

BOURNEMOUTH, CHRISTCHURCH AND POOLE COUNCIL
CABINET

Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 January 2022 at 10.00 am

Present:-

Cllr D Mellor – Chairman

Cllr P Broadhead – Vice-Chairman

Present: Cllr M Anderson, Cllr B Dove, Cllr B Dunlop, Cllr M Greene,
Cllr N Greene, Cllr M Iyengar, Cllr K Rampton and Cllr M White

Also in attendance: Lead Member: Cllr T Johnson

Present Virtually: Lead Members: Cllr H Allen, Cllr S Baron, Cllr N Brooks and Cllr J Kelly

Also in attendance virtually: Cllr S Bartlett, Cllr A Hadley and Cllr P Hilliard

Apologies: Cllr L Fear

109. Declarations of Interests

Councillor N Brooks and B Dunlop declared interests in Minute No. 116 (Housing and Property Compliance Update (Housing Revenue Account)) and remained present.

Councillor H Allen declared an interest in Minute No. 114 (2021/22 Quarter 2 Performance Report) and remained present.

110. Confirmation of Minutes

The Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 15 December 2021 were confirmed and signed as a correct record subject to the inclusion of Councillor S Barons apologies which had been reported to the Leader of the Council.

111. Public Issues

The Leader advised that there had been no questions, statements or petitions received from members of the public on this occasion.

112. 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.

113. Council Tax - Tax base 2022/23

The Leader of the Council 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 advised that the report calculated and presented the proposed council tax base for council tax setting purposes in line with current legislation and guidance.

RECOMMENDED that: -

- (a) the report for the calculation of the council's tax base for the year 2022/23 be approved and the tax base be approved by Full Council; and**
- (b) Pursuant to the report, and in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992, as amended, the amount calculated as the council tax base for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council for 2022/23 is 142,814.**

Voting: Unanimous

Portfolio Holder: Leader of the Council

114. 2021/22 Quarter 2 Performance Report

The Leader of the Council 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 reminded that BCP Council's Corporate Strategy was adopted by Full Council in November 2019, and that it set out the Council's priorities and the values which underpin the way the council will work as it develops and delivers services.

In relation to this Cabinet was advised that refreshed vision and ambition statements set out in the Big Plan provide a wider context to underpin and drive the Corporate Strategy, and that council corporate priorities remain the same and continue to be supported by delivery plans which set out high-level actions.

Cabinet was advised that the report provided an overview of performance against the priorities for Quarter 2 of financial year 2021/22, and that the report had been informed by the performance measures included in the delivery plans of the Corporate Strategy, agreed at the February 2021 Cabinet meeting.

Cabinet was informed that performance is presented across interactive dashboards for each of the priorities which also include a narrative summary of other achievements for the first six months of this financial year, and that whilst the performance measures are not a finite set of measures most have been in place for the last 18 months and therefore are starting to develop a good history of trend data.

Cabinet was further advised that generally, performance is good across the priorities with only four areas that require intervention, and that the detail of these are available as exception reports attached as appendix 2.

The relevant Portfolio Holders for each of the four exception reports addressed the Cabinet informing of the actions in place to meet future targets.

Councillor Hilliard addressed the Cabinet questioning how the residents survey fitted into information gathered.

RESOLVED that: -

- (a) Cabinet considered the attached exception reports relating to areas of current adverse performance and supported remedial action; and**
- (b) Cabinet advise of any amendments, deletions or additions to the performance indicator set that informs corporate performance.**

Voting: Unanimous

Portfolio Holder: Leader of the Council

Councillor H Allen declared an interest in this item and remained present.

115. Future of the Stour Valley and Poole Revenues and Benefits Partnership

The Leader of the Council 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 reminded that BCP Council currently works in partnership with Dorset Council to deliver Revenues and Benefit Services for four of the legacy Councils through the Stour Valley and Poole Partnership (SVPP).

In relation to this Cabinet was informed that the Joint Committee for the SVPP had considered the future options for Revenues and Benefits service delivery and have recommended to each Council that they consider expanding the SVPP to provide a Pan-Dorset Partnership.

Cabinet was advised that for BCP Council as the host partner Council for SVPP expanding the Partnership would formally bring together the Revenues and Benefits services and deliver significant efficiencies whilst supporting the Council's transformation objectives

In addition, Cabinet was advised that Dorset Council's preferred direction is to end the SVPP and return its services to an in-house provision which would place a financial burden on BCP Council of stranded costs that cannot be mitigated.

In relation to this Cabinet was further advised that as there is not a consensus between partners an approach needs to be established for the future of BCP Council's Revenue and Benefits services.

RESOLVED that Cabinet: -

- (a) Endorse, as BCP Council's preferred option, the recommendation of the SVPP Joint Committee to create a pan-**

Dorset partnership between BCP Council and Dorset Council for the delivery of Revenues and Benefits services;

- (b) Accepting it is not BCP Councils desired direction of travel, acknowledge that Dorset Council agreed at their 7 December 2021 Cabinet to withdraw their services in respect of East Dorset and North Dorset residents from the SVPP;**
- (c) Only agree to an amicable dissolution of SVPP if agreement can be reached with Dorset Council around costs associated with the process;**
- (d) Delegate authority to the Chief Finance Officer in consultation with the Leader, Finance & Transformation Portfolio Holder to negotiate the settlement associated with an amicable dissolution of the SVPP; and**
- (e) Acknowledge that if an amicable dissolution cannot be agreed that Dorset Council will be required to formally give notice and be responsible for costs in line with the collaboration agreement.**

Voting: Unanimous

Portfolio Holder: Leader of the Council

116. Housing and Property Compliance Update (Housing Revenue Account)

The Portfolio Holder for People and Homes 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 report provides information on how the council meets its responsibilities in ensuring that all council housing within the Housing Revenue Account is managed in a way that meets compliance with current health and safety legislation, best practice and regulatory standards to ensure the health and safety of residents, and that in addition it sets out issues concerning compliance across the Bournemouth and Poole neighbourhoods and demonstrates how these are being managed.

Cabinet was informed that during quarter three, 2021/22 concerns were identified within the Bournemouth neighbourhood regarding overdue fire risk assessment actions and electrical safety tests and potential non-compliance with the Regulator of Social Housing's (Regulator) Home Standard, and that a robust action plan is in place and issues continue to be addressed at pace with additional resources. Cabinet was further informed that to ensure full transparency the council has made a self-referral to the Regulator to make them aware of the situation.

Cabinet was further advised that over the coming years there will be increased responsibilities placed on social landlords to manage the health and safety of residents, and that these will be primarily included in the Building Safety Bill which is progressing through Parliament.

In relation to this Cabinet was informed that future changes will also be made to the regulatory regime overseen by the Regulator through the "Charter for Social Housing Residents; a social housing white paper", and

that in preparation for these changes, the council is ensuring that we are taking steps to improve our existing monitoring and recording of compliance work.

Councillor Hadley addressed the Cabinet with regards to water quality and questioned whether it will be possible to monitor the flow and quality of water remotely or using automated means?

In relation to this the Portfolio Holder advised that the council will no longer be using contractors from April of this year and will be doing this inhouse and so there is an opportunity for this possibility to be looked into.

Councillor Hilliard questioned whether it would be possible to integrate PHP and BCP to one housing management model.

In relation to this the Portfolio Holder advised that the different models will be looked at with a view of pulling together the best aspects of each into one model going forwards.

RESOLVED that: -

- (a) Cabinet noted the compliance information provided which details how the council is performing against statutory building compliance relating to its council housing; and**
- (b) A performance report will be made annually to Cabinet in future years.**

Voting: Unanimous

Portfolio Holder: People and Homes

Councillor N Brooks and B Dunlop declared interests in this item and remained present.

117. Climate Action Annual Report 2020/21

The Portfolio Holder for Sustainability and Transport 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.

In introducing the item Cabinet was advised that a member of the public had submitted a question to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee who had subsequently suggested the question be submitted to the Cabinet. The question was submitted as follows: -

Question from Mrs Zoe Tees

The global overheating tragedy accelerates. Crop failure, starvation, floods, fires, ocean acidification, landslides, tornados; effects are multiplying exponentially. We are all vulnerable.

But Councillor Stribley (Echo report 18.12.21) fails to explain to local motorists the deep urgency of the climate crisis let alone show concern for the schoolchildren of the area on an extremely dangerous road (Tatnam).

Despite financial government support, the approval of officers, the transport portfolio holder, headteachers, councillors and residents the decision is- inconsistently- being reversed, the road kept open to polluting vehicles.

Moreover, BCP still support deadly policies harmful to nature.

How can BCP reassure us we'll be speedily protected?

Response by the Portfolio Holder for Sustainability and Transport

The Portfolio Holder thanked Mrs Tees for her question and referred to the previous Cabinet meeting in respect of the reference to Tatnam Road which he advised had been thoroughly debated by both the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Cabinet and which should answer the questions raised.

The Portfolio Holder then went on to introduce the Cabinet report.

Cabinet was advised that as agreed in the 'Response to Climate and Ecological Emergency' report to Council in December 2019, an annual report on climate action was required to monitor and communicate progress towards achieving the declared goals.

In relation to this Cabinet was advised that this report will go to Full Council on 22 February 2022.

Cabinet was informed that BCP Council had declared a Climate and Ecological Emergency on 16 July 2019, and that this report sets out the work the Council has carried out in the second year towards achieving targets to:

- Make BCP Council and its operations carbon neutral by 2030 - **The amount of carbon emissions from Council operations has reduced by over 10%**, from 41,567 tCO₂e to 37,109 tCO₂e.
- Work with the wider community to make the region carbon neutral before the UK target of 2050 – **the amount of area-wide carbon emissions has decreased by 71,748 tonnes CO₂e (3.7%)** between figures released in 2019 and 2020 (energy use data for the years 2017 and 2018 respectively).

Cabinet was advised that 2020/21 had been a transitional and unusual year for Climate Action, sitting as it does between the declaration of national and local Climate and Ecological Emergencies and the COP26 summit, and while we are still in the shadow of the Covid-19 pandemic that continues to dominate news.

In relation to this Cabinet was advised that Covid-19 continues to be a major factor in progressing Climate Action, and it is not yet clear if the effects on carbon reduction will be maintained and trends continued.

Cabinet was informed that at the start of the reporting period, Council funding for Climate Action had been withdrawn as part of the response to financial pressures caused by Covid-19, and that following a change in political control of the Council, the funding was reinstated, but this interruption significantly disrupted the ability to spend the money effectively.

Cabinet was further informed that important additional funding has been secured to grow the Climate Action team and to drive forward the delivery of the Action Plan with a new Climate Action staffing structure created, and that this will ensure that the service provided by the Team meets and

exceed stakeholder expectations, and that the portfolio of activities in the Action Plan is optimised to meet our 2030 and 2050 targets as cost effectively and as quickly as is sensible.

In addition, Cabinet was advised that this report also recommends that Cabinet approve exploration of the Council becoming members of the UK100 - a network of highly ambitious local government leaders looking to transition to clean energy, taking the public and business with them.

The Portfolio Holder introduced the new Head of Climate Matt Montgomery who subsequently provided Cabinet with an overview of his previous experience and aims within his role.

The Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Board addressed the Cabinet highlighting that their recent meeting had been solely dedicated to discussing this report, with the intention of specifically scrutinising the climate report and then the wider climate inquiry, however the ambition had been too great and they had run out of time and had deferred the last section of the meeting until the next meeting of the Board.

In relation to this the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Board advised that the board had been very encouraged by some aspects of the report and that some actions and suggestions made at the Board had been taken into consideration by the Portfolio Holder and Officers.

The Leader thanked the Overview and Scrutiny Board for their consideration and comments in respect of the report.

Councillor Hadley addressed the Cabinet stressing the importance of looking at this from a strategic level and questioning the small reduction in gas and energy used by the council considering most people were no longer working from the offices due to the requirement to work from home.

RECOMMENDED that: -

- (a) Cabinet recommends to Council that it notes this report as an update on activities taken to address the Climate and Ecological Emergency during 2020/21**
- (b) Cabinet endorses and recommends that Council supports the adoption and ongoing development and delivery of the BCP Climate Action Plan**
- (c) Cabinet explores joining the UK100 Group of Local Authorities leading the way on Climate Change**

Voting: Unanimous

Portfolio Holder: Sustainability and Transport

118. Levelling Up

The Portfolio Holder for Development, Growth and Regeneration and the Leader Member for Levelling Up and Skills 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.

Cabinet was informed that in May 2021 the Government announced it will publish a landmark Levelling Up White Paper, “articulating how bold new policy interventions will improve opportunity and boost livelihoods across the country as we recover from the pandemic, and that the White Paper - which will be led by the Prime Minister - will focus on challenges including improving living standards, growing the private sector and increasing and spreading opportunity”.

Cabinet was advised that in readiness for this White Paper, this Cabinet report showcases several excellent recent studies that help to explain why Levelling Up is important for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole, and how it can support our current and future work, and that these studies also help us to have some early sight on what our Levelling Up needs and aspirations may be.

Further to this Cabinet was informed that the Cabinet report also provides a brief update on the development of the Skills Commission (a key early action to support Levelling Up) and sets out a series of proposed next steps for approval to ensure there is an agreed, evidenced based council-wide approach that is complimentary to and supports the delivery of existing council policies and strategies.

A number of Cabinet and Lead Members spoke in support of the report recognising the challenges but highlighting the tremendous opportunities.

In addition, thanks was expressed to the Officers for pulling together the report particularly as the white paper has not yet been released.

RESOLVED that the proposed approach to Levelling Up be approved.

Voting: Unanimous

Portfolio Holder: Development, Growth and Regeneration

119. Coastal Business Improvement District (BID)

The Portfolio Holder for Development, Growth and Regeneration 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 Bournemouth Coastal Business Improvement District (BID) is preparing to undertake a ballot for its third term from 2 March 2022 – 30 March 2022, and that the result of the ballot will be announced on 31 March 2022.

Further to this Cabinet was informed that if successful, the 5-year BID Term will run from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2027, and that this report seeks Cabinet approval for the Council to support Coastal Town Centre BID for the third term.

Members praised the work of the BID and stressed the close working relationship.

RESOLVED that Cabinet agree BCP Council’s support of the Coastal Business Improvement District (BID); and agree:

- i) **To endorse the BID proposal that will be submitted to BCP Council by the BID;**

- ii) **To authorise the Director of Economic Development to complete the ballot papers on behalf of the Council in favour of the BID proposal; and**
- iii) **To authorise the Head of Legal Services to complete any necessary legal agreements required for the operation of the BID Levy, Ballot and service arrangements and any other necessary matters for the proposed BID in consultation with the appropriate officers.**

Voting: Unanimous

Portfolio Holder: Development, Growth and Regeneration

120. Bournemouth Town Centre Business Improvement District (BID)

The Portfolio Holder for Development, Growth and Regeneration 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 Bournemouth Town Centre Business Improvement District (BID) is preparing to undertake a renewal ballot for its third term from 2 March 2022 – 30 March 2022, and that the result of the ballot will be announced on 31 March 2022.

Further to this Cabinet was informed that if successful, the 5-year BID Term will run from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2027, and that this report seeks Cabinet approval for the Council to support Bournemouth Town Centre BID for the third term.

Members praised the work of the BID and stressed the close working relationship.

RESOLVED that Cabinet agree BCP Council's support of the Bournemouth Town Centre Business Improvement District (BID); and agree:

- i) **To endorse the BID proposal that will be submitted to BCP Council by the BID;**
- ii) **To authorise the Director of Economic Development to complete the ballot papers on behalf of the Council in favour of the BID proposal; and**
- iii) **To authorise the Head of Legal Services to complete any necessary legal agreements required for the operation of the BID Levy, Ballot and service arrangements and any other necessary matters for the proposed BID in consultation with the appropriate officers.**

Voting: Unanimous

Portfolio Holder: Development, Growth and Regeneration

121. Urgent Decisions taken by the Chief Executive in accordance with the Constitution

Cabinet was advised that there were no urgent decisions taken by the Chief Executive in accordance with the Constitution to report on this occasion.

122. Cabinet Forward Plan

The Leader advised that the latest Cabinet Forward Plan had been published on the Council's website.

The meeting ended at 11.47 am

CHAIRMAN