Monument and can he explain why it is to be established there.”

Response by the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration Economy and Strategic Planning

I thank Mr Fenning for his question. I have no idea what “BCP regeneration proposals for Christchurch Town Centre” Mr Fenning is referring to. We currently have no projects in train aside from very early scoping work on the former Civic Centre. This is the first I have heard about proposals to establish a community hub within the area of the bowling green. However, I do love the idea of providing a further community hub in Christchurch and will happily explore proposals to create one in the right place if such proposals are presented to me. This administration is determined to right size the underinvestment in Christchurch and I encourage anyone with good ideas to get in touch with us!

Question from Councillor Avril Coulton – Deputy Mayor of Christchurch Town Council

Could Councillor Broadhead confirm that BCP Council is actively planning to build an extra storey of car parking on the Waitrose car park in Christchurch and demolishing the Saxon Square car park in order to replace it with a larger car park.

These ideas are encompassed by the Christchurch Regeneration subject. Where is the money coming from to pay for this and where can the costings for the proposals be found?

Response by the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration Economy and Strategic Planning

I thank Councillor Coulton for her question. I can confirm that we have no plans whatsoever to build an extra storey of car parking on the Waitrose car park in Christchurch. Nor do we have any active plans to demolish Saxon Square car park. I’m not quite sure where the idea that these projects which are supposedly underway has come from.

As such, the costings for these proposals is £0 as we have no such projects in the pipeline. I am however keen to hear from the Town Council as to any ideas they may have for improving Christchurch. I regularly receive ideas and proposals from both members of the public and indeed current BCP Councillors, all of which will be considered as we draw up regeneration plans in the future. I would love to engage with the Town Council on any proposed projects they may have. Christchurch has been, in my view, neglected in terms of proper investment for too long. This administration is determined to right size that and we will look to others to support that ambition into the future.

Question from John Pendrill – Chairman of Christchurch Citizens Association

In relation to Agenda item 9 will Councillor Broadhead agree that the circulation and publicity of the public consultation on Christchurch High Street Regeneration was totally inadequate. The receipt of just 26 replies indicates that the consultation was not published in an appropriate manner as local residents were unaware of this matter. What is the reason for this poor administration? BCP Council plans to carry out many High Street changes without further public consultation. In contrast Christchurch Town Council recently carried out its own neighbourhood survey and received 1,280 replies. Where can the costings for the proposals be found?

Response by the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration Economy and Strategic Planning

I thank Mr Pendrill for his question. There has been no public consultation on Christchurch High Street Regeneration as we have yet to develop a strategy around this going into the future.

I think the piece of work he is referring to was our “give us your ideas” informal digital consultation which we ran to get ideas for our 19 high streets across the BCP area. This was not a formal consultation, but rather a way to get a sounding for what was important to people as we emerge from the pandemic and start to develop the formal business recovery strategy. This has nothing to do with regeneration. An extract from the “have your say” informal exercise is below:

“Before we start working on the strategy we would like your views. We want you to try and look past what may currently be present in your high streets and think of its potential and how we can re-energise these areas.

Tell us:

what are your ideas for your high streets?

what do you think needs improving?

what would you like to see in your high streets?

what do you like about a particular high street?

Our high streets play a key role in creating a sense of place and they are the beating heart of our communities. Through developing a strategy we can reignite the excitement, personality and character of our high streets and create spaces that are meaningful to all who visit, work and enjoy.”

Mr Pendrill further states “BCP Council plans to carry out many High Street changes without further public consultation”. We have no such plans at the present. I do not know which plans Mr Pendrill refers to, as we have yet to even formulate the strategy, never mind having any projects in train. As such, I cannot provide costings for these proposals as no such proposals exist!

Finally, I look forward to working with the town council to find out the results of their consultation and will be involving Councillors and members of the public as we start to work on the strategy about what investment ideas they may have for the future. But to be clear, we currently have no projects currently being considered.

15. Recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Board

Cabinet was advised that there were no additional recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Board on items not otherwise included on the Cabinet Agenda on this occasion.

16. Financial Outturn Report 2020/21

The Leader presented a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'A' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Cabinet was informed that the report provided details of the final financial outturn for the revenue account, capital programme, reserves, and the housing revenue account (HRA) for the financial year 2020/21, and that it also included a small number of proposed virements to the budget for 2021/22 for new grants awarded since the budget was set in February.

In relation to this Cabinet was advised that the general fund revenue outturn is a surplus of £5.1 million for the year which it is proposed be added to the earmarked medium term financial plan (MTFP) mitigation reserve to manage financial risks over this timeframe and that this period included major projects to transform how the council operates and to regenerate the area.

Further to this Cabinet was advised that this is an improved position compared with quarter three from work concluded in the final quarter to make the best use of all available grants to support unbudgeted Covid expenditure within services, reductions in cost pressures, most notably within adult social care, and significant income streams performing better than expected.

RESOLVED that Cabinet: -

- (a) noted the year-end financial outturn positions achieved including revenue, capital, reserves and for the HRA;**
- (b) accepted the 2021/22 awards from Public Health England for the drug & alcohol homeless grant of £0.688 million and the criminal justice system grant of £0.414 million and delegates authority to the directors of adult social care and housing to**

implement the programmes of revenue expenditure as set out in paragraphs 92 to 101; and

- (c) agreed the capital virement in paragraph 153.**

RECOMMENDED that Council: -

- (a) agree the transfer of the £5.1 million surplus for the year to the MTFP mitigation reserve;**
- (b) agree that the contain outbreak management fund (COMF) allocation for 2021/22 of £2.533 million is retained in a contingency to manage any outbreaks that may occur later in the year, as recommended by the director of public health as set out in paragraph83; and**
- (c) agree the capital virements in paragraph 154.**

Voting: Unanimous

Portfolio Holder: Leader of the Council

17. Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) Update

The Leader presented a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'B' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Cabinet was informed that the report presented the latest medium-term financial plan (MTFP) of the council to reflect government announcements since the February 2021 budget report and updated assumptions, and further to this that it proposes a financial strategy to support the delivery of a balanced budget for 2022/23 and a budget planning process and timeline for key financial reports.

RESOLVED that Cabinet: -

- (a) approved the budget planning process as referenced in paragraph 26;**
- (b) approved the timeline for key financial reports during 2021/22 as set out in appendix A;**
- (c) approved the financial strategy as referenced in paragraphs 18 to 23 and as set out in appendix B;**
- (d) approved the allocation of a further £240k to support the Councils response to the climate change and ecological emergency as referenced in paragraph 25; and**
- (e) noted the updated MTFP position and the key financial planning assumptions as set out in appendix C.**

Voting: Unanimous

Portfolio Holder: Leader of the Council

18. Corporate Flag Flying Policy

The Leader presented a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'C' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Cabinet was advised that the report sought approval of a Corporate Flag Flying Policy, attached at Appendix 1, which consolidates the three policies from the legacy Councils and takes account of current national guidance.

RESOLVED that: -

- (a) the draft Corporate Flag Flying Policy as attached at Appendix 1 to the report be approved; and**
- (b) the proposed arrangements for the Charter Trustees for Bournemouth and Poole be noted acknowledging that it is a matter for each of the Charter Trustees to determine their own arrangements for flag flying and marking events during the mayoral year.**

Voting: Unanimous

Portfolio Holder: Leader of the Council

19. High Streets Strategy (Update)

The Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Economy and Strategic Planning presented a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'D' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Cabinet was advised that the High Streets Strategy report presented at February Cabinet approved the development of a strategy and action plan with partners that enables the delivery interventions to support our high streets and district centres, and that this is progressing well.

Further to this Cabinet was informed that during the development of this work, it had become clear that there is significant work underway which deserved to be highlighted, and that this report highlights examples of and provides updates on some of the exciting and positive interventions, as part of our strategy work, that are making our high streets and district centres places that people will want to visit and spend time in once again.

The Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Board addressed the Cabinet advising that the Board had welcomed the initiative but had stressed the importance of engagement with ward members and town and parish councils.

Councillor Hilliard addressed the Cabinet highlighting the confusion with residents with regards to the assumption that a strategy already existed. In addition, Councillor Hilliard advised of the importance of engagement and for there being a range of engagement methods so as to include those who aren't able to respond digitally.

The Portfolio Holder expressed thanks to the Lead Member for BCP Retail Strategy and Christchurch Regeneration for his hard work, and in addition advised that the consultation is ongoing.

RESOLVED that Cabinet: -

- (a) noted the excellent examples of ongoing work detailed in the report and commended the work of officers on the positive impact these projects are making to our high streets and district centres;**
- (b) supported the work of partner organisations in the projects they are driving and enabling to also deliver energy and vibrancy in our high streets and district centres;**
- (c) encouraged further collaboration between all those with an interest in helping our high streets and district centres bounce back from COVID19; and**
- (d) noted that this report is an update on the activity happening on the ground at present and that a full strategy and action plan will be delivered in the future.**

Voting: Unanimous

Portfolio Holder: Regeneration, Economy and Strategic Planning

20. Bournemouth Development Company LLP Business Plan

The Regeneration, Economy and Strategic Planning presented a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'E' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Cabinet was advised that the Bournemouth Development Company llp (“BDC”) is a joint venture between the Council and now a wholly owned subsidiary of Muse, a Morgan Sindall company, and that this report summarises the BDC 5 year rolling business plan, with particular emphasis on the programme of activity for 2021/22.

Further this Cabinet was informed that this was the ninth update of the plan since the BDC was formed in February 2011 and that it had been updated to reflect the recently approved BCP Corporate Strategy.

RESOLVED that the updated BDC Business Plan as set out at Appendix 3 to the report be approved.

Voting: Unanimous

Portfolio Holder: Regeneration, Economy and Strategic Planning

21. Youth Justice Service Youth Justice Plan for 2021/22

The Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People presented a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'F' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

In presenting the Youth Justice Plan for 2021/22 Cabinet was advised that there is a statutory requirement to publish an annual Youth Justice Plan which must provide specified information about the local provision of youth justice services. Further to this Cabinet was informed that this report

summarises the Youth Justice Plan for 2021/22, with a copy of the Plan appended.

RECOMMENDED that the Youth Justice Plan be approved by Full Council.

Voting: Unanimous

Portfolio Holder: Children and Young People

22. Annual review of housing wholly owned companies

The Portfolio Holder for Homes presented a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'G' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Cabinet was advised that the report provided a review of the following 4 companies - Seascope Group Limited, Seascope South Limited (SSL), Seascope Homes and Property Limited (SHP) and Bournemouth Building Maintenance Limited (BBML), and that the report sets out the growth plans for each company, an operational update from the last year and the 2021/22 annual plan for each.

In relation to this Cabinet was informed that The Seascope Group, including its two subsidiaries SSL and SHP, has much scope for growth in activity and sizeable income generation opportunities as a result, but that SSL has been impacted by Covid during the last year but plans are in place for recruiting additional senior commercial expertise and capacity and to bring this forward as soon as possible in line with the Council's Smarter Structures programme, it was advised that this additional capacity will develop opportunities, drive marketing and promotion, manage contract growth and drive forwards operational efficiencies.

Further to this Cabinet was advised that staffing resources are already being scaled up to ensure the capacity to deliver the ambition for SHP, and that SHP will increase its property portfolio within management as a result of a scaled up property acquisition programme by the Council over the next few years as part of the emerging Council New Build and Acquisition Strategy (CNHAS). It was reported that SHP will also provide a delivery vehicle for building out the pipeline of Council owned sites for private rent or private sale homes.

Cabinet was advised that a review of BBML operations in the context of BCP Council recommended that it is now timely for the BBML operation to be integrated within the Council's wider staff operations, and that the current mixed model of employment and delivery across the Property Maintenance teams makes it difficult to gain reliable strategic and financial oversight. In relation to this Cabinet was informed that one consolidated employment and operating model would ensure an effective and streamlined base position on which to build further improvements, efficiencies and transformation.

In addition Cabinet was informed that the report sought approval for Hixsons Limited to be appointed for a further year in order to audit the 2020/21 company accounts, and that it is a requirement of the

Shareholders Agreement for both BBML and SGL that authority is sought from the council as sole shareholder for the appointment of the external auditor.

The Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Board addressed the Cabinet advising that at their recent meeting whilst the Board had been supportive a request had been made for future reports to include the companies business plans with future reports.

Thanks were expressed to the trades people who had had to adapt their ways of working during Covid.

RESOLVED that: -

- (a) the plans to further grow the two Seascope Group subsidiaries be supported;**
- (b) the appointment of Hixsons Limited as the external auditor for BBML, Seascope Group Limited (SGL) and MD Care to audit the 2020/21 company accounts be approved; and**
- (c) the appointment of Paul Whittles, Finance Manager as temporary Director of Finance for Seascope Group Limited be approved.**

Voting: Unanimous

Portfolio Holder: Homes

23. Public Spaces Protection Order

The Portfolio Holder for Community Safety presented a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'H' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Cabinet was advised that the report outlined a proposal to make a new Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) to tackle alcohol related anti-social behaviour in public spaces across much of the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole area.

In relation to this Cabinet was informed that in the previous Cabinet reports in March and September 2020, it had been agreed to adopt a harmonised approach to tackling street based anti-social behaviour and to consult on new a Public Spaces Protection Order to fit with this approach.

Further to this Cabinet was advised that Public Spaces Protection Orders can only be implemented to tackle behaviours that are persistent or of a continuing nature and have a detrimental effect on the quality of life, and that tackling alcohol related anti-social behaviour has consistently been one of the main uses of PSPO's by local authorities.

In relation to this it was advised that there is evidence to confirm that much of the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole areas does suffer from persistent alcohol related anti-social behaviour, and that as such it is proposed to implement a PSPO, which gives designated Officers powers to confiscate alcohol from anyone behaving in an anti-social manner, across 29 of the 33 BCP Council wards.

Cabinet was further informed that a public consultation had taken place on this proposal during March and April 2021, and that of the 294 responses, 89% strongly agree or agree, only 8% disagree. It was therefore proposed that a PSPO be approved.

The Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Board addressed the Cabinet advising that the Board had warmly welcomed the report and in addition had requested the figures for alcohol related anti-social behaviour in their wards.

In respect of this the Portfolio Holder advised that officers were preparing the figures to be circulated to Members.

RESOLVED that Cabinet approved the proposed Public Spaces Protection Order to tackle alcohol related anti-social behaviour in public places.

Voting: Unanimous

Portfolio Holder: Community Safety

24. Council Sustainable Fleet Management Strategy and Fleet Replacement Programme

The Portfolio Holder for Environment, Cleansing and Waste presented a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'I' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Cabinet was advised that the report sought endorsement of Bournemouth Christchurch & Poole Council's first Sustainable Fleet Management Strategy that will raise awareness of these high profile and high value corporate assets, communicate governance arrangements to ensure the fulfilment of the councils legal obligations as a vehicle Operator Licence holder whilst detailing the roles and responsibilities of those who operate/maintain them, and that in addition it will also provide clear decision making processes to deliver an integrated corporate fleet management service.

In relation to this Cabinet was informed that underpinning this strategy is the requirement for a sustainable (legally, financially, and environmentally) Fleet Asset Replacement Programme, and a financing programme required to fund the replacement of core vehicles, plant and equipment as they come to the end of their economic life.

If approved Cabinet was advised that this will form the basis of an ambitious council wide Fleet Management De-Carbonising Strategy and Replacement Programme for the next 3 years, 2021 – 2024, that proposes to balance investment in the necessary alternative fuel technology and infrastructure to support a significant increase of 104, from the current 13 Ultra Low Emissions Vehicles (ULEV) purchased and operated by the council, as well as a reduction in CO2 emissions of non ULEV's producing a combined CO2 saving of 3,062 tonnes. Cabinet was further advised that this will support the council's 2030 carbon neutral declaration against as yet unknowns of the council's ongoing corporate transformation programme and asset and accommodation strategy.

The Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Board addressed the Cabinet advising that the report had broadly been supported by the Board, but that there had been some discussion regarding the Mayoral vehicle which had resulted in a recommendation being proposed which had been lost when put to the vote with the Chairman using his casting vote.

Councillor Hilliard addressed the Cabinet requesting that more charging points for electric vehicles be provided across Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole. In relation to this the Leader advised that there was a paper being brought to Cabinet in the Autumn which would include detail relating to the provision of electric vehicle charging points.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) Members endorsed the Sustainable Fleet Management Strategy, acknowledging the necessity for an initial 3-year phased approach towards achieving an ultra-low emission fleet and the future key infrastructure decisions required that will determine its direction and success;**
- (b) Members endorsed the move to using Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) as a replacement for conventional diesel throughout the council vehicle fleet. Approving commencement of procurement for the provision of HVO fuel and the supply. This cleaner, less polluting fuel results in a significant CO2 emission reduction;**
- (c) Members approved the £0.39m capital spend necessary to fund the supporting infrastructure investment to realise significant increases in ULEV's purchases, to be funded from capital grant; and**
- (d) Members approved the Fleet Replacement Plan 2021 – 2024 and authorise the procurement of the remaining vehicles in the plan as vehicle lives expire.**

RECOMMENDED that Council;

- (e) approve the use of new prudential borrowing for the Fleet Replacement Plan and recognise the impact of this on the annual revenue budget requirement.**

Voting: Unanimous

Portfolio Holder: Environment, Cleansing and Waste

25. Transforming Cities Fund (TCF) End of Year Report

The Leader presented a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'J' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Cabinet was informed of the progress to date regarding the Department for Transport (DfT) based Transforming Cities Fund (TCF) award and of the DfT Year End Report for 2020/21 submitted in April 2021.

RESOLVED that Cabinet notes the progress to date regarding the TCF programme delivery and the DfT End of Year Report (April 2021)

Voting: Unanimous

Portfolio Holder: Transport and Sustainability

26. Cabinet Forward Plan

The Leader advised that the latest Cabinet Forward Plan had been published on the Council's website and that the next version would be published on the 29 June.

The meeting ended at 11.23 am

CHAIRMAN