

BOURNEMOUTH, CHRISTCHURCH AND POOLE COUNCIL
CABINET

Minutes of the Meeting held on 28 July 2021 at 10.00 am

Present:-

Cllr D Mellor – Chairman

Cllr P Broadhead – Vice-Chairman

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

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

Apologies: Cllr H Allen and Cllr N Brooks

27. Declarations of Interests

There were no declarations of interest made on this occasion.

28. Confirmation of Minutes

The Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 23 June 2021 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

29. Public Issues

The Leader advised that there had been no petitions received on this occasion but that a question had been submitted by a Member of the Public in relation to Agenda Items 6 (Council Highway Inspection Policy) and 9 (BCP Local Plan Issues and Options Consultation) and that two statements had been submitted from Members of the Public in relation to Agenda Item 8 (2020/21 Quarter 4 Performance Report) and Agenda Item 9 (BCP Local Plan Issues and Options Consultation).

Question from Soo Chapman

Agenda Item 9 Local Plan objectives need updating. They are aspirational but meaningless given the unambitious "carbon neutrality ahead of 2050" statement. Clearly the "wide range of evidence" gathered at the public consultation is out of date regarding impacts now visibly accelerating as climate approaches dangerous tipping points and feed-back loops significantly earlier than anticipated. An existential threat.

Agenda Item 6 The Decision Impact Statement Final Report (Highway Inspection Policy) admits the proposal does not account for the potential impacts of climate change (flooding, storms, heatwaves).

How will BCP inform, incentivise, and motivate residents through the diminishing window of survivability before our home planet becomes uninhabitable?

Response by the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Economy and Strategic Planning

I would like to thank Mrs Chapman for her question. National planning policy requires that local plans contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation, whilst planning for development that the area needs. We recognise the role that the Local Plan has in influencing a range of measures to reduce carbon emissions contributing towards meeting both national and local net zero carbon targets. The objective on climate change sets the scene - to adopt a proactive strategy to tackle climate change impacts - whilst other objectives set the **overarching** approach to promoting a sustainable pattern of development that will be key to reducing carbon emissions.

A range of policy options identified in the draft plan will be developed further to form detailed policies that on implementation will contribute to the aim of carbon neutrality. For example, promoting a brownfield-first approach to development that maximises urban potential in sustainable locations, energy efficiency in buildings, reducing the need to travel, supporting accessible local commercial centres, promoting green infrastructure, and promoting cycling and walking routes and facilities. We have also recently reviewed our car parking standards to promote lower car use in sustainable locations.

But all that comes next. First, we want to hear the views of the community and encourage people to engage in the local plan consultation process to make their thoughts known about these key issues that will shape the future of BCP.

Response from the Portfolio Holder for Environment, Cleansing and Waste

I would like to thank Mrs Chapman for her question. The proposed Inspection Policy seeks to harmonise BCP Council's response to the national code of practice for Well Managed Highway Infrastructure which is concerned with identifying immediate safety defects on the highway network rather than network improvements and changes which would allow for a response to wider factors including climate change. Inspectors do identify drainage defects through their scheduled inspections and follow up public reports. Whilst the inspections themselves do not result in direct changes to the drainage system, all the data gathered is used to inform investment strategies including the recently adopted Highway Asset Management Strategy and information is also made available to Flood and Coastal Erosion Team to support future decision making.

BCP Council is progressing our Climate Action Plan, Flood Risk Management Strategy, Air Quality Strategy and Highway Asset Management Strategy all of which will inform our activities to respond to the climate change challenge including our engagement with our communities and businesses. "

Statement from Soo Chapman

Ignoring their terrifying climate report of 24.11.20 which is still negligently and incomprehensively unshared with the public BCP's "prospects, positivity and pride" are clearly out of kilter with the environmental literacy required to protect residents from "untold suffering".

Egregious political and media leadership is genocidally failing to incentivise the wholesale, radical behaviour change required to decarbonise at speed and scale and retain a habitable planet.

Harriet Stewart-Jones' excellent Echo letter yesterday points out that BCP needs to step up with a plan to communicate, educate and serve- for the good of us all (planet, nature and humans).

Statement from Melissa Carrington

Government has recently set a new target for CO2 reduction of 78% by 2035 and committed to reversing biodiversity loss by 2030. However, after recent global heatwaves, wildfires and surface water flooding, even scientists are shocked by the speed of change. We need urgent action on climate resilience and emissions reductions.

BCP council's lacklustre response is unfathomable. Even after doubling the budget for climate, the amount is inadequate. Where are the policies to encourage area wide emissions reductions? 2050 is too late; most of the reductions are required in the next 10 years. Every month of delay counts.

30. 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.

31. Council Highway Inspection Policy

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 'A' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Cabinet was asked to approve BCP Council's harmonised Highway Inspection Policy to ensure the council meets its responsibilities in line with the Code of Practice 'Well managed highway infrastructure' 2016.

In relation to this Cabinet was advised that the developed Highway Inspection Policy is the primary evidence used by the authority in any defence against third party claims on the highway, under section 41 or 58 of the Highways Act 1980.

Further to this Cabinet was informed that highway safety inspections are designed to ensure the network is safe and routinely checked for defects, which may have the potential to create injury or disruption to users of the highway network. In addition, Cabinet was informed that the current Code of Practice recommends that the safety inspection and defect repair regimes should be based on risk, in accordance with local needs, context and priorities. There are no longer prescriptive or minimum standards

published at which an authority should intervene and repair a defect. It is for local authorities to determine appropriate levels of service and be able to demonstrate clearly what has informed that approach.

RESOLVED that: -

- (a) the proposed Highway Inspection Policy as set out in Appendix 1 aligned to the Code of Practice 'Well managed Highway Infrastructure' be approved; and**
- (b) the Director of Environment in consultation with the Director of Finance and Portfolio Holder for Environment be delegated to make operational adjustments to the Policy because of Code of Practice amendments and/or risks identified with the Councils insurers.**

Voting: Unanimous

Portfolio Holder: Environment, Cleansing and Waste

32. Progress in delivery equalities across BCP 2021

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 Equality and Diversity Annual report provided an update on how the council is progressing with embedding equality and diversity in the way it plans, develops, and delivers services and in discharging its public sector equality duty, and that further to this the report sets out the Equality Footprint which reinforces the commitments to equality expressed in the council's corporate strategy and the vision of the Big Plan.

In addition, Cabinet was advised that the report also identified some of the actions the council needs to take to realise the ambitions of the Equality Footprint and to achieve the excellence level of the Equality Framework for Local Government.

Thanks, were expressed to those who had been involved in work surrounding the report.

RESOLVED that Cabinet: -

- (a) noted the progress with Equality & Diversity for 2020/21;**
- (b) supported the introduction of the Independent Observer role in recruitment process and support the necessary changes to HR recruitment policy;**
- (c) supported the adoption of the equality footprint; and**
- (d) noted the steps the council must take to realise its equality ambitions and to achieve the excellence level of the EFLG.**

Voting: Unanimous

Portfolio Holder: Leader of the Council

33. 2020/21 Quarter 4 Performance Report

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 provided an overview of performance against the priorities set out in the Corporate Strategy for the financial year 2020/21, and that the report has been informed by the basket of measures agreed as part of the creation of the delivery plans for 2020/21, for each of the council priorities.

In relation to this Cabinet was informed that Year one of BCP Council was used to collect baseline performance data and this has been used to set performance targets and intervention levels, and that Quarter 4 performance has been reported against these and informs the RAG ratings for each of the measures. It is presented across interactive performance dashboards for each of the council priorities.

Further to this Cabinet was advised that performance against the priorities is generally strong with only eight of the performance measures requiring action. These are addressed in more detail in exception reports, attached as appendix 2 to the report.

The Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Board addressed the Cabinet advising that the Board would welcome receiving regular updates on performance.

RESOLVED that Cabinet: -

- (a) noted the end of year performance;**
- (b) considered the attached exception reports relating to areas of current adverse performance; and**
- (c) advised of any amendments, deletions or additions to the performance indicator set that informs corporate performance**

Voting: Unanimous

Portfolio Holder: Leader of the Council

34. BCP Local Plan Issues and Options Consultation

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 approval was sought to undertake public consultation on the BCP Local Plan Issues and Options Draft.

In relation to this Cabinet was advised that an Initial Local Plan Issues and Call for site's consultation was undertaken in late 2019, and that this draft now identifies particular planning issues that need considering and suggests options to address those issues.

Further to this Cabinet was informed that the consultation will seek the public and other stakeholders views on regenerating our town centres, meeting our housing and employment needs, managing the natural and built environment, promoting health and well-being, tackling climate change, reducing the need to travel and infrastructure provision. However, at this stage in the plan making process no decision is being made on detailed policy wording or development site allocations.

Cabinet was advised that following receipt of stakeholder representations the plan will be refined to form the Regulation 19 'local plan submission draft' that will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for public examination during 2022.

Cabinet was further advised that this consultation will take place under Regulation 18 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) and Town and Country Planning Regulations (Local Planning) 2012 (as amended).

In addition, Cabinet was informed that the Local Plan once formally adopted will form the statutory development plan (along with neighbourhood plans) for BCP and will be used to determine planning applications.

The Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Board addressed the Cabinet advising that the Board had had a robust discussion around the term 'city region' and that the majority of the Board had agreed the subsequent recommendation from the Board on this matter.

In relation to this the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Board advised that at their recent meeting the Board had resolved to accept the recommendations from the Local Plan Working Group and to make the following recommendation to Cabinet in respect of this item.

- 1. That the word "city" be removed from the document so that the vision states, "We aim for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole to be the UK's newest region, brimming with prospects, positivity and pride."*
- 2. That, to Reflect the Portfolio Holder's statement at Full Council on 22 June 2021 in response to a question regarding the use of the Standard Method's 2014 data, Cabinet should await the initial findings of the Housing Needs Assessment, which will then be considered at a further meeting of the Local Plan Working Group, before the Issues and Options document is put out to consultation. The HNA will provide vital information to feed into the consultation relating to housing need within BCP. Cabinet will delegate any changes to the local plan consultation document to the Head of Planning and the Portfolio Holder, taking into account any recommendation from the Working Group once it has met to discuss the findings of the HNA.*

In relation to recommendation 1 the Portfolio Holder addressed Cabinet and stressed that whilst the term 'city region' was referred to, that this was a term used by the government and didn't mean that BCP would turn into a city, the Portfolio Holder therefore proposed that the term 'city region' be retained. Further to this the Portfolio Holder advised that he welcomed

recommendation 2 and proposed that the recommendation within the report be amended to incorporate the recommendation from the Board.

RESOLVED that: -

- (a) the BCP Local Plan Issues and Options Consultation Draft be approved for a minimum of 8 weeks public consultation in accordance with Regulation 18 of the Local Planning Regulations; and**
- (b) Cabinet delegate authority to the Head of Planning in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Economy and Strategic Planning to make changes necessary to the plan prior to release for public consultation. Prior to the release of the plan for public consultation the Head of Planning and Portfolio Holder will take into account any recommendation from the Overview and Scrutiny Local Plan Working Group once they have met to consider the findings of the Local Housing Needs Assessment.**

Voting: Unanimous

Portfolio Holder: Regeneration, Economy and Strategic Planning

35. Housing Management Model Review

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 'E' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Cabinet was advised that the council's housing stock within the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) is situated within the Bournemouth and Poole neighbourhoods and comprises 9,592 owned properties (5,080 in Bournemouth and 4,512 in Poole) and 1,139 leasehold properties (as at 1 April 2021). In relation to this Cabinet was informed that council housing within the Bournemouth neighbourhood is managed in-house within the officer structure of the housing service unit, and that Poole Housing Partnership (PHP) is an Arm's Length Management Organisation (ALMO), a wholly owned company, and manages the council housing in the Poole neighbourhood whilst BCP Council retains ownership and ultimate responsibility.

Cabinet was advised that the report sets out the national policy context for council housing and proposes some core objectives to guide future delivery and presents the council's strategic key drivers for service delivery in this area and, measuring these against the various governance options, proposes a preferred model for housing management in the future.

Further to this Cabinet was informed that it is recommended that the council should align and create a new combined hybrid service, the 'best of both worlds', within the council, and that it is recommended that the new combined in-house hybrid service has a robust 'advisory board', providing oversight, expertise and informed advice. A number of other councils, including some which have recently changed from an ALMO model, have

similarly set up or are considering setting up an advisory board to ensure robust visibility and monitoring for continued good service delivery.

The report sought approval to commence extensive consultation with residents and other stakeholders over summer and autumn 2021 to help determine implementation.

The Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Board addressed the Cabinet and advised that at their recent meeting the Board had been largely supportive of the report.

RESOLVED that: -

- (a) The proposed objectives of a new combined service within the council:**
- (b) The preferred governance model for a new combined hybrid service within the council overseen by an advisory board:**
- (c) The outline principles of governance arrangements for the advisory board: and**
- (d) The commencement of extensive consultation with all council housing tenants/leaseholders and other stakeholders on the preferred model and the future nature of services to be delivered.**

Voting: Unanimous

Portfolio Holder: Homes

36. Cabinet Forward Plan

The Leader advised that the latest Cabinet Forward Plan had been published on the Council's website, and that the next publication was due on the 3 August.

The Democratic Services Officer reported that in addition to the Forward Plan that three recent decisions had been taken by the Chief Executive under urgency provisions in accordance with the Constitution, these being:-

- Urgent Sustainable Fleet Replacement Procurement
- Covid Local Support Grant – extension to end of September 2021
- Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG4)

Cabinet was advised that the decisions had been published on the Councils website and that a standard item would be included on future Cabinet agendas for the purposes of reporting urgent decisions taken, if any.

The meeting ended at 11.30 am

CHAIRMAN