

BOURNEMOUTH, CHRISTCHURCH AND POOLE COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

Minutes of the Meeting held on 20 September 2021 at 6.00 pm

Present:-

Cllr S Bartlett – Chairman

Cllr V Slade – Vice-Chairman

Present: Cllr L Allison, Cllr B Dion, Cllr J Edwards, Cllr D Farr, Cllr L Fear,
Cllr S Gabriel, Cllr M Howell, Cllr D Kelsey, Cllr T O'Neill,
Cllr C Rigby, Cllr M F Brooke and Cllr T Trent

Also in Cllr D Mellor, Cllr M Anderson, Cllr M Haines, Cllr K Rampton and
attendance: Cllr J Kelly

80. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Cox, Deadman and Earl.

81. Substitute Members

Councillors Brooke and Trent were substitutes for Councillors Cox and Earl.

82. Declarations of Interests

Councillor Gabriel declared an interest as manager of two leisure centres in Poole. Councillor Trent declared an interest in assisting residents in CIL bids.

83. Public Speaking

There were no public issues received on this occasion.

84. Forward Plan

The Board noted the Forward Plan.

85. Scrutiny of Regeneration Related Cabinet Reports - Spending Priorities for Strategic CIL

The Chairman advised the Board that this item had been deferred from the afternoon Overview and Scrutiny Board.

The Leader of the Council, with support from the Head of Planning and Planning Research GIS & Information Manager 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.

Officers responded to comments and requests for clarification, details included:

- Clarification was provided over the membership of the Future Infrastructure Programme Board (FIPB) which included four Senior Officers and the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council.
- How the legacy authorities had managed strategic CIL was discussed including the distribution of CIL and some previously agreed priorities.
- The Board was advised that the Regulation 123 list was no longer in existence, and that it was being replaced by a infrastructure funding statement which was appended to the report.
- In response to a concern regarding when a new BCP wide CIL charging schedule would be prepared to ensure fair and equitable charging across BCP, the Board was advised that the Government had proposed changes across the planning system, and until the detail of any proposed changes to the CIL regime were known, the creation of a single CIL charging schedule was on hold. It is also imperative that the CIL charging schedule is prepared alongside the emerging BCP Local Plan to take into account the cost of policy requirements and viability.
- In response to a concern the Board was advised that the aim was to improve transparency and the process which, after being considered by the FIPB would go through the democratic process of approval by Cabinet and Council. The Board was also reassured that the Infrastructure Funding Statement would be in the public domain.
- In response to a concern, the Board was advised that there had been a request for CIL funding from Dorset NHS and the proposed projects were detailed in appendix 3 to the report. The Board was reassured that this request would be considered carefully by the FIPB and if approved, would continue through the democratic process.
- The Board was advised that the CIL neighbourhood portion was separate to strategic CIL and would not be affected by the proposal. It would continue to be managed using the same cross party member panel.
- In response to a query, the Leader confirmed that increasing cultural assets within BCP was included in the delivery market plan but advised that this paper related to governance and not the proposed CIL spending plans.
- The Leader concluded strategic CIL was about mitigating the impact of development upon the community through the provision of infrastructure to support the development and that all decisions would be taken in an open and transparent manner.

The Chairman thanked Board Members and Officers for their contributions.

86. Scrutiny of the Cleaner, Greener, Safer Cabinet Report

The Leader of the Council, supported by the Portfolio Holder for Environment, Cleansing and Waste and 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 'B' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Officers responded to comments and requests for clarification, details included:

- There was some discussion surrounding the fly tipping pilot scheme which had recently been launched. The Committee was advised that it had been a success to date and included education for offenders and grace periods to resolve issues. It was clarified that the scheme only dealt with fly tipping where the rubbish could be linked back to an offender.
- It was noted that enforcement and clearing of fly tipping were undertaken by two separate services and information on how to report fly tipping was provided to the Board.
- The breakdown of the figures to be spent was highlighted and the Board was advised that details of timelines were available at appendix four to the report.
- In response to a query regarding increased residents input into keeping local green spaces tidy, including grass cutting, the Board was advised that it is difficult to balance differing residents views but that any views and feedback was welcome.
- A concern was raised regarding the proposed weed treatments planned, using chemicals such as glyphosates and whether alternative weed treatments had been considered, the Board were referred to paragraph 32 of the strategy in response. There was agreement that community engagement in removing weeds on paths outside their properties should be encouraged
- The Board was reassured that it was policy to not spray glyphosates around playgrounds and water ways. Alternatives had been considered to try and reduce the herbicides being used
- In response to a query, the Board was advised that the investment would include deweeding pavements, some flower beds and there would be urban greening, including significant investment in tree planting.
- The Board was reassured regarding the plan for street cleansing and zoning of roads to ensure a good level of cleanliness across all roads.
- In response to a concern, the Board was advised that cross conurbation work was ongoing and including work with the local BIDs and a pilot was currently underway in Poole, starting with a street survey to consider street lighting, lampposts being painted, managing antisocial behaviour.

- Where the funding would be sourced from was discussed and it was confirmed that the Futures Fund and some elements of CIL would be used with a mix of revenue and capital spend.
- The Board discussed the partnership with Hubbub and McDonalds using drones and artificial intelligence to map litter surveys and public behaviour and the possible benefits of it. The Board noted that Hubbub was currently writing a report detailing their findings and proposals.
- The Leader advised that BCP was trying to send a message of pride in the conurbation to residents, but it was ultimately the responsibility of the Council to maintain cleanliness and weed management. The Board was advised that roadside gulleys were currently being mapped and addressed.
- There was reference to issues such as begging and the Board was advised of the work that was being done to try to reduce these problems across the conurbation including operation Luscombe working with the police to address aggressive begging, dealing with fly tipping, fly posting and graffiti.
- In response to a concern regarding the financing of the scheme and the reduction of reserves being used, the Board was advised that improvement was needed now, hence using the reserves however in the future funding would be included in the annual budget.
- In response to a query regarding exploring the installation of CCTV cameras in parks and green spaces, the Board was advised that a CCTV camera strategy was being considered as part of community safety and if there was an area which made the community feel unsafe, then this should be highlighted to the Portfolio Holder with responsibility for community safety.

Following discussion a motion was proposed by Councillor Rigby and seconded by Councillor Trent that an additional recommendation should be made to the Cabinet report. It was then

RESOLVED: that Cabinet consider the additional recommendation as outlined below:

‘That Cabinet note that pesticides do not just harm the organisms that they are designed to control. They also have a major impact on non-target organisms, including people. Alternative weed treatments will continue to be explored.’

Voting: For – 7, Against – 6, Abstained – 1

The Leader advised he would support the last paragraph of “Alternative weed treatments would continue to be explored”.

87. Scrutiny of Complaints and 2020/21 LGSCO annual report

The Policy and Performance Officer and Local Government Ombudsmen Link supported by the Chief Executive 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.

Officers responded to comments and requests for clarification, details included:

- Clarification was provided regarding the difference in the number of complaints received in a year and determined differing due to some determinations happening the year after the complaint was received.
- In response to a query about the number of complaints received that did not go to the LGSCO and dealt with internally, the Board was advised there was not currently a fixed system and each service had different ways of managing complaints. The Board was advised that the number of complaints should not be seen as an indicator, but how many were resolved satisfactorily.
- The Board was advised there were plans to centralise complaints received to provide a better overview, efficiency of monitoring and reduce pressure on front line services.
- The Board was advised of the difficulties which were encountered, for example encouraging and enabling complaints would increase the numbers and the different type of complaints which carried different weights such as a missed refuse collection compared to a complaint regarding a child's Education, Health and Care Plans.
- In response to a query from the Chairman, the Board was advised that each service had a complaints system and it was hoped that the a corporate monitoring would be in place over the next 12-18 months.

The Chairman summarised that the Board was pleased about the plan to centralise complaints management and thanked Board Members and Officers for their contributions.

88. Scrutiny of Community Related Cabinet Reports

The Portfolio Holder for Adults supported by the Lead Member for Engagement presented a report on Community Engagement and Consultation Strategy 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.

Officers responded to comments and requests for clarification, details included:

- In response to a query, the Board was advised that there had been a large investment in asset-based community development and communicating with residents to get the best results.
- The Chair enquired about the proposed Area Forums and was advised that the outcome of the consultation was that many residents wanted them as a way of communicating and engaging with BCP Council and therefore they would be supported in the future

- In response to a concern about the consultation platform being unsatisfactory and the need for it to be more intuitive, the feedback was welcomed and the Board was advised that Officers were currently experimenting with different tools to discover what works and what doesn't.
- The Board was advised that the strategy would build on and improve consultation and engagement using every tool available, not just digital platforms.

The Chairman summarised that the Board welcomed the proposed community engagement with BCP's residents and thanked Board Members and Officers for their contributions.

89. Future Meeting Dates 2021/22

The Board noted the future meeting dates.

The meeting ended at 8.25 pm

CHAIRMAN