

Notice of Cabinet



Date: Wednesday, 7 February 2024 at 10.15 am

Venue: Committee Room, First Floor, BCP Civic Centre Annex, St Stephen's Rd, Bournemouth BH2 6LL

Membership:

Chairman:

Cllr V Slade

Vice Chairman:

Cllr M Earl

Cllr D Brown
Cllr R Burton
Cllr M Cox

Cllr A Hadley
Cllr J Hanna
Cllr A Martin

Cllr K Wilson

All Members of the Cabinet are summoned to attend this meeting to consider the items of business set out on the agenda below.

The press and public are welcome to view the live stream of this meeting at the following link:

<https://democracy.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?MIId=5366>

If you would like any further information on the items to be considered at the meeting please contact: Sarah Culwick (01202 817615) on 01202 096660 or email democratic.services@bcpCouncil.gov.uk

Press enquiries should be directed to the Press Office: Tel: 01202 118686 or email press.office@bcpCouncil.gov.uk

This notice and all the papers mentioned within it are available at democracy.bcpCouncil.gov.uk

GRAHAM FARRANT
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

30 January 2024

**DEBATE
NOT HATE**



Available online and
on the Mod.gov app



Maintaining and promoting high standards of conduct

Declaring interests at meetings

Familiarise yourself with the Councillor Code of Conduct which can be found in Part 6 of the Council's Constitution.

Before the meeting, read the agenda and reports to see if the matters to be discussed at the meeting concern your interests



What are the principles of bias and pre-determination and how do they affect my participation in the meeting?

Bias and predetermination are common law concepts. If they affect you, your participation in the meeting may call into question the decision arrived at on the item.

Bias Test

In all the circumstances, would it lead a fair minded and informed observer to conclude that there was a real possibility or a real danger that the decision maker was biased?

Predetermination Test

At the time of making the decision, did the decision maker have a closed mind?

If a councillor appears to be biased or to have predetermined their decision, they must NOT participate in the meeting.

For more information or advice please contact the Monitoring Officer
(janie.berry@bcpcouncil.gov.uk)

Selflessness

Councillors should act solely in terms of the public interest

Integrity

Councillors must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work. They should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships

Objectivity

Councillors must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias

Accountability

Councillors are accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this

Openness

Councillors should act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information should not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing

Honesty & Integrity

Councillors should act with honesty and integrity and should not place themselves in situations where their honesty and integrity may be questioned

Leadership

Councillors should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour. They should actively promote and robustly support the principles and be willing to challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs

AGENDA

Items to be considered while the meeting is open to the public

1. Apologies

To receive any apologies for absence from Councillors.

2. Declarations of Interests

Councillors are requested to declare any interests on items included in this agenda. Please refer to the workflow on the preceding page for guidance.

Declarations received will be reported at the meeting.

3. Confirmation of Minutes

To confirm and sign as a correct record the minutes of the Meeting held on 10 January 2024.

9 - 20

4. Public Issues

To receive any public questions, statements or petitions submitted in accordance with the Constitution. Further information on the requirements for submitting these is available to view at the following link:-

<https://democracy.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CommitteeID=151&Info=1&bcr=1>

The deadline for the submission of public questions is 12 noon, 3 clear working days before the meeting.

The deadline for the submission of a statement is midday the working day before the meeting.

The deadline for the submission of a petition is 10 working days before the meeting.

5. Recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committees

To consider recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny committees on items not otherwise included on the Cabinet Agenda.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

6. Budget Monitoring 2023-24 at Quarter Three

21 - 66

This report provides the quarter three 2023/24 projected financial outturn information for the general fund and housing revenue account (HRA) and monitoring of the capital programme.

The February 2023 approved general fund budget for 2023/24 was balanced on the assumption of a £30m drawdown in reserves and the delivery of £34m in savings, efficiencies, and additional resources including £9m in respect of transformation which were un-itemised.

Based on the current projections the council is forecasting a surplus of £2.8m for the year with overspending within services offset by savings on

central budgets.

Delivering to this latest projection remains critical as the medium term financial plan assumes this level of surplus to achieve balance over the four years of the plan.

7. Mainstream Schools and Early Years Funding Formulae 2024/25 Report

67 - 86

The council receives the ring-fenced dedicated schools grant (DSG) to fund the separate early years and mainstream schools funding formulae. The contents of each formula are highly regulated by the Department for Education (DfE). The council is to decide the local formulae after considering the recommendations of the Schools Forum.

The early years funding levels for 2024/25 were received from the DfE in late November. A consultation with the sector in January is being considered with Schools Forum on 6 February when a recommendation will be made to the council.

A consultation concerning the mainstream schools formula 2024/25 was undertaken with schools in November/December 2023 with the outcome and further work considered by the Schools Forum on 13 December 2023. A further meeting on 15 January 2024 provided a recommendation to the council.

8. Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget Setting 2024/25

87 - 130

The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) is a separate account within the council's budgets that ring-fences the income and expenditure associated with council housing.

It sets out the proposals regarding increases to rents, service charges and other charges to tenants and leaseholders. Arrangements for these increases are separate to arrangements for increasing fees elsewhere in the council and are set out in law and regulation. The report also sets out plans for expenditure on services to residents, repairs and improvements to homes and the provision of new homes.

The major changes in building safety and regulation of social housing following the Grenfell Tower fire in 2017 are now being implemented. These changes are significant and this report sets out the requirements that the council must meet.

This report also demonstrates how council housing and spending within the HRA supports the council's corporate strategy and objectives.

9. Budget 2024/25 and Medium-Term Financial Plan

131 - 336

To set out for Cabinet's consideration and recommendation to Council the proposed 2024/25 budget and council tax based on;

- Increasing council tax by 2.99% in 2024/25 in line with the government's annual basic threshold.
- Collecting the full additional 2% Adult Social Care (ASC) precept in 2024/25.
- Implementation of the approved financial strategy.
- £41m of further savings, efficiencies, and additional income generation

required to correct the structural £30m deficit inherited from 2023/24 and other pressures, to set a legally balanced budget, and provide the basis of a more financially sustainable council moving forward.

Recognise that the council is projecting to spend £29m more on Special Educational Needs and Disability services in 2024/25 than the funding specifically being made available by government. The consequential deficit this creates in the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) will mean the council is technically insolvent on 31 March 2024 (as the deficit on the DSG will be greater than the total reserves held by the council with a negative overall general fund position). Statutory guidance which means the deficit can be ignored by all councils until the 31 March 2026 provides interim protection for the Council.

10. Funding Agreement to support Russell-Cotes Art Gallery & Museum to become an Independent Trust

337 - 346

In January 2023, Council voted to apply to the Charity Commission for the transfer of sole trusteeship from the Council to a new corporate entity, a Company Limited by Guarantee (CLG) to operate and manage the charity under Section 73 of the Charities Act 2011.

This report details the significant progress made in respect of identifying a mutually acceptable financial settlement between BCP Council as the existing Trustee and the new Trustee, subject to the Charity Commission scheme and Parliamentary Order of State.

11. The Annual Report of the Pan-Dorset Safeguarding Children's Partnership 2022/2023

347 - 396

The Pan-Dorset Safeguarding Children's Partnership (PDSCP) is the statutory body which oversees multi-agency safeguarding arrangements and covers the local Dorset and BCP council areas.

This report contains a background and introduction to the statutory functions of the partnership and the council's responsibilities which includes the requirements to publish an annual report.

The annual report of the PDSCP is therefore provided as an attachment for consideration by cabinet. The annual report details reflections on partnership work in 2022/23 including:

- Outlining the findings from a review of the safeguarding arrangements.
- Summarising local and national learning including in relation to Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews.
- Providing an overview of multi-agency training.
- Outlining the funding arrangements for the partnership.
- Providing information from the Child Death Overview Panel.
- Detailing work across the partnership linked to the priority areas for 2022/23.
- Outlining other key developments by the statutory safeguarding partners.

The report also outlines the agreed revised priority areas for 2023 to 2025.

The report has been approved by the PDSCP Executive who are the

representatives of the Safeguarding partners as outlined in Working Together Guidance. The Executive group is chaired by an Independent Chair and Scrutineer who provides support and challenge to the partnership.

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| 12. Creekmoor Community Land Trust Affordable Housing Development | 397 - 420 |
| <p>To present and seek approval of support for the council to support Creekmoor Community Land Trust to progress a suitable site to deliver 14 new affordable houses in Creekmoor.</p> | |
| 13. School Admission Arrangements 2025/26 – Determination | 421 - 444 |
| <p>BCP Council administers admission arrangements for its community and voluntary controlled schools. There is a legal requirement to determine the arrangements annually as described in the School Admissions Code 2021 and associated legislation.</p> <p>There are no proposed changes to the admission arrangements for the 2025/26 academic year from those which were publicly consulted upon and determined by the Council for the 2023/24 academic year.</p> <p>The local authority must also formulate and publish a scheme to coordinate the admission arrangements for all publicly funded schools within their area for the 2025/26 academic year.</p> | |
| 14. Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2023-24 | 445 - 468 |
| <p>The Council has a statutory duty to provide working families of children aged 0-14 (18 with SEND) enough childcare places in its area, where reasonably practicable. Each year Research and Children's Services colleagues assess the position of the market, providing parent's, councillors, schools and private business ward level information as a planning tool to support access or expansion of places where needed, while highlighting areas of concern for the year ahead.</p> <p>The content of the assessment concludes that the Council is meeting its statutory duties. It is also important to highlight that, at the time of writing, the quality of our providers stands at 98.5% good or outstanding (compared to 96.5% in England).</p> <p>The Government has announced the largest ever expansion of childcare entitlements, through two ambitious childcare programmes to support working families with implementation commences April 2024. The information and data provided through the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment is vital to support council officers to manage a significant increase in demand over the coming years, as well as supporting private businesses seeking to enter the market and help the Council fulfil its statutory duties. The Council has received notification of DfE Delivery Support funding and capital funding to support the expansion of places for early years and primary aged wraparound care.</p> <p>In addition to a briefing paper (appendix 1) the high level data that helped form our 2023 assessment is accessible here.</p> | |

15. BCP Council Street Naming and Numbering Policy	469 - 488
<p>A single Street Naming & Numbering Policy has been produced to harmonise the 3 legacy authority policies and the charging structures of the legacy authorities, to ensure moving forward BCP has a single policy and a single schedule of fees.</p>	
16. BCP Council Libraries – Creating a sustainable future	489 - 518
<p>Local authorities are constantly evaluating the way they deliver services, not only taking account of financial pressures but equally changes in social trends, new technology and the evolving needs of their communities. However, since BCP Council was formed in 2019, there has not been a comprehensive look at our library service to ensure it remains relevant to the needs of our communities and to the circumstances in which the council now operates. A review is therefore overdue and this report sets out the review framework.</p> <p>Exploring interest in alternative models of delivery may allow libraries to sustain and even improve their offer to communities as hubs for a variety of council/community services. A range of models including those that capitalise on the capacity in our communities, and the technology that is now available to support open access, will be explored to inform the final strategy.</p>	
17. The Royal Arcade, Boscombe - Bournemouth Towns Fund Update	519 - 566
<p>BCP Council has successfully secured Town Deal funding to help deliver its Town Investment Plan for the regeneration of Boscombe Town Centre.</p> <p>As part of this plan, the council proposed to acquire the 130-year-old historic Grade II listed Victorian heritage building, known as the Royal Arcade and transform it into a destination for retail, culture, leisure, learning, and creative entrepreneurship.</p> <p>Officers have undertaken substantial due diligence, and due to the prevailing economic circumstances, project costs have risen to a level where existing approved council borrowings, Towns Fund and Heritage Lottery Fund grants are insufficient to bridge the gap in funding required to deliver the project.</p> <p>Like many local authorities, the council is facing unprecedented financial challenges and needs to look carefully at council spend, ensuring that the statutory services that its most vulnerable residents rely on are maintained. The council must make sure it has a secure a sustainable financial future, and that means looking ever more carefully at where it invests.</p> <p>The purpose of this report is to advise that officers can no longer recommend support for the project beyond progression of the council's planning application for the scheme and to seek approval for the reallocation of the remaining Towns Fund grant to other approved Town Deal projects.</p> <p>Progressing the planning application may help to facilitate the private sector taking the scheme forward and engagement with stakeholders will continue to ensure the local community's aspirations for the Royal Arcade are realised.</p>	

Reprofiling the Towns Fund grant, earmarked for the Royal Arcade, across other approved projects within the Boscombe Towns Fund programme will help to safeguard their delivery in the face of high inflation impacting costs and a challenging economic climate.

[PLEASE NOTE: Should the Cabinet wish to discuss the detail of the exempt appendix at Appendix 1 it will be necessary to exclude the press and public and move into Confidential (Exempt) session]

18. Dolphin Shopping Centre Poole Update

567 - 580

This report concerns the subsisting Development Agreement (DA) dated 26th May 2017 between BCP Council and Legal and General Assurance Pensions Management Ltd (L & G) (**the parties**) covering Dolphin Centre, Towngate Centre, Link Mall and Kingland Crescent, Poole
Due to the downturn in the retail market, the works required by the 2017 DA became unviable and L & G did not carry them out. This report is provided to update Cabinet and Council on the status of the 2017 DA and seeks approval to release the parties from their obligations under it in return for the financial settlement outlined in the Exempt report at Appendix 1.

[PLEASE NOTE: Should the Cabinet wish to discuss the detail of the exempt appendix at Appendix 1 it will be necessary to exclude the press and public and move into Confidential (Exempt) session]

19. Christchurch Area Speed Limit Amendments (S101 2023)

581 - 618

To consider the representations received following the advertisement of the Traffic Order and to approve the making and sealing of the Order.

The proposals will enable the implementation of a new and reduced speed limits at the following locations:

1. Burley Road, Winkton – 40mph proposal.
2. A337 Lymington Road and Ringwood Road, Highcliffe and Walkford – Revocation of the existing 40mph speed limit to enable this section to become 30mph by way of existing street lighting.

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

Verbal
report

The Chief Executive to report on any decisions taken under urgency provisions in accordance with the Constitution.

21. Cabinet Forward Plan

To Follow

To consider the latest version of the Cabinet Forward Plan for approval.

No other items of business can be considered unless the Chairman decides the matter is urgent for reasons that must be specified and recorded in the Minutes.