

# Notice of Corporate and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee



Date: Tuesday, 25 October 2022 at 6.00 pm

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

---

## Membership:

### Chairman:

Cllr L Williams

### Vice Chairman:

Cllr R Rocca

Cllr H Allen  
Cllr L Allison  
Cllr M Andrews

Cllr S Bartlett  
Cllr M Davies  
Cllr J Edwards

Cllr M Earl  
Cllr N Hedges  
Cllr M Iyengar

---

All Members of the Corporate and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee 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=5526>

If you would like any further information on the items to be considered at the meeting please contact: Claire Johnston or email [democratic.services@bcpCouncil.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@bcpCouncil.gov.uk)

Press enquiries should be directed to the Press Office: Tel: 01202 454668 or email [press.office@bcpCouncil.gov.uk](mailto:press.office@bcpCouncil.gov.uk)

This notice and all the papers mentioned within it are available at [democracy.bcpCouncil.gov.uk](https://democracy.bcpCouncil.gov.uk)

GRAHAM FARRANT  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

17 October 2022

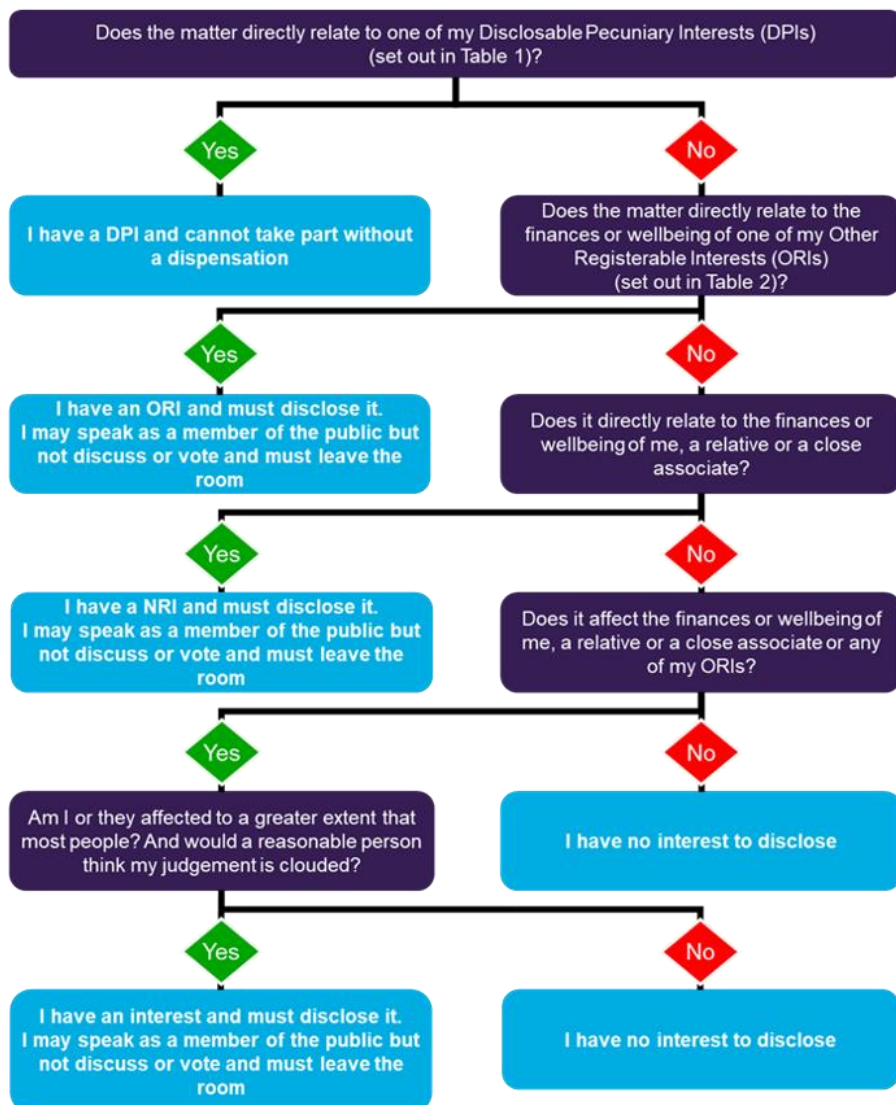


## Maintaining and promoting high standards of conduct

### 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  
([susan.zeiss@bcpcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:susan.zeiss@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. Substitute Members

To receive information on any changes in the membership of the Committee.

Note – When a member of a Committee is unable to attend a meeting of a Committee or Sub-Committee, the relevant Political Group Leader (or their nominated representative) may, by notice to the Monitoring Officer (or their nominated representative) prior to the meeting, appoint a substitute member from within the same Political Group. The contact details on the front of this agenda should be used for notifications.

## 3. 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.

## 4. Confirmation of Minutes

7 - 22

To confirm and sign as a correct record the minutes of the meetings held on 13 June, 20 July (and resumed on 2 September) and 2 September.

## 5. 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 4 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.

## 6. Seasonal Response Review 2022

23 - 38

Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole benefit from award winning beaches and beautiful open spaces which residents and visitors enjoy throughout the year. During the summer season, our tourism economy is boosted from being a busy resort area with increased visitor numbers.

Council services in BCP have a strong track record of managing busy

summer seasons as part of business as usual activity. However, to provide effective management of additional demands over the last 2 years, core services have been allocated additional funding and overall co-ordination through the Seasonal Response programme. This has provided co-ordination of multi-agency service and enhancement to services such as waste collections, traffic management and promotion of safety of open spaces. Following the success of the multi-agency delivery over Summer 2021, £1.69m of funding was allocated to continue the programme in 2022. Seasonal Response delivery ran from 9 April 2022 to 4 September 2022 with great success. The additional investment in services has delivered increased output across core services and has supported enhanced resort management and public safety.

This report gives an overview of activity within the programme, considers the challenges presented and sets out future considerations.

## **7. Scrutiny of the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) Update Cabinet report**

39 - 60

To consider the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) update report scheduled for Cabinet consideration on 26 October 2022.

The Committee is asked to scrutinise and comment on the report and if required to make recommendations or observations as appropriate.

Cabinet members invited to attend for this item: Councillor Drew Mellor, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Transformation.

Please note that this report contains an appendix with exempt information 'as defined in Paragraph 3 in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. If the Committee wish to discuss information in relation to this appendix it may take a decision to exclude the press and public.

(Paragraph 3 - Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)

## **8. Scrutiny of the Cost of Living Pressures Cabinet Report**

61 - 80

To consider the Cost of Living Pressures report scheduled for Cabinet consideration on 26 October 2022.

The Committee is asked to scrutinise and comment on the report and if required to make recommendations or observations as appropriate.

Cabinet members invited to attend for this item: Councillor Drew Mellor, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Transformation

## **9. Work Plan**

81 - 92

The Corporate and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider and identify work priorities for its next meeting pending a wider review of its forward plan at a future meeting.

Included with this item is a scrutiny request form to consider Emergency

Procedures and Civic Commemorations. The Committee is asked to consider whether to add this to its work plan.

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.

This page is intentionally left blank

**BOURNEMOUTH, CHRISTCHURCH AND POOLE COUNCIL**  
**CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the Meeting held on 13 June 2022 at 6.00 pm

Present:-

Cllr L Williams – Chairman

Cllr R Rocca – Vice-Chairman

Present: Cllr L Allison, Cllr L Dedman, Cllr J Edwards, Cllr M Earl,  
Cllr A Filer, Cllr N Hedges and Cllr M Cox (In place of Cllr M  
Andrews)

Also in  
attendance: Cllr G Farquhar

Present virtually: Cllr S Bartlett

Also in attendance Cllr D Mellor  
virtually:

11. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr H Allen, Cllr M Andrews and Cllr S Bartlett. Cllr S Bartlett joined the meeting virtually.

12. Substitute Members

Cllr M Cox substituted for Cllr M Andrews.

13. Declarations of Interests

For the purpose of transparency Cllr M Earl advised in respect to agenda item 6, Medium Term Financial Plan MTFP update, that she worked for Bournemouth Food Bank who was the recipient of grants from the Council and had an application pending.

14. Confirmation of Minutes

15. Public Issues

There were no public statements, petitions or questions.

16. Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) Update

The Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Transformation 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. In the ensuing discussion the Portfolio Holder and the Director of Finance responded to a number of points raised by members of the committee including:

- Whether the budget was prudent as regards the issued 'Section 25' report. There was a series of risks and assumptions as part of the 22/23 budget which had been tested and would be carefully monitored. It was noted that the 2021/22 budget appeared prudent given the third quarter forecast. The Leader commented that they had brought in a balanced budget whilst delivering on their priorities.
- That it was concerning that weekly meetings to assess spending were required, indicating spending set within a high-risk scenario. It was noted that there had been costs associated with this and these were kept under control with regular monitoring.
- That the risk associated with the current cost of living crisis had not been factored in when setting the budget. A good start had been made to look at the impact of cost of living but if it was ongoing, it would add further pressure to the MTFP.
- It was good news that provisions were set aside last year and there had been a positive financial outcome. Mitigation measures in place were pushing the pressure further down the line. Mitigations had mostly been one-off measures but there were also some ongoing issues.
- There was concern regarding the increase to the Council's debt threshold which was increasing significantly. Future generations would be responsible for the debt. The borrowing was to fund capital investments and housing, and these needed to be backed up with a sound business case. Borrowing to fund revenue pressures was not allowed. The Leader commented that as a group of councils previously there was under borrowing and the current administration wanted to invest and build in regeneration.
- There was a projected funding gap, for which the Council plan was to generate significant revenue receipts. New commercial models had been mentioned but it was not explained what these receipts would be. Transformation had been delayed by Covid, once the end of transformation was reached there would be a balanced position even with the cost-of-living pressures. Discussions were currently underway on this, and it was expected that there would be more detail available on this within the next quarter paper.
- That residents didn't view the Council as a money generating enterprise or a commercially focused organisation. The Leader advised that there were ambitions to deliver £50 million of investments ongoing every year and there was record levels of investment into new and improved services.
- That half of council tax-payers didn't pay by direct debit and therefore would not automatically receive the rebate. The Council Tax Team were working very hard to get the money out to people and noted the need to encourage people to pay by direct debit.
- There was concern raised regarding the potential loss and funding set aside for the BDC and the impact of debt on future places debt. It was noted that no money had been lost regarding BDC but both joint owners had set aside £5million as prudential measure.



CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY  
COMMITTEE  
13 June 2022

- Whether the activities of the BDC were compatible with the requirements for borrowing. Borrowing was available for housing and regeneration schemes. The government were trying to focus Councils on schemes which would deliver regeneration and it was important to set this within that context.
- Whether the increase in borrowing to £1.34billion at end of the MTFP period was mainly associated with supporting the need for regeneration and much dependence there was on third party finance to support this. The Chief Finance Officer advised that extending borrowing thresholds would be based on robust business cases and each case would be assessed, these would be predominately focused on new housing schemes.
- It was confirmed by the Chief Financial Officer that the increase to the borrowing threshold was not a direct recommendation of the report but a separate report would be made to the Audit and Governance Committee regarding an increase to the borrowing threshold.
- Whether any examples could be provided of other councils who had increased debt thresholds previously, both where this had gone well or where it had not. Benchmarking data with other authorities was provided as part of the report.
- Whether there were any mitigation measures being put in place to address risks associated with the increased debt thresholds.
- That last year the Council had failed to reach transformation savings targets. There were concerns that this was, in part due to staff vacancies. The Leader advised that the original level of savings was not required in that year and was cut from £15 million to £7.5 million in order to ensure that transformation was delivered properly.
- Concern was raised that there were different levels of Council Tax for second homes across the conurbation. Any increase on the rate for second homes would not be introduced until 2024/25. There was a need to create homes for local people and this would be considered carefully as it came forward. The Council wanted to create homes for local people.
- A query was raised about the statutory section 25 report from the Chief Financial Officer which was considered by full Council and in which an alternative budget configuration was suggested. It was confirmed that this was not a recommendation but advise which the Council was required to consider, which was not accepted when Council voted on the budget. There was concern that there was not sufficient opportunity for Councillors to fully consider this. A Councillor requested that the Committee look further into the advice put forward by the Chief Financial Officer at the Council meeting.
- Whether a risk register or similar could be provided to help evidence what the risks were through prudential borrowing. It was confirmed that the council would need to consider mitigation strategies on each one of the projects individually.

Following the questions and discussion points considered a proposed recommendation was put forward and duly seconded, “That the current

debt level should be frozen and not increased". The Councillors commented that the current debt level had been increased already from £850m to £1.3bn and it was suggested that further increases would be too much and too risky.

The Leader of the Council advised that the increase was a cap rather than a target and would depend upon the assessment of individual projects.

The recommendation was put to the vote which was lost by 4 in favour to 5 against.

A further motion was proposed and duly seconded as follows, "This committee has concerns on the level of borrowing and concerns on the sustainability of the plans and concerns using all these complex transaction for the budget.

The motion was put to the vote, which was lost by 4 in favour to 5 against. Cllr L Dedman wished to be recorded as voting in favour of the motion.

One Councillor did not vote as they were not present in the meeting for the duration of the item.

17. Outturn Report 2021/22

The Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Transformation 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. The Leader placed on record his thanks to officers for supporting everyone through this process and especially to all officers in the finance team. The Committee also unanimously offered their thanks and support to the officers in the finance team. There were a number of points raised and responded to in the ensuing discussion including:

- An explanation of the provision for £5.45m in respect of Bournemouth Development Company was requested as it appeared to be an expense which was not recoverable and would therefore be counted as a loss. The Portfolio Holder was asked whether this provision would mean BDC was making a loss. The Leader explained that effectively the scheme had been paused to allow Future Places to look at this in the round. The entire £10m from both joint owners of BDC could remain capitalised, if the scheme was to go ahead then the additional funds would just be overly prudent. It was expected that profits coming forward would offset any losses. The Leader advised that if anyone wanted to discuss this with him he would be happy go into further depth .
- An additional concern was raised regarding the implications of this for other planned work by the BDC and also Futureplaces and the level of confidence in being able to deliver schemes going forward especially in the current financial climate. The Leader advised that there was plenty of third-party finance available as long as the right schemes were coming

through. There would be a higher bar set for schemes moving forward as they would need to fit with wider regeneration.

- Whether the Council had needed to make the £5.45 million provision because MUSE had already decided to make provision of the same, which seemed to indicate a lack of confidence.
- Whether there was any risk in losing any underspends outlined in the Capital Programme around the Transforming Cities Fund. The Leader advised that they were committed to the TCF and this was not his understanding but he would seek clarification on this issue with the Portfolio Holder.
- What plans there were to address the Dedicated Schools Grant and bring down overspend. The Leader agreed that it was a material risk to the authority. The Government gave local authorities the ability to place this off of balance sheets and the Council were trying to bring this down before the flexibility ends. It was suggested that it would be a useful piece of scrutiny to look at the work going on to address this. It was noted that this was a problem nationally.
- Concerns were raised that some of the savings outlined had only been able to be achieved because certain things were not done, for example the seafront team had not been able to do all of the work they had set out to. The Leader advised that there had been significantly more investment going into different areas across the conurbation and suggested that no services had been cut. However, this was disputed by a Committee member.

18. Work Plan

The Chairman of the Committee 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.

The Corporate and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee was asked to consider and identify work priorities for its next meeting. The Chairman advised that he would discuss the work plan with Officers and circulated recommendations to the Committee members. A Committee member advised that there appeared to be some items missing from those agreed by the previous O&S Board and it was agreed that these would be looked into and added to the work programme.

The Chairman also advised that he had agreed to a special meeting to consider the Beach Huts SPV Cabinet report. The date for this would need to be agreed but would be in advance of the July Cabinet meeting.

19. Future Meeting Dates

The Chairman outlined the proposed dates for future meetings as follows:

- Monday 17 October 2022 6.00pm
- Monday 5 December 2022 6.00pm
- Monday 30 January 2023 6.00pm

The meeting ended at 7.56 pm

CHAIRMAN

**BOURNEMOUTH, CHRISTCHURCH AND POOLE COUNCIL**  
**CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the Meeting held on 20 July 2022 at 6.00 pm

Present:-

Cllr L Williams – Chairman

Cllr R Rocca – Vice-Chairman

Present: Cllr S Bartlett, Cllr M Davies, Cllr J Edwards, Cllr N Hedges,  
Cllr M Iyengar, Cllr G Farquhar (In place of Cllr L Allison),  
Cllr S Moore (In place of Cllr M Earl), Cllr V Slade (In place of Cllr M  
Andrews) and Cllr D Kelsey (In place of Cllr H Allen)

20. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr H Allen, Cllr L Allison, Cllr M Andrews and Cllr M Earl.

21. Substitute Members

Cllr D Kelsey substituted for Cllr H Allen, Cllr Farquhar substituted for Cllr L Allison, Cllr V Slade substituted for Cllr M Andrews and Cllr S Moore substituted for Cllr M Earl.

22. Declarations of Interests

Cllr S Moore declared for the purpose of transparency that they were currently renting a beach hut in Poole.

23. Public Issues

The Democratic Services Officer advised that there had been no petitions received on this occasion but that there had been five public questions received and five public statements. Members of the public were present to ask their questions and Mr McKinstry was present to make his statement, the other statements were read out by the Democratic Services Officer.

**Questions received from Mr Lawrence**

1. With millions in Council assets now in opaque SPVs, the BCP is exposed to corruptibility & non-transparency criticisms. While Overview & Scrutiny Committees are undermined by one party domination, its meetings reduced by 75% and diluted into 2 bodies, how can they maintain impartiality, relevance and standards?

## **Response**

The Overview and Scrutiny Committees are required to be appointed in accordance with the political balance requirements. The allocations determined by Council comply with those requirements.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee arrangements, as established by the Council, shall operate in line with the following six principles:

1. to contribute to sound decision making in a timely way by holding decision makers to account as a ‘critical friend’;
2. to be a Councillor led and owned function that seeks to continuously improve through self-reflection and development;
3. to enable the voice and concerns of the public to be heard and reflected in the Council’s decision-making process;
4. to engage in decision making and policy development at an appropriate time to be able to have influence;
5. to contribute to and reflect the vision and priorities of the Council; and
6. to be agile and be able to respond to changing and emerging priorities at the right time with flexible working methods.

Regardless of political make-up, an effective Overview and Scrutiny function should be capable of operating to these principles. To further support these principles the Constitution is explicit that the use of the Party Whip is incompatible with the role of Overview and Scrutiny and shall not be used.

It is accepted that there has been a reduction in the number of meetings of Overview and Scrutiny, although I would dispute the quoted percentage reduction. However, pre-Cabinet scrutiny is only one way for non-executive councillors to examine and comment on matters scheduled to be considered by Cabinet. Any councillor may request to attend and speak directly to Cabinet on a matter under consideration at one of their meetings.

The Constitution makes further provision for any of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees to commission work on specific matters including the establishment of Working Groups, Sub-Committees and Task and Finish Groups; convening inquiry days; or the appointment of rapporteurs and scrutiny member champions.

2. If leaders receive substantial directorships and fees, to limit conflicts of interest and restore confidence and integrity, could they be required in councillors’ registers of interests?

## **Response**

The Directorship positions held by councillors on council-owned companies are unpaid positions.

The Council’s adopted Code of Conduct requires the declaration of registerable interests and is divided into two schedules. The first schedule, referred to as Table 1, requires the disclosure of registerable pecuniary interests as required by regulation under the Localism Act 2011. Table 2 expands on the statutory provisions by requiring all BCP Councillors to disclose ‘Other Registerable Interests’. The other registerable interests include the disclosure of ‘any unpaid directorships’, which for clarity includes those positions held on council-owned companies.

Both Registers are published on the Councillors' main web page under the heading 'Public Registers'

3. Do Committees have sufficient time, resources, authority and independence to restrain any risky and unorthodox ventures to preserve capital receipts for the storms ahead and the needy?

**Response**

The operational principles of the Overview and Scrutiny committees, as referenced in response to the first question, establish the responsibilities and independence of the respective committees and may establish a forward plan to identify priority areas.

Pre-cabinet scrutiny is only one tool available to hold decision makers to account. As previously advised the Constitution provides for any of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees to commission work on specific matters including the establishment of Working Groups, Sub-Committees and Task and Finish Groups; convening inquiry days; or the appointment of rapporteurs and scrutiny member champions to focus on the priority issues.

**Questions received from Mr Parkin**

4. In January, after BCP leaders first unveiled their plan to sell BCP's beach huts, Cllr Mellor said of the financial report: "we have done a massively in-depth piece of work with KPMG". When councillors asked to see this report, they were told it was only in "draft form". Then just a few days later Cllr Broadhead claimed on social media: "There is no KPMG Report".

- a) Can you confirm exactly what was the "work" provided by KPMG?

**Response**

KPMG has supported the work associated with the securitisation of beach hut income. The relevant reports will be made available as part of the pack of information presented alongside the officer report to the Corporate and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

- b) Can you also explain why this report has never been shared with full council or published to date?

**Response**

It is important that any reports from KPMG are seen in the context of a formal officer report be that to either the Corporate and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee or Cabinet.

5. The beach huts appear to be sold for around £50m-£54million, yet produce a massive 10% yield. What yield are you expecting by reinvesting this money and from what? Can you please also confirm which company has valued these beach huts and on what basis as the valuation appears very low, and that more than one company has been used to value these assets?

## **Response**

The full details of any potential disposal will be set out as part of the formal report and will include details of the basis of valuation and any amounts. The council has been supported in the valuation exercise by Vail Williams.  
Public Statements

## **Statement received from Mr McKinstry**

This scheme to transfer BCP's beach huts to a separate entity is in my view illegal. It's being attempted under FUCR regulations, which were designed to encourage councils to sell surplus assets, not put viable ones to innovative use. Nor would the transfer constitute a "disposal" as required by Section 9 of the Local Government Act 2003. (Far from being disposed of, the assets are being shuffled out of reach for 20 years.) DLUHC has been "reflecting" on BCP's proposals; I hope their opinion matches mine, and that any further creative transactions involving our three towns' assets are strongly discouraged.

## **Statement received from Mr Tallamy**

My statement is based on my views as a bewildered BCP resident. Bewildered by the mixed messages presented by the leaders and the lack of openness and transparency shown to councillors and residents. Is there a KPMG report or not, has the Government approved the legitimacy and fiscal validity of the Beach Hut scheme, if not what are the ongoing discussions with Government Ministers? Surely the legalities etc.. should have been finalised before the scheme was announced rather than how it has been, causing concerns and often heated debates across the BCP conurbation

## **Statement received from Mr Chapmanlaw**

I'd like to see the advice the Leader supposedly received from KPMG regarding the beach hut scheme. On 9 February, Cllr Howell asked to see this advice and the Leader said the report would come to full Council. The report, or draft report as it was then described, was not however produced at Council on 22 February and still hasn't been produced five months later, not even for this scrutiny meeting. The Leader continually criticises the Unity Alliance for their non-existent fire sale; at least fire sales are legal, whereas with this beach hut scheme, the legality is still unclear.

## **Statements received from Ms McDade**

1. As a beach hut owner I've had no correspondence from the council regarding this. I find this both surprising, and concerning, given the fact that we were emailed about set up of a beach bar. I'd have thought inviting us to comment on this issue was at least as important. You outline 'Beach hut associations' as a key stakeholder. It should be 'beach hut owners, and users, with the 'Beach hut associations' as one way of engaging with us. It shouldn't be your only method, especially when membership has a cost attached.
2. Despite taking it upon myself to try and find out about this, and the proposed impact, it's extremely difficult to navigate the documentation to make comment. The agenda still lists the report to follow. As a mother of two boys under 11, living in a small two bedroom flat, and working locally, our beach hut is our



outdoor space and we are therefore very keen to protect it and have the opportunity to comment properly on any proposed changes.

24. Commercialisation of Beach Hut Assets through Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) Wholly or Majority Owned by the Council

The Chairman introduced the item and explained that there was no report available and there would not be a report on this issue taken to the Cabinet meeting on 27 July. There was therefore little which could be discussed around this issue until a report was available.

A Committee member then moved that the meeting be adjourned until such a time that a report was available for consideration. The motion was duly seconded.

The motion was debated, and a number of points were raised including:

- The proposed date to reconvene the meeting was 2 September. This was prior to the September Cabinet meeting which was expected to consider this matter.
- Concerns were raised that no report had been made available for this meeting and the reasons for this had not been made clear.
- There had been confusing communications regarding the meeting taking place both for Councillors and the general public.
- Councillors sought assurance that the advice received on this issue including the reports from KPMG would be made available to the Committee and also that this information be made available for beach hut owners.
- The suggestion that the meeting should be cancelled or should be made inquorate were not appropriate.
- Committee members also sought assurance that a report would be available in time for the 2 September meeting including meeting the timeline for publication of the agenda with reports.
- A Committee members suggested that they would like to put a proposal to ask the leader to prepare an emergency budget.
- There were concerns raised regarding the cost implications of the proposal if it would not be going ahead.

Following discussions, the motion was voted on and it was:

**RESOLVED: That the meeting be adjourned until the report is available.**

Voting: For 6, Against 5

Cllr G Farquhar, Cllr M Iyengar, Cllr S Moore, Cllr V Slade requested to be recorded as voting against the motion.

**The meeting adjourned at 6.53pm on 20 July 2022 and reconvened on 2 September 2022 at 6.00pm.**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the reconvened meeting. An apology for absence for the reconvened meeting had been received from Cllr J Edwards. The Chairman explained that he would invite questions and comments from committee members first followed by other councillors. He asked that members avoid repeating points previously raised at the July meeting.

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY  
COMMITTEE  
20 July 2022

The Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Transformation presented a report, a copy of which had been circulated to the Committee and which appears as Appendix A to these minutes in the Minute Book. The Leader explained that following clarification from the new Secretary of State on guidance on the Flexible Use of Capital Receipts (FUCR) the Council was no longer pursuing the use of the SPV. The change in guidance prevented the capital received from the sale of beach hut assets to the SPV to be used for transformation purposes. As a consequence, a Finance Update report was being brought forward to Cabinet on 7 September and to this Committee, setting out new plans to fund transformation.

The Leader and officers responded to questions and comments, including:

- Questions about 20 July meeting, including why the Leader had not attended, why the latest updates could not have been communicated, whether scrutiny was being disregarded and why officers could not have provided information.

The Leader explained that at that time discussions with the Government were still fluid (at the point between the letters from Kemi Badenoch MP on 16 June 2022 and Greg Clark MP on 1 August 2022). In his view it was the wrong time for the Committee to be considering the item. Although the Committee was required to convene, he anticipated that the discussion would not proceed as there was nothing to scrutinise and did not feel there was value in his attendance. He did not consider there had been a disregard for scrutiny and pointed to the special meetings which had now been arranged.

The Chief Executive assured members that officers were open and honest if asked questions and that he did not recall any direct questions being asked in the manner suggested.

- Questions on the lack of evidence that the Government supported the SPV proposal when the Council had been told it did and that the Budget had been predicated on this support.

The Section 151 Officer referred to paragraphs 78 and 79 of the Budget and MTFP report to Council in February 2022 which had clearly set out the position. The Government had been clear that the proposal was not prohibited by the FUCR direction but having considered it further it was not felt to be within the spirit of the direction. The Leader reported on earlier 'without prejudice' feedback from KPMG, CIPFA and the External Auditor that the proposal was in accordance with the regulations. He referred to the new borrowing solution offered by the letter received today from Paul Scully MP. The Chief Executive clarified that although earlier discussions with Government on options to fund transformation had included borrowing, informally this was not supported and no formal application to borrow had ever been made.

- Questions on the letter from Kemi Badenoch MP and the timeline of discussions between the Leader and the Secretary of State on the need to be ambitious/flexible in mechanisms to fund transformation.

The Leader reported that he had held an initial discussion with Robert Jendrick MP prior to Michael Gove MP taking office in September 2021. Following the receipt of the letter from Kemi Badenoch on 16 June 2022, which was shared with informal Cabinet and officers, the Leader had spoken to Michael Gove on the matter in July

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY  
COMMITTEE  
20 July 2022

2022. The matter had ‘stalled’ between Michael Gove leaving office in July and Greg Clark MP’s succession. The Government’s position was confirmed in the correspondence from Greg Clark and Paul Scully MP and they were now working with the Council to allow the Council to borrow.

- Questions on how the Beach Huts SPV was developed

It was noted that the first KPMG report dated September 2021 did not include the beach huts proposal. The proposal was discussed at a subsequent workshop with Council officers, KPMG and a representative of BCP Future Places Ltd.

- Questions on the timeline of the KPMG reports including concerns about their status and lack of availability until now

There were concerns about the length of time the KPMG reports had not been made available to members despite repeated requests and the reasons given for this, at various points members being told there was no report and that the Leader could exercise discretion not to disclose a draft report. It was noted that there appeared to be little difference between the draft and final versions. Councillors had also received an email from a local resident challenging the legality of not disclosing the reports.

The Monitoring Officer explained that there were a number of factors to consider when providing advice on such matters, including Freedom of Information, data protection in terms of requiring report author consent, statutory and common law rights, access to information procedure rules and there being some circumstances where the Leader can decide not to release a draft report at the time. The Chief Executive referred to the Constitution as setting out how and when reports are made available. The Leader said this was not in his gift, that he did not deny access to the report, that he was not able to do so and in any event the report was not finished.

- Questions on the costs of transformation, how this had been / was being funded and further staff reductions.

During the meeting there was a robust exchange of views around the approaches of the current and previous Administrations to the costs of transformation and how this had been/was now being funded. The Section 151 Officer clarified that the investment programme now extended to £68 million included £20.09 million in staff costs apportioned to working on transformation over the next three years, this being the most significant reason for the increase. The Budget report explained the intention to invest in adult and children’s service layers which, although not approved as part of the report, included an assumption of £7.2m for 2025/26 following transformation which the Section 151 Officer confirmed was through further Full Time Equivalent reductions.

- Questions on the need to reflect in light of the clear messages from Central Government – on the need for clear and explicit agreements from the outset; transparency/earlier disclosure and engagement with members, stakeholders and residents, including challenge through the overview and scrutiny; and recognition of the risks to our relationship with Government in testing the rules by acting outside the spirit of them.

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY  
COMMITTEE  
20 July 2022

The Leader acknowledged the need to reflect on process and disclosure in terms of how the Council got to this point. He did not feel the budget report was ambiguous, the early indications were that the proposal was acceptable before the rules were changed and in terms of relationships the Government was now working directly with the Council to progress a positive outcome. He rejected a call to resign, referring to the Council's record of delivery. He referred to constitutional and cultural issues around the conducting of political debate which he felt all councillors needed to reflect on.

Questions were also raised about the reference to Christchurch Civic Centre, which the Leader confirmed was being looked at for community use, and the procurement process in relation to KPMG, which was not deemed relevant.

**RESOLVED that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee notes the Council is no longer pursuing the commercialisation of beach huts via an SPV.”**

Voting: 5 For, 0 Against, 5 Abstentions

Cllrs S Bartlett, G Farquhar, M Iyengar, S Moore, V Slade asked for their abstentions to be recorded.

The meeting ended at 6.53 pm

CHAIRMAN

## DRAFT MINUTES

# DRAFT MINUTES

Meeting ID	5515
Committee	Corporate and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date	27/09/2022
Attendees	Councillor Lawrence Williams (Chair) Councillor Roberto Rocca (Vice-Chair) Councillor Hazel Allen (Committee Member) Councillor Lewis Allison (Committee Member) Councillor Marcus Andrews (Committee Member) Councillor Stephen Bartlett (Committee Member) Councillor Malcolm Davies (Committee Member) Councillor Jackie Edwards (Committee Member) Councillor Millie Earl (Committee Member) Councillor Nigel Hedges (Committee Member) Councillor Mohan Iyengar (Committee Member) All Councillors (Monitor) Report Authors - Overview and Scrutiny Board (Notify) Support Officers for Overview and Scrutiny Committees (Notify) Communications Notification Group (Notify) Press (Notify) Corporate Management Board (Notify) Richard Jones (Monitor) Ingrid Brown (Officer) Graham Farrant (Officer) Adam Richens (Officer) Susan Zeiss (Officer) DS Central Calendar (Notify)

Item ID	11291
Item Title	Apologies
Summary	

Item ID	11293
Item Title	Substitute Members
Summary	

Item ID	11294
Item Title	Declarations of Interests
Summary	There were no declarations of interest made on this occasion.

Item ID	11295
---------	-------

Item Title	Public Issues
Summary	

Item ID	11349
Item Title	Scrutiny of the Finance Strategy Update Cabinet Report
Summary	

## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE



Report subject	<b>Seasonal Response Review 2022</b>
Meeting date	25 October 2022
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	<p>Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole benefit from award winning beaches and beautiful open spaces which residents and visitors enjoy throughout the year. During the summer season, our tourism economy is boosted from being a busy resort area with increased visitor numbers.</p> <p>Council services in BCP have a strong track record of managing busy summer seasons as part of business as usual activity. However, to provide effective management of additional demands over the last 2 years, core services have been allocated additional funding and overall co-ordination through the Seasonal Response programme. This has provided co-ordination of multi-agency service and enhancement to services such as waste collections, traffic management and promotion of safety of open spaces. Following the success of the multi-agency delivery over Summer 2021, £1.69m of funding was allocated to continue the programme in 2022.</p> <p>Seasonal Response delivery ran from 9 April 2022 to 4 September 2022 with great success. The additional investment in services has delivered increased output across core services and has supported enhanced resort management and public safety.</p> <p>This report gives an overview of activity within the programme, considers the challenges presented and sets out future considerations.</p>
Recommendations	<p><b>It is RECOMMENDED that:</b></p> <p><b>Members note and comment on the content of the report.</b></p>

Reason for recommendations	The additional investment in services has delivered increased output, enhanced resort management and contributed towards a successful summer season. A review of the summer season has been completed and challenges are being addressed in the development of actions to take place throughout the winter period in readiness for next summer.
Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Beverly Dunlop, Portfolio Holder for Tourism, Culture and Vibrant Places Councillor Bobbie Dove Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Regulatory Services Councillor Mark Anderson Portfolio Holder for Environment and Place Councillor Mike Green Portfolio Holder for Sustainability and Transport
Corporate Director	Jess Gibbons, Chief Operating Officer
Report Author	Francesca Kingsbury, Seasonal Response Manager Nananka Randle, Interim Head of Safer Communities Kelly Ansell, Director of Communities Richard Pincroft, Head of Highways and Parking Kate Langdown, Director of Environment Anthony Rogers, Head of Seafront
Wards	All wards

## Background Detail

1. As a leading visitor destination, BCP Council is used to successfully managing large numbers of visitors. However, over the pandemic summer of 2020 the resort was overwhelmed with visitors for a short period and a series of challenging behaviours since that time has become a consistent challenge during peak periods.

2. Following the success of the Seasonal Response co-ordination and service enhancements in Summer 2021, Cabinet resolved to sustain the programme this summer. Additional funding of £1.69m was allocated to deliver enhancements to core services aimed at maintaining public safety, mitigating established risks



associated with high visitor demand days and to support safe enjoyment of our open spaces and seafront locations during periods of peak demand.

3. Informed by a risk and impact assessment which considered pressure points and additional demands on services, a programme of investment was implemented to provide;

- Increased waste collections and the introduction of manual collections at peak times
- Increased security and enforcement of bylaws and anti-social behaviour
- Increased youth engagement outreach hours and diversionary activities programme
- Increased resourcing of the traffic control room to flow of the traffic network and enact temporary traffic restriction orders, including additional restriction orders for 2022.
- Increased presence of civil enforcement officers in key locations to issue penalty charge notices and supervise the towing of illegally parked vehicles
- Continuation of the park and ride service at Kings Park
- A designated data analyst to continuously assess visitor influx data including public transport usage figures, road network data, hotel booking data and car park capacity.
- Increased communications resource to live message social media platforms and engage with local and national media.
- Enhanced monitoring of new CCTV cameras in key locations to support water safety and public safety and additional staffing to support the monitoring of cameras in peak times
- Additional staffing to support public toilet and open spaces cleansing including clearance of sand
- Designated CCTV MACC staff
- Additional bylaw signage and communications.

4. The designated funding allowed for the continuation of a Multi-Agency Command Centre (MACC) and Seasonal Response Tactical Plan, taking a data led approach which allowed for the scaling up and co-ordination of relevant resources and a command structure to manage response. Core agencies such as Dorset Police, Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI), HM Coastguard, Dorset Council and Dorset Wilshire Fire and Rescue Service, as well as key BCP Council directorates have worked together to deliver the Seasonal Response Plan throughout the summer season.

5. The Summer Seasonal Response ran from 9 April 2022 (Easter) until 4 September 2022 (Air Festival). The MACC went live from 27 May 2022.

6. In contrast to the summer 2021 season, this summer provided for plenty of sustained good weather and saw higher peak temperatures than in previous years. For the periods of 16 to 19 July 2022 and 10 to 14 August 2022 there were declared heatwaves, with severe weather warnings issued due to sustained heat.
7. This year, with pandemic restrictions long since lifted, visitors have been able to travel across the UK and abroad. In addition, there was an increase in large events scheduled both locally and nationally. Whilst visitor numbers remained high, there was an overall reduction in visitors to the BCP seafront this year from May to August 2022 (7.07 million, compared to 10.7 million in 2021). However, there were significant peaks in line with the good weather and the heatwaves in particular - and visitor numbers during these peak periods were comparable to the highest levels seen previously. Despite these significant peaks, the resort was well managed with no major issues or incidents.
8. This year has seen an unprecedented local labour market environment which has made seasonal recruitment challenging across the board. In particular, Seafront and Cleansing services struggled to recruit to short term positions. There have also been recruitment challenges within the CSAS Team and Dorset Police have reported similar difficulties in the Neighbourhood Policing Teams leading to longer response times to incidents. These challenges placed a greater emphasis on the need for strong co-ordination of resources and a proactive problem solving approach which positively addressed issues as they arose. Overall there were very few adverse issues compared to the positive management of peaks in demand and when issues occurred, swift action was taken to tackle them. The work of all of the staff involved in a very busy and successful season is to be commended.

## **Seasonal Response Overview**

### **Hotel Occupancy**

9. Positively for the tourism economy, hotel occupancy levels this summer saw peaks of 98-99% during the two heatwaves, compared to peaks in 2021 of 96% over a reduced period. These high levels of occupancy coupled with high room rates presented an additional challenge this year of increased overnight camping on beaches, in open spaces and in car parks. This is considered in paragraph 37 which outlines enforcement challenges.

### **Traffic and Parking**

10. A key aspect of the Seasonal Response Plan is the monitoring of the traffic network by the Network Management Team and by the Data Analyst working in the MACC. Advance data and intelligence has continued to inform the

direction of response to pressure points during peak periods. Key pressure points this summer were identified as Pier Approach, East Cliff, Boscombe Marina Drive, Sandbank's carpark and Shore Road.

11. During Jubilee weekend and during the events of Sandfest/Beach Polo, Banks Road was closed for emergency sewerage works which caused additional delays and congestion. This led to the implementation of additional traffic measures including deployment of CSAS (Traffic) Officers to reduce impact on the road networks. Working closely with Wessex Water measures were implemented to mitigate the pressure this may cause on traffic congestion. These measures were a success with positive feedback from the Sandbanks community group and residents.
12. Additional challenges relating to the road networks were experienced when on 12 August 2022 there was a major fire at Studland requiring evacuation of tourists and visitors and management of resulting traffic. Over the bank holiday weekend on 24 August, CSAS (Traffic) Officers were deployed to enforce a TTRO to address congestion in the Boscombe Undercliff/Overstand area. The officers were empowered to close Sea Road from the Marina/Sea Road junction should it be required to enable the diversion of cars trying to access the already full car parks away from the area and towards the Kings Park Park & Ride. This agile approach to the deployment of powers and resources demonstrates the successful problem-solving approach which is at the heart of the Seasonal Response.
13. Poor parking during peak demand periods was seen this summer. On 17 July 2022 this resulted in access issues on the East Cliff, in response to this a Temporary Traffic Restriction Order (TTRO) was put in place to prevent illegal parking causing road blockages and allowing for the safe movement of traffic during peak times. Additional preventative measures were also deployed to combat illegal parking including the placement of cones in high-risk areas, targeted deployment of Civil Enforcement Officers (CEO's) and placement of Tow vehicles in high-risk areas during peak periods.
14. 36,260 Penalty Charge Notices (PCN's) were issued between May and the end of August 2022, a 16.35% increase from the same period in 2021. The highest number of PCN's issued in a single day was on 17 July 2022 when 935 were issued in response to a spike in illegal parking. Following the introduction of the TTRO and application of additional preventative measures, the following peak period during the second heatwave saw a reduction in illegal parking and a reduced number of PCN's served.
15. Illegal parking across the conurbation during peak times created pinch points in key locations such as Sandbanks, Eastcliff and Boscombe resulting in additional TTRO's being implemented. This is an ongoing issue throughout

most summer seasons and there is a likelihood of this being a continued challenge. The option of permanent TROs for high-risk locations is under consideration.

16. Parking issues were most challenging around seafront locations throughout the summer. Meanwhile, car park locations such as Richmond Hill and Avenue Road had good availability even on the highest peak days, despite detailed information available through the Beach App on parking availability and promotion of these locations.
17. Between April and August, a total of 63 attempts were made to tow illegally parked vehicles away, with 35 successful extractions. This is a reduction from 42 successful extractions during the same period in 2021. Challenges relating to towing centred around contractor availability as well as safe access and exit points for towing during peak demand periods. This year also saw an increase in threatening and aggressive behaviour directed at contractors which resulted in a reluctance from the contractor to continue to provide the service. This was addressed; however, the removal of vehicles was impacted by this issue and the constraints noted.
18. In between April and August 2022, Beach Check App was downloaded over 13,000 times, while the BCP beach info has been looked at over 28,000 times and parking information has been searched for over 33,000 times. 905 People used driving directions straight from the App indicating far more visitors are now using the beach check app for parking and directive information.
19. Car park income figures are not currently available for the period, following the change to phone payment applications, however it was raised in intel briefings that external car parks were being more frequently used due to promotion on social media.

### **Public Transport**

20. Transport links were monitored throughout the summer season and from May to September, the Seasonal Response team were provided with advance booking information and top booking locations in order to inform planning and response. Data was provided by National Rail, National Express, More Bus, Southwestern Railway and Cross-Country Rail. Top 10 origin data was used for targeted social media comms messaging. Most visitors using public transport travelled through London Waterloo, allowing targeted messaging to be directed to this location in order to reach visitors prior to arriving.
21. Up to date transportation figures were supplied on a Thursday ahead of a weekend and supported in an accurate predication of expected visitors where resource was scaled accordingly.

## **Park and Ride**

22. The Council operated a Park and Ride service from Kings Park to Boscombe Pier from 28 May to 5 September 2022, which was used by 7,199 riders throughout the period, an increase of 7.5% on 2021 usage over the same period. The service was heavily promoted on BCP social media, and the location was pinned to google maps to allow visitors to find the service with ease. The increase in users is likely due to the continued presence of the service, the enhanced promotion and repeat visitors to the conurbation.
23. Although the service ran daily from 28 May through to the Air Festival (14 weeks), 83% of the usage took place between 16 July 2022 and the Air Festival (7 weeks). Therefore, in future years it may be appropriate to consider operation only at peak demand periods which would reduce costs and improve efficiency of operation.

## **Litter and Cleansing**

24. In 2021 an additional 400 euro-bins were placed in seafront locations as part of the summer readiness plans as well as over 100 additional in open spaces. This investment benefitted Seasonal Response 2022 where daily collections were increased to two / three times a day at peak times. In 2021, 283 tonnes of waste were collected from the beach itself with a further 754 tonnes collected from the promenade and wider nearby public land. 2022 has, between April and July, seen 643 tonnes of waste collected excluding figures for litter left on the beach itself. The volume of waste collected from the beach, seafront bins and throughout the wider nearby public land was not available at the time of writing this report, but is expected to be similar to 2021. final data of overall waste volumes collected from the beach, seafront bins and throughout the wider nearby public land is currently unavailable, however it is believed that levels will be broadly comparable to last year.
25. Teams work hard to ensure each day starts with our award-winning beaches welcoming our visitors. Even on our busiest days, beaches were cleared and ready to accept new visitors by 10am each day this summer. Council services have and continue to be affected by the unprecedented challenging local labour market environment currently being experienced. This has resulted in difficulties in attracting and retaining frontline operational staff to support Summer Response activities. It became necessary to place growing reliance on temporary agency employees to fill roles which at times due to lack of availability resulted in reduced staffing resource to respond to demands placing increased pressure on remaining resources, this despite applying a temporary labour market supplement to these positions to support recruitment efforts. This was a particularly high impact issue in Waste and Cleansing.

- 26.25. In July during the first heatwave around 50 tonnes of litter were removed from the beaches. Staff were also handing out bin bags to visitors which was well received although not always placed in the bin, it made clearance and collection significantly easier. 30 tonnes were left in the August heatwave despite our highest hotel bookings, increased pre bookings and increased use of the park and ride. Approximately 60-65 tonnes of waste/litter were removed from the Bournemouth Air Festival site.
27. During peak temperatures there is a consistent increase in rubbish left on the beaches. The Sort It Out campaign was successful in the decrease of these issues in 2021, however, late implementation in 2022 led to limited impact. Future planning will require early consideration of pro-active communication campaigns. Further challenges to be considered for 23/24 season is the growing number of overnight car park camping activity resulting in increased anti-social environmental behaviour in particular additional morning cleansing demands on resources.
28. Although littering is a criminal offence which allows for a fixed penalty notice to be issued in lieu of a prosecution, in practice this is extremely difficult to enforce. Many visitors to the beach put litter next to them and take it with them when they leave, others however, do not. In order to issue an FPN officers must witness the litter being left and must obtain the offending person's name and address which is prohibitively resource intensive.
29. Throughout the summer period public toilets are subject to a significant escalation in use above that which is normally experienced and planned for. As a result, additional funding was made available via the Summer response budget to provide additional cleaning schedules for visitor servicing toilets. In addition, it funded the reopening of an otherwise closed Changing Places Toilet in the Central Lower Gardens (Bournemouth) This area alone receives an estimated additional 30,000 footfall per day on and above that which is typically experienced during the rest of the of the year.

### **Seafront Rangers**

30. From the 1 April until the 31 August the Seafront Ranger Team dealt with 282 incidents ranging from minor first aid and bin fires though to altercations. Together with the Kidzone Team they located and reunited 349 missing persons with their guardians, with 33 reported on 17 July alone. Police, CSAS and Seafront teams have reported the significant demands created by this issue.
31. For the majority of the season the Ranger Team was operating at a staffing level of approximately 60% due to recruitment issues and pandemic related sicknesses. At peak times, Seafront Rangers extended their hours to address the issues of overnight camping on the beaches. 122 eviction notices were

issued and the details of 8 individuals who failed to comply with the notice were taken to face prosecution.

## **Security and Enforcement**

32. To support enforcement and manage the safety of residents and visitors on seafronts, security contractors supported our BCP teams this summer. Security provisions started on 27 May 2022 to 5 June for Jubilee Weekend and Half Term, then restarted from 1 July 2022 to 4 September 2022. This included daytime patrols focused on key areas - namely the Lower Gardens, Bournemouth Pier, Boscombe Pier and Sandbanks. Evening patrols covered 7pm to 3am to monitor identified hot spots where core BCP resource was reduced at those times.
33. Security provision was tailored specifically to address the needs of the resort, with feedback stating visitors felt “welcomed and safe” and “security was far more visible this year compared to previous”. Despite deploying fewer security officers, this tailored provision proved to be a success. The security provision was also used in an agile way, responding to new challenges and issues as they arose. This included moving to cover later hours in the day due to most incidents taking place from 2pm onwards and adapting coverage times to support the cleansing of beaches in the mornings to allow tractors to complete cleansing faster and without any hostility from overnight campers.
34. BCP Community Safety Accredited Scheme Officers (CSAS) were also drafted into the Seasonal Response Plan at peak times specifically when amber and red triggers were hit in order to support Seafront staff in the eviction of campers and enforcement of breaches of bylaws.
35. CSAS also provided a visual patrolling presence across the bay and linked in with the Bournemouth and Sandbanks staff throughout the summer season. CSAS also supported the Kidzone and were stationed in key locations between 8am and 12pm to catch visitors on their way to the beach to issue wristbands. CSAS put a social media post out on the Dorset Police Instagram and Facebook page to further promote this ahead of busy weekends. The neighbourhood policing team at Bournemouth also supported in the delivery of this.
36. A total of 143 warnings were issued for breach of bylaws across the Seafront during the summer. This included 139 tent eviction notices for overnight camping on the beaches, 3 cyclists received formal warnings for cycling along the promenade and 1 warning was issued for pier jumping.

37. There were a number of challenges faced by security, CSAS, Civil Enforcement Officers and Seafront staff whilst taking enforcement action to address those who do not comply with bylaws and other enforcement issues. These include;

- The growing number of overnight car park camping activity resulting in increased anti-social environmental behaviour and additional morning cleansing placed demands on resources
- The need to obtain accurate names and addresses as only the Police and CSAS officers can legally demand this information. Security and seafront officers cannot take any action if individuals refuse to provide their details. As action is often taken at night or in the early hours of the morning to tackle sleeping and camping on the beach it is not always possible to obtain Police or CSAS attendance.
- The bylaws relating to camping on beaches only relate to those sleeping in enclosed tents. As such, if people are awake when officers attend there is no breach of the bylaw. Similarly, if the tent is open and not enclosed the bylaw cannot be enforced.
- Early morning patrols by officers can lead to tensions with those who come to the beach very early for a swim or to miss the rush, if they have already set up their tent/enclosure ready for the day.

38. Evidence is currently being collated and assessed as part of the consideration of a potential Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) for our seafront and open spaces. As noted throughout this report, there are limitations at present in the ability to provide real time enforcement to successfully bring about the cessation of unlawful activity. In addition, there has been a behaviour shift since the Covid pandemic which presents new challenges to be addressed. A PSPO could potentially support the management of visitor behaviour and enforcement of unlawful activity and will provide a framework which would include immediate Fixed Penalty Notices and powers of arrest if necessary.

39. Behaviours which could be managed through such an Order could include;

- Pollution - littering, dog fouling, urinating/defecating in public, noise pollution
- Vehicle related anti social behaviour – either within defined car parks or taking vehicles outside of defined parking areas
- Lighting of fires or barbecues
- Taking a dog in to a dog exclusion zone, or allowing its behaviour to cause alarm, distress or annoyance to another person
- Overnight stays in tents, motorhomes or caravans without permission from the Council



40. Application of any PSPO must follow careful consideration of the evidence regarding these behaviours, which must be persistent in nature and of detriment. In addition, a public consultation will be required prior to any determination. A report will be presented to Cabinet in December 2022 which will set out the available evidence and consider whether to progress with a public consultation. Should this consultation proceed, a period of 6 weeks would be recommended with a further report to Cabinet to determine the way forward in March 2023.

### **Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour**

41. Data has been obtained from the Police recording system NICHE of reports from members of the public in the open spaces of Bournemouth Square, Central Gardens, Lower Gardens, Pier Approach and Seafront which confirms that there has been a decrease in the number of reported crimes in open spaces when compared to 2021. When comparing reported crime rates across the peak summer seasons from April 21 to August 21 and then April 22 to August 22, there was a 25.59% reduction during the summer 22 season. There is anecdotal evidence to support that the presence of proactive patrols by security, CSAS and Police in key areas acted as a strong deterrent. A similar reduction was seen in ASB reports this year. When comparing April 21 – August 21 to the same period in 2022, there was a 23.64% reduction in reported ASB despite a peak in July 2022 which is attributed to high footfall and influx of visitors as a result of the extremely warm weather over that period.
42. Whilst crime and ASB overall was reduced this summer, there was an increase in hostility towards resort staff at peak demand, with security attending various incidents across the bay and the ongoing challenges of police resource availability at peak times this proved to be challenging.
43. Taking a data led approach, a request for additional policing resource was planned in to support the seafront ahead of need. This proved a success over the Summer with Dorset Police scaling up and down resource in accordance to the evidence provided. However, there have been times when unforeseen problems have arisen, and the Police have been unable to support due to demand prioritisation reflecting their assessment of threat risk and harm and resource pressures.
44. Anti-social behaviour under Bournemouth Pier was particularly challenging this season with police being called on several occasions to attend. Due to the location clear visual imaging through CCTV was not always possible. Options for additional CCTV coverage as well as fencing around the pier during peak times are being explored as a means of further mitigation.

45. Dorset Police linked in with the MACC daily whilst in operation and showed a presence on red weekends to support Seasonal Response. Following the first heatwave a designated policing resource at sergeant level as a minimum was allocated to support the MACC through the second heatwave period, which was hugely beneficial. During this high demand period, Police parked a marked vehicle in the prime location for visibility and deterrence and showed a visible patrolling presence across the four days of the second heatwave. The feedback across the resort was positive and that the hostility and anti-social behaviour felt from the previous heatwave was not present in the second.

## **Communications**

46. Social media was the main area of focus for key messaging this summer, with a wide established reach. Total figures show a significant proportion of media views came from BCP Council Facebook posts;

- Published posts: 123
- Total impressions: 1,224,455
- Total reach: 615,027
- Total engagements: 87,333

47. The MACC and BCP Comms Team continued to work closely together throughout the summer, with constant communication between the two proving invaluable to ensure the deployment of resources where they were needed in real time. Data was supplied to the comms team to identify the origin of visitors which resulted in targeted messaging being put on social media to reach further afield.

## **Key Successes**

48. The Seasonal Response for summer 2022 was delivered with great success. Key successes are;

- Overall approach was responsive to data enabling the agile allocation and co-ordination of resources
- Increased parking enforcement, tow trucks in locations a visual deterrent and security at hot spots
- Temporary TTRO's put in place which addressed traffic congestion and poor parking
- Use of traffic CSAS to deal with keeping the traffic networks moving
- Visible security presence together with Police presence and CSAS Officers provided safety and comfort to visitors and was a deterrent against poor behaviour.
- Significant reductions in crime and ASB when compared to previous years

- Well managed beach cleansing and waste clearance
- Security patrols over night to disrupt overnight camping on beaches
- Early morning patrols of beaches to rouse and move on anyone found to have remained camping
- Beach Check App included real time car park capacity information for visitors
- MACC was successful, and the placement of an officer from Dorset Police ensured wider deployment of police resources as issues emerged

## Conclusion and Future Considerations

49. Overall, the delivery of the Seasonal Response has been a substantial success with improvements seen in the maintenance of the environment, safety of residents and visitors, ability to efficiently respond to visitor influx, and an increase in relevant enforcement. Partners and residents have provided positive feedback on how safe the resort felt and how well co-ordinated public resources were. Other local authorities visited the MACC during the season and the approach continues to be considered as best practice.

50. No summer season is without its challenges, but this year peak demand periods presented issues which benefited from the overall co-ordination of response and enhancement of services.

51. A review of summer activity has resulted in consideration of the challenges faced and actions are being pursued to support future seasonal resort management. This is included in a development plan for completion over winter 2022, summarised below;

Issue	Action
Overnight camping and sleeping in vehicles	Legislative options are being considered including use of Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO's) and broader options including opportunities to tackle this through review of TRO's relating to both car parks and on street parking areas.
Illegal parking	Adjustment of some existing TROs and the implementation of new TROs.  Continued lobbying of government for increased Parking Charge Notice fines.

Underuse of alternative car parks	<p>Increase in comms to ensure up to date information is available.</p> <p>Signposting on the Beach Check App in real time to quieter car parks with pop up banners to those car parks could be developed in App.</p> <p>Installation of additional variable message signs.</p>
Tow away	Increase capacity to tow away by procurement of additional providers.
Litter on beaches and litter enforcement	<p>Early promotion of the Sort it Out campaign proved successful in 2021 but was implemented late in 2022, which led to reduced impacts. Early proactive communications are important to address this behaviour.</p> <p>Consideration of targeted options for enforcement of littering is underway and options are being presented to Cabinet in November 22. In addition, the use of a PSPO in managing this behaviour is also under consideration as outlined in paragraphs 37 and 38 of this report.</p>
Policing availability	Partnership working will need to be maintained to ensure the necessary policing is available at peak demand times, ensuring police commitment to a presence within the MACC particularly at red and amber trigger levels. This will be necessary to secure agile deployment of police as issues emerge.
Hostility towards staff	It will be necessary to maintain a visible presence of uniformed security officers in key locations on the seafront and known ASB hotspots to deter such hostility towards staff.

Missing Children	Investigate the potential for the implementation of a kid zone wrist band which includes a tracking chip, where an individual code for the wrist band is provided to its user (parents / carers etc). This technology is currently utilised in marathons and trilithon races to keep track of participants. Potentially, this could be manufactured at minimal cost, promoted, and sold for resort profit. If successful, the application of such wristbands could be explored as a method of safeguarding high-risk vulnerable individuals in wider settings
------------------	---

### **Summary of Financial Implications**

- 52.Total funding allocated to the Seasonal Response delivery was £1.69m.
- 53.Across the summer season a total of £1.2m was spent. The remaining allocation is under review and consideration of extending the approach throughout the winter period this year is underway.
- 54.Future Seasonal Response demands and resource requirements are under consideration.

### **Summary of Human Resources Implications**

- 55.The delivery of Seasonal Response requires an uplift in staff and resources to ensure the agile and enhanced delivery of services based on evidenced need at peak times.
- 56.Without the necessary staffing available there will be reduction in the response to demands which may lead to increased litter, antisocial behaviour and camping on the beaches and in cars.
- 57.The labour market issues experienced this year will be a key risk and consideration in future planning.

### **Summary of public health implications**

- 58.Contact with the natural environment and urban greenspace has positive impacts on health in a variety of ways; DEFRA's Evidence Statement on

the links between natural environments and human health (2017) concluded that:

- a. living in greener environments is associated with reduced mortality
- b. there is strong and consistent evidence for mental health and wellbeing benefits from exposure to natural environments
- c. use of accessible, better quality natural environments is associated with a higher likelihood and rate of physical activity

59. There is obvious potential for greenspaces to deliver health benefits at scale. From trips to beaches, parks and nature reserves to a moment of calm on a tree lined commute to work we encounter it every day.

60. The Seasonal Response has ensured that public areas including parks and beaches are maintained, cleaned and available for the safe enjoyment of residents and visitors alike.

### **Summary of equality implications**

61. A full Equality Impact Assessment was completed for the creation of Seasonal Response in 2021. Delivery in 2022 has seen continuation of the approach therefore no additional EIA has been required. There have been no negative impacts to protected characteristics through the Seasonal Response delivery.

### **Summary of risk assessment**

62. A detailed Risk and Impact Assessment has been completed as part of the planning and development of the Seasonal Response Tactical Plan during each year of operation. Risks such as illegal parking, increased anti-social behaviour, increased negative behaviours and increased litter were all considered and mitigated through the seasonal response enhancements, with some challenges remaining as noted within the report.

63. Regular liaison with local resilience forum partners ensured a multi-agency response and forward look for emerging risks. As such, no critical incidents or major incidents were experienced this summer.

## CABINET



Report subject	<b>Finance Strategy Update Report</b>
Meeting date	26 October 2022
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	<p>In response to the Councils request for a £76m Capitalisation Direction covering a three-year period, the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) issued a minded to £20m offer for 2022/23 only, subject to various conditions. This included the requirement for the Council to produce a full plan for addressing its budget gap in 2023/24 and share that with DLUHC by the end of September 2022. It was subsequently acknowledged this position would be set out in this October report.</p> <p>This report demonstrates that the Council has made further good progress in prudently positioning itself to deliver, and also sets out how it would achieve, a balanced budget for 2023/24. The challenge now will be translating this work into a detailed implementation workstream and strength testing the deliverability of the assumptions that have been made particularly those around service savings and efficiencies and to avoid double-counting savings across the transformation programme.</p> <p>In addition, the report sets out that work is now being undertaken to determine if the Council can avoid drawing down on a capitalisation direction for 2022/23 by bringing forward in the region £20m of non-strategic asset disposals by 31 March 2023.</p>
Recommendations	<p><b>It is RECOMMENDED that Cabinet:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1) Acknowledges the materially improved financial position for 2022/23 which is now expected to produce a surplus of at least £7.8m, excluding transformation costs. This is in the context of an additional c£25m of in year cost of living pressures.</b></li> <li><b>2) Acknowledges the plan to deliver a balanced budget for 2023/24 and that its deliverability will now be tested as part of the implementation process.</b></li> <li><b>3) Authorises officers to commence the work to ensure the deliverability of the budget including any necessary consultations as required.</b></li> </ol>

	<p>4) <b>Acknowledge</b> the intent to consider the extent to which a capitalisation direction can be avoided in 2022/23 by bringing forward the disposal of non-strategic assets.</p> <p>5) <b>Agree</b> that the current expenditure controls remain in place to generate additional in-year savings.</p> <p>It is <b>RECOMMENDED</b> that Council:</p> <p>6) <b>Approve</b> £1.9m of investment in 2022/23 in a specific transformation workstream in Children's Services as set out in appendix A.</p> <p>7) <b>Approve</b> the further release of earmarked reserves as set out in appendix C.</p>
Reason for recommendations	Further to a recommendation agreed by Cabinet on the 7 September 2022, an update on the Councils financial strategy will be a standing item on the Cabinet agenda until such time as there is a balanced budget for 2023/24.
Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Drew Mellor, Leader, and Portfolio Holder for Finance & Transformation
Corporate Director	Graham Farrant, Chief Executive
Report Author	Adam Richens, Chief Finance Officer, and S.151 Officer <a href="mailto:adam.richens@bcpcouncil.gov.uk">adam.richens@bcpcouncil.gov.uk</a>
Wards	Council-wide
Classification	For Decision

## Background

1. Further to reports to Cabinet on the 22 June, and the 7 and 28 of September 2022 it has been established that the Council needs a revised financial strategy for funding the cost of its Transformation Investment Programme, net of any already assumed capital receipts, and for balancing the revenue budgets in the short and medium term.



**Figure 1: Transformation Investment Programme**

	22/23 £m	23/24 £m	24/25 £m	Total £m
One-off costs	15.6	3.7	1.9	<b>21.2</b>
Base budget staff costs apportioned to Transformation	6.7	6.7	6.7	<b>20.1</b>
Redundancy costs	1.2	10.4	0.7	<b>12.3</b>
Data & insight capability	1.4	0.4	0.0	<b>1.8</b>
Contingency	0.4	0.4	0.7	<b>1.5</b>
<b>Core Transformation Programme</b>	<b>25.3</b>	<b>21.6</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>56.9</b>
Children's services transformation programme <i>(not budgeted)</i>	2.0	5.0	5.0	<b>12.0</b>
Adult Services transformation programme <i>(not budgeted)</i>	2.0	5.0	5.0	<b>12.0</b>
Capital Receipts - already delivered	(1.9)	0.0	0.0	<b>(1.9)</b>
Capital Receipts - scheduled and assumed deliverable	(7.4)	(3.7)	(1.1)	<b>(12.2)</b>
<b>Transformation Investment Programme</b>	<b>20.0</b>	<b>27.9</b>	<b>18.9</b>	<b>66.8</b>

Pay and Reward project - Implementation cost			9.1	<b>9.1</b>
<b>Capitalisation Direction - Total Investment Programme</b>	<b>20.0</b>	<b>27.9</b>	<b>28.0</b>	<b>75.9</b>

*It should be emphasised this programme includes £6.7m of base revenue budget staff costs assumed as being rechargeable to the programme in the three years 2022/23 to 2024/25.*

- Following dialogue with government, as part of the Exceptional Financial Support programme, DLUHC issued a "minded to" decision to provide the Council with a £20m Capitalisation Direction for 2022/23 subject to the following conditions.
  - The Council produces a full plan for addressing its budget gap in 2023/24 and beyond and share that with DLUHC by the end of September 2022. This plan should utilise all the resources available to the Council to close the budget gap, be fully within the spirit and intent of all local government guidance and aim to eliminate any exceptional financial support required going forward.
  - An external assurance review of the Council's finances and governance arrangements in the Autumn of 2022.
- Additionally, like all local authorities the Council has had to deal with the implications of rapidly increasing inflation driven by the post pandemic economic environment, the war in Ukraine, and government fiscal policies. It is therefore important to consider the council's financial strategy and position in the context of the significant funding gaps being signalled by all local authorities as a sector at this time.
- As part of the 28 September 2022 Finance Update Report, Cabinet endorsed a financial strategy focused on traditional financial management process and designed to enable the Council to set a balanced budget for 2023/24 and beyond. These workstreams were listed as.

a) Financial Outturn.

The aim being to deliver a surplus in 2022/23 which can be used to create resources (via an earmarked reserve) which then can be drawn down in support of the 2023/24 budget. This process should be facilitated by a previous Cabinet decision not to undertake any new financial commitments until such time as there is a balanced budget for 2023/24.

b) Transformation Programme.

Review proposed expenditure to ensure it is absolutely necessary to deliver the key essential elements of the programme, costs associated with service enhancement are avoided, and processes are adopted to avoid or reduce redundancy costs.

c) Non-Strategic Asset Disposals.

Establish a schedule of non-strategic assets disposals which can be used, via the Flexible Use of Capital Receipts (FUCR) statutory guidance, to fund, as a minimum, the £17.9m 2023/24 and £8.9m 2024/25 of Council approved revenue transformation expenditure (net of the current approved capital receipts). In addition, the ambition, will be to fund an additional £10m of investment in both 2023/24 and 2024/25 in the Children's and Adults' specific transformation programmes subject to the presentation of robust business cases which demonstrate both budget savings and adherence to the statutory guidance. This gives a target receipt of a minimum of £26.8m and a maximum requirement of £46.8m over the two year from April 2023 to 31 March 2025.

d) Accommodation Strategy.

Fundamental review of buildings occupied by BCP Council with a view to further consolidating the staff in the Civic Centre and considering future options for owned buildings or passing back leasehold properties as soon as practical.

e) Commercial Opportunities.

In line with the approved recommendation of Cabinet on 7 September 2022, explore options across the council to deliver revenue through further commercialisation.

f) Staff Cost Base

Consider several proposals designed to reduce the employee cost basis of the authority either temporary or permanently, including.

- Increase the percentage of the employee establishment not budgeted for 2023/24 from 2% to 5%.
- Determine extent to which vacant posts can be held or permanently removed.
- Limit the use of agency employees.
- Bring forward at pace a council wide apprenticeship programme.

It should be noted that any savings in staff or third party will, in the first instance, be considered as part of the programmed transformation savings.

g) An Enabling Council – Strength Based Approach

Consider the extent to which the community would be better placed to manage council assets and the services delivered within them through volunteers and other sources of funding.

h) Invest to Save

Consider robust self-financing business cases that utilise the council's ability to borrow to invest in capital infrastructure which additionally will drive down operational costs or avoid demand pressures.

i) Harmonisation of Services

The Council has ambitions to harmonise all services across the conurbation following on from Local Government Reorganisation. Good progress has been made. The proposal now is to review all outstanding areas of harmonisation with an intent to eliminate as many areas of difference as possible, within the budget parameters

j) Integrated Care System

Advance ongoing discussions with the representatives of the new Integrated Care System (who represent the delivery of National Health Services across Dorset) with a view to determining how the two organisations can more effectively work together with a view to driving down the overall costs of the system.

k) Review of Earmarked Reserves and Company/Third Party Balances

Annual review of earmarked reserves to ensure funds are not being tied up unnecessarily and were appropriate being released to support the proposed budgets of the council.

l) Capitalisation – Recharges

Further review of any costs currently charged to revenue which in line with the Local Authority Accounting Code of Practice can be legitimately charged to capital. Similarly, consideration should be undertaken to ensure robust arrangements are in place regarding costs apportioned/charged against government grants and the housing revenue account.

m) Review of the Council's Collection Funds

A fundamental and detailed review of the collection funds, both Council Tax and Business Rates, as the position starts to stabilise in a post pandemic environment.

n) Influence and Lobbying

This includes requesting government support the council in managing the financial consequences of the cost-of living crisis as well as changing legislation or allowing local authorities to increase appropriate statutorily set fees (such as penalty charge notices for car park enforcement), or where the fee does not cover the cost of the service provided, and charges in reflection of previous and future forecast rates of inflation.

o) Service Rationalisations

Consideration of services that the local authority is not required to provide and any expenditure on services that it is required to provide which is above the statutory minimum.

## Updated Medium Term Financial Plan

- The 28 September Cabinet report set out the previous MTFP position assuming the council meets the conditions for the 2022/23 £20m capitalisation direction further to the minded to offer from DLUHC.

**Figure 2:** Cabinet 28 September forecast MTFP Position

	23/24	24/25	25/26	26/27	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Annual - Net Funding Gap	16.4	2.0	(3.0)	(1.1)	14.4
Cumulative MTFP - Net Funding Gap	16.4	18.5	15.5	14.4	

- Figure 3 below sets out the current MTFP updated for the work carried out since the 28 September Cabinet report. As a reminder to councillors, the following MTFP variance charts show changes in the revenue budgets, on an annual basis, either positive numbers which represent additional costs to be met, or negative which represent forecast cost reductions or additional income. The variances are shown in the year in which they are expected to be first seen and are then assumed to recur on an ongoing basis in each of the following years. One-off changes will be seen as an entry in one year and will then being reversed out in a following year. For example, it is currently assumed to use £7.8m from the forecast outturn for 2022/23 in support of the 2023/24 budget.
- From the table it can be demonstrated that the Council has identified the potential actions that now will be necessary to balance the 23/24 budget based on the current assumptions. These assumptions will need to be constantly reviewed in the hope that the service and cost of living pressures can be lowered from those currently predicted which in turn will mean that not all of the service-based savings will need to be implemented. That said, the work required to enable delivery of these service-based saving will now need to start in earnest which will include consideration of any necessary stakeholder and staff consultation or engagement.

The service-based savings and efficiencies are presented above and below a sub-total line. The reason for this is to emphasise that although a lot of these savings will be challenging for an organisation, those below the line will be more challenging and this should be set in the context of further workstreams including conversations with our health colleagues, detailed work on our current vacancies as well as at least the potential to receive some support from government in relation to the £55m of Cost of Living pressures we have been faced with over 2 years.

It can therefore be summarised that the balanced position for 2023/24 is achieved after £42.6m in savings and efficiencies made up of £9.6m of currently unitemised transformation related third party spend savings, £0.6m of currently unidentified savings in Children's Services, and £32.4m of itemised service-based savings and efficiencies of which £4.6m are noted as being more challenging.

For scaling purposes, the £42.6m of total savings and efficiencies amount to 16% of the Council's £272m Net Revenue Expenditure.

**Figure 3: Funding Gap for 2023/24 (Updated MTFP Position)**

Adjustments to the cost of services	23/24 £m	24/25 £m	25/26 £m	26/27 £m	Total £m
Adult social care and public health	18.8	13.5	8.2	8.7	49.2
Adult social care reforms	12.8	17.2	2.6	0.0	32.6
Children's services	14.6	8.4	9.0	9.6	41.6
Operations	9.3	4.3	1.9	1.5	17.0
Reversal of securitisation of income stream proposal	(3.7)	0.0	0.0	0.0	(3.7)
Resource services	(0.6)	1.4	0.5	0.4	1.7
Staff costs being charged to transformation prior 25/26	0.0	0.0	6.7	0.0	6.7
Capitalisation direction 22/23 cost of capital & interest repayments	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Transformation base revenue budget costs	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.1
Transformation redundancy costs that cannot be charged against FUCR	2.1	(1.9)	(0.1)	0.0	0.1
Corporate priorities one-offs for 2022/23	(8.2)	0.0	0.0	0.0	(8.2)
Pay related costs	8.3	3.8	3.8	3.8	19.7
Pay and grading project	0.0	9.1	(4.5)	0.0	4.6
Contingency	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.3
Debt and capital adjustments	(0.1)	(0.1)	(0.3)	(0.1)	(0.6)
Treasury Management & Investment income adjusted disposals	(1.6)	1.4	(0.1)	0.0	(0.3)
<b>Total adjustments in respect of cost of services</b>	<b>53.0</b>	<b>57.2</b>	<b>27.7</b>	<b>23.9</b>	<b>161.8</b>
<b>Adjustments in respect of resource levels</b>					
Council tax – revenue - 2.99% per annum (1.99% basic + 1% SC precept)	(6.8)	(7.1)	(7.4)	(7.7)	(29.1)
Council tax - taxbase	(3.0)	(2.6)	(1.3)	(1.3)	(8.2)
Council tax - second homes 100% premium	0.0	(5.3)	0.0	0.0	(5.3)
Council tax - empty homes premium after 1st rather than 2nd year	0.0	(0.9)	0.0	0.0	(0.9)
Collection fund – (surplus) / deficit distribution net of S31 grant	4.7	(2.6)	0.0	0.0	2.1
Government core grant funding changes	0.8	0.0	2.5	0.0	3.3
Assumed social care reforms funding	(12.8)	(17.2)	(2.6)	0.0	(32.6)
Assumed additional social care grant funding	(3.1)	(2.7)	(2.7)	(2.7)	(11.2)
Reserve Funding - One-off funding supporting 2022/23 budget	36.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	36.1
Reserve Funding - Removal of COMF contribution 2022/23 priorities	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0
Reserve Funding - Improved outturn 2021/22 to support 23/24 budget	(14.2)	14.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reserve Funding - Redirect earmarked reserve to support 23/24 budget	(5.3)	5.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reserve Funding - Assumed surplus 2021/22 to support 23/24 budget	(7.8)	7.8	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Total previously assumed adjustments in resource levels</b>	<b>(10.4)</b>	<b>(11.1)</b>	<b>(11.5)</b>	<b>(11.7)</b>	<b>(44.8)</b>
<b>Assumed additional savings, and efficiencies</b>					
Unitemised Transformation savings	(9.6)	(17.8)	0.0	0.0	(27.4)
Following transformation, further net FTE reductions	0.0	0.0	(7.2)	0.0	(7.2)
Scheduled service based savings (include. Adults, Children's, Transformation)	(27.8)	(5.4)	(2.6)	(3.0)	(38.8)
Unidentified Adult Social Care savings (2.99% growth restriction)	0.0	(3.0)	(3.1)	(3.5)	(9.6)
Unidentified Children's savings (2.99% growth restriction)	(0.6)	(5.4)	(6.5)	(7.0)	(19.5)
<b>Total assumed annual extra savings and efficiencies</b>	<b>(38.0)</b>	<b>(31.6)</b>	<b>(19.4)</b>	<b>(13.5)</b>	<b>(102.5)</b>
<b>Sub Total - Annual – Net Funding Gap</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>14.5</b>	<b>(3.2)</b>	<b>(1.3)</b>	<b>14.6</b>
<b>Sub Total - Cumulative MTFP – Net Funding Gap</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>19.1</b>	<b>15.9</b>	<b>14.6</b>	
Scheduled service based savings (includes Adults, Children's, Transformation)	(4.6)	1.3	(0.3)	0.1	(3.5)
<b>Annual – Net Funding Gap</b>	<b>(0.0)</b>	<b>15.8</b>	<b>(3.5)</b>	<b>(1.2)</b>	<b>11.1</b>
<b>Cumulative MTFP – Net Funding Gap</b>	<b>(0.0)</b>	<b>15.8</b>	<b>12.3</b>	<b>11.1</b>	

8. This updated 4-year MTFP position will move BCP Council onto a significantly more sustainable footing at a time when there is significant uncertainty across the sector with many authorities publicly questioning their ability to balance 23/24 budgets without external support. This should be set in the context of this Council being challenged with cost-of-living pressures current estimated to be around £25m in 22/23 and £30m for 2023/24. Collectively a £55m impact over the two-year period since the 22/23 budget was set in February 2022.
9. The key variances from the position as set out in the 28 September 2022 report to Cabinet include.
  - a) Further improvement in the forecast outturn for 2022/23. Analysis of these further variances, which amount to a £3.7m increase in the surplus, now mean that the overall surplus for the year is predicted to be £7.8m and is presented as Appendix D to this report.

This improvement includes the assumption that Council will agree to charge £1.9m to the Children's Services specific transformation programme in 2022/23 as set out in Appendix A. This expenditure is principally £1.5m of costs previously included in the forecast outturn for 2022/23 which delivers transformation related savings, that are now included in the budget proposals for 2023/24, and therefore can be refinanced either via the capitalisation direction or alternatively via the flexible use of capital receipts. The total £1.9m includes £400k of expenditure yet to be incurred regarding the building stronger foundations. Business cases for future transformation funding to support the savings assumptions previously hardcoded into the MTFP based on a 2.99% restriction in their growth will be brought forward in due course.

To aid the delivery of a surplus in 2022/23, this report recommends the continuation of the existing expenditure control that no new financial commitments are made (other than with the specific agreement of the Chief Finance Officer in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance) until the 2023/24 budget is formally set in February 2023.

- b) An additional proposal for redirecting earmarked reserves as set out in Appendix C.
- c) Review of the assumptions underpinning the MTFP. For example, the latest position includes a further pressure of £0.1m per annum, as advised by Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA), regarding a 150% increase in the external audit fee level from next financial year.
- d) Review of staff cost base costs including a refinement of the vacancy drag estimate and review of vacant posts that do not need to be replaced etc.
- e) The investment in care technology as per the business case that is presented elsewhere on this Cabinet agenda.
- f) Recognising the intent to avoid the need to draw down on a capitalisation direction in 2022/23 by bringing forward the disposal of Non-Strategic Assets. Confidential Appendix B provides details of these assets. Council will only be formally asked to dispose of the assets once officers have explored the feasibility of delivering within the required timeframe and prior to formal sale.
- g) Service efficiencies and changes which have been identified at this time and subject to further work to determine any constraints around their implementation

for 1 April 2023 onwards. For example, certain proposals will need consultation with stakeholders such as the public or employees.

## **Reserves**

10. Councils generally hold two main forms of reserves.
11. **Unearmarked Reserves** are set aside to help manage the risk to the council's financial standing in the event of extraordinary or otherwise unforeseen events and to mitigate the underlying operational risk associated with the operation of the council and the management of service expenditure, income, and the council's funding
12. Analysis included in the June MFP Update report to Cabinet showed that on a net revenue expenditure (NRE) basis despite a £0.7m additional investment as part of the 2022/23 budget the percentage dropped to 4.7% which puts us on the lower side of the median, and below the level 5% previously recommended minimum used by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA).
13. The council's financial strategy continues to be to increase the unearmarked reserves by £0.7m per annum.
14. **Earmarked Reserves:** *are set aside for specific purposes including those held in support of various partnerships where the council is the accountable body, reserves committed to supporting the 2022/23 budget of the Council, reserves which represent government grants received in advance of the associated expenditure, reserves held on behalf of third parties and several reserves the council is required to hold in line with statute or its own governance requirements.*
15. As set out in Figure 5 below the Council had earmarked reserves of £114m as at the 31 March 2022. Of this the majority (£40m) relates to government grants received in advance of the actual expenditure including £18m specifically to mitigate the impact that various Covid business rates reliefs will have on the council's business rates collection fund. It should also be borne in mind that the 2022/23 budget assumed that £36m would be drawn down from the Financial Resilience and Transition/Transformation earmarked reserves to finance the approved level of expenditure.
16. The financial strategy supporting the development of the 2023/24 budget, as referenced earlier in this document, sets out the intention to constantly challenge each of the earmarked reserves to ensure that funds are not being tied up unnecessarily. The intention from the review is where appropriate to release these resources to support the proposed budgets of the council. This approach will though need to acknowledge the relationship with the growing deficit on the Dedicated Schools Grant.

**Figure 5: Latest Reserve Forecast**

	Balance Actual 31/3/21 £m	Balance Actual 31/3/22 £m	Balance Estimate 31/3/23 £m	Balance Estimate 31/3/24 £m	Balance Estimate 31/3/25 £m	Balance Estimate 31/3/26 £m	Balance Estimate 31/3/27 £m
Un-earmarked Reserves	15.3	15.3	16.0	16.7	17.4	18.1	18.8
Earmarked Reserves	153.8	114.4	35.1	13.9	12.5	12.6	12.8
<b>Reserves Established to support the 2023/24 Budget</b>							
Cost of Living Mitigation from 21/22			14.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Redirected Earmarked Reserves			5.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Assumed 2022/23 surplus			7.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Total General Fund Reserves</b>	<b>169.1</b>	<b>129.7</b>	<b>78.4</b>	<b>30.6</b>	<b>29.9</b>	<b>30.7</b>	<b>31.6</b>
Dedicated Schools Grant (1)	(7.8)	(20.3)	(37.0)	(62.2)	(99.5)	(149.9)	(215.7)
Dedicated Schools Grant (2)	(7.8)	(20.3)	(37.0)	(57.6)	(80.2)	(102.3)	(121.7)
<b>Net Position DSG1 – (Deficit)</b>	<b>161.3</b>	<b>109.4</b>	<b>41.4</b>	<b>(31.6)</b>	<b>(69.6)</b>	<b>(119.2)</b>	<b>(184.1)</b>
<b>Net Position DSG2 – (Deficit)</b>	<b>161.3</b>	<b>109.4</b>	<b>41.4</b>	<b>(27.0)</b>	<b>(50.3)</b>	<b>(71.6)</b>	<b>(90.1)</b>

*Please note that the forecasts for the accumulating deficit on the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) has not yet been updated based on the output of the first module of the Delivering Better Value (DBV) in Special Educational Needs and Disability Programme. In addition, it is hoped that the later modules of this programme will indicate how this deficit could/should be addressed.*

### Options appraisal

- This paper builds on the previous recognition of material changes to the risk profile of the 2022/23 budget and MTFP. This includes significant costs pressures associated with the cost of living, changes to the FUCR statutory guidance, messages from the Secretary of State around ensuring authorities also adhere to the spirit and intent of legislation, and the government being minded-to offer the council a £20m capitalisation direction for 2022/23.

The “minded to” offer of a £20m Capitalisation Direction for 2022/23 is an opportunity for the council to avoid bringing forward further capital receipts or resources currently earmarked in support of the 2023/24 budget to fund the cost of its transformation programme in the current financial year. This offer is contingent upon the Council meeting the conditions of the offer letter. Conversations with officers at DLUHC indicate that there is a strong likelihood that the external assurance review of the Councils finances and governance arrangements will still proceed regardless of whether the Council signals an intention not to take the capitalisation direction.

### Conclusion

- Cabinet has prudently positioned the council to deliver a balanced budget for 2023/24. The forecast funding gap has reduced from £36.4m to £16.4m to now



zero through finding efficiencies and service reductions that can be delivered to reduce expenditure. Work will now commence on ensuring the deliverability of the assumed savings including any necessary public or employee consultation, to ensure that the savings are delivered by 1 April 2023 so that the full year effect of the saving is achieved.

The balanced budget position should be seen in the context of the funding gaps being signalled by all local authorities at this time be that due to demand pressures or due to the impact of the cost of living.

Work is also now required to determine the feasibility of bringing forward £20m of non-strategic asset sales by the 31 March 2023 to avoid drawing down on the capitalisation direction, if possible.

Despite having moved to the assumption in the current drafting of the budget MTFP of the council not drawing down on the Capitalisation direction Cabinet still welcome the external governance and finance assurance reviews that were a condition of the capitalisation direction and are in dialogue with DLUHC with expectation that these will be commissioned later in October.

### **Summary of legal implications**

19. The council has a fiduciary duty to its taxpayers to be prudent in the administration of the funds it holds on their behalf and an equal duty to consider the interests of their community which benefit from the services it provides.
20. It is the responsibility of councillors to ensure the council sets a balanced budget for the forthcoming year. In setting such a budget councillors and officers of the council have a legal requirement to ensure it is balanced in a manner which reflects the needs of both current and future taxpayers in discharging these responsibilities. In essence, this is a direct reference to ensure that Council sets a financially sustainable budget which is mindful of the long-term consequences of any short-term decisions.
21. As a billing authority, failure to set a legal budget by 11 March each year may lead to intervention from the Secretary of State under section 15 of the Local Government Act 1999. It should however be noted that the deadline is, in reality, 1 March each year to allow sufficient time for the council tax direct debit process to be adhered to.

### **Summary of human resources implications**

22. There are no direct human resource implications of this report. However, the MTFP and budget will have a direct impact on the level of services delivered by the council, the mechanisms by which those services are delivered and the associated staffing establishment.
23. This report acknowledges that the transformation programme and the actions necessary to manage future years funding gaps are likely to have an impact on future staffing levels.

### **Summary of sustainability impact**

24. There are no direct sustainability implications of this report

### **Summary of public health implications**

25. There are no direct public health implications of this report.

### **Summary of equality implications**

26. A full equalities impact assessment will be undertaken as part of the final February 2023 report to members as part of the annual budget process.

### **Summary of risk assessment**

27. The risks inherent in the 2022/23 budget were clearly set out in the February 2022 Council budget report for 2022/23. This and the previous June and September finance reports to Cabinet recognised a change in the risk profile and recommends appropriate mitigation to maintain a balanced budget for 2022/23 and make a material impact on the potential funding gap for 2023/24. Key risks include.

### **Capitalisation Direction.**

Not presenting a full plan to balance the 2023/24 budget to DLUHC would have jeopardised the Councils ability to achieve a £20m capitalisation direction in 2022/23. This would have meant either additional in-year capital receipts needing to be generated (which the Council will now test the feasibility of achieving) or utilising the resources currently supporting the balancing of the 2023/24 budget. The second of these would impede the ability to set a legal, balanced budget for 2023/24. Associated with this would have been at least the possibility of direct government intervention in the council.

### **Accumulating Deficit on the Dedicated Schools Grant**

Accumulated and growing deficits on the dedicated school's grant which by the 31 March 2024 will be greater than the total reserves available to the council. Unless the current regulation that allows the council to ignore this position is extended this will mean the councils s151 Officer, and probably may others nationally, will be required to issue a s114 notice for 2023/24.

### **BCP FuturePlaces Ltd**

The Council have committed a £8m working capital loan to BCP FuturePlaces Ltd a wholly owned teckal company established to drive the Councils regeneration ambitions. They recover expenditure incurred principally by being paid for successful business cases approved by the Council. The £8m working capital loan represents about 50% of the council's current unearmarked reserves.

### **Adults & Children's Services: Unidentified Savings**

The MTFP as set out in Figure 3 includes an assumption that Children's Services will deliver £0.6m in, yet unidentified savings in 2023/24. In addition, there are further annual unidentified savings across Adults and Children's Services which grow to £29m per annum for 2026/27. This assumption is based on a 2.99% annual growth restriction in Adults and Children's services included in the February 2022 budget report and is aligned to the intended £10m investment in a specific service-based transformation programme in these service areas in both 2024/25 and 2025/26 to deliver the savings presumed by the growth restriction.

### **Transformation Investment Programme: Unitemised Savings**

As at the date of this report the Council has delivered £7.1m (82%) of the £8.7m annual transformation savings target that was set with £1.6m remaining to be delivered. Looking forward to 2023/24 the MTFP assumes an additional £10m of annual transformation savings (£18.7m cumulative annual total). This further £10m

is identified against a third party spend workstream but the savings are yet to be itemised against relevant budget headings.

### **Uncertainty**

The only certainty at this moment in time is uncertainty. There are currently high levels of financial planning unpredictability caused by the cost-of-living crisis and constant changes and variations to the costs of goods, materials and services required to deliver council operations.

### **Potential Public Spending Reductions**

The Chancellor is due to set out his plans for the public finances, accompanied by an assessment from the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR), on 31 October 2022. There is currently differing views as to whether the government are likely to stick to the spending plans for 2023/24 and 2024/25 as set out in the Spending Review 2021 (SR21). The indications are that should spending cuts be implemented then local government would not be protected.

### **Social Care Reforms**

These reforms will levy significant new responsibilities on local authorities as well as introducing a cap on care costs. There is a significant risk that the Government grant will be insufficient to cover the full cost associated with these reforms and the staffing needed to enable their delivery.

### **Background papers**

28. February 2022 Budget report to Council.

Appendix 3 s25 Reserves Report CFO.

<https://democracy.bcpccouncil.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=284&MId=4812&Ver=4>

29. June 2022 MTFP Update report to Cabinet.

<https://democracy.bcpccouncil.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=285&MId=5011&Ver=4>

30. Finance Update (including Quarter One 2022/13 Budget Monitoring) report to 7 September 2022 Cabinet.

<https://democracy.bcpccouncil.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=285&MId=5013&Ver=4>

31. Addendum to the 7 September 2022 Finance Update (including quarter one budget monitoring) report to Cabinet.

<https://democracy.bcpccouncil.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=285&MId=5013&Ver=4>

32. Finance Strategy Update report to 28 September 2022 Cabinet.

<https://democracy.bcpccouncil.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=285&MId=5014&Ver=4>

### **Appendices**

- A Children's Services costs charged to transformation in 2022/23
- B Schedule of Non-Strategic Asset Sales (Confidential)

- C Further Review of Earmarked Reserves
- D 2022/23 Additional Variance Analysis

## Financial Strategy 2023/24

### Children's Services – Transformation 2022/23 Costs

Council is recommended to charge the following costs to the Children's Services transformation layer in 2022/23.

Amount £	Description	Further Detail
630,000	Eden Brown	
400,000	Cost of Transformation Consultants	
400,000	Project Managers	Building Stronger Foundations workstream
300,000	Practice Learning Reviewers	
75,000	Operations Manager - Mash	
68,000	Head of Service – Quality Assurance	
43,333	Early Help & Partnership Service Manager	
<b>1,916,333</b>	<b>Total Cost to be charged to Transformation</b>	

Consequently this expenditure will support the delivery of the savings within the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP)

*Shown on an incremental basis*

2023/24 £000s	2024/25 £000s	Description	Further Details
(250)	(300)	Quality Performance Information & Governance	
(143)		Corporate Parenting	
(131)		Targeted Family Support	
(107)		Contracts & Service Level Agreement	
(106)		Safeguarding & Early Help	
(70)		Spend on P-Cards	
(63)		Service Level Agreement – Safe Families	
(55)		Workforce development refinanced by grants	
(47)		Family Hub	
(12)		Reduce subscription expenditure	
<b>(984)</b>	<b>(300)</b>	<b>Total Savings</b>	



By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A  
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank



## Financial Strategy 2023/24

### **Review of Earmarked Reserves (October 2022)**

Cabinet is recommended to release the following amounts in support of the 2023/24 proposed budget of the Council.

**(£1.5m) Asset Investment Strategy, Rent, Renewals and Repairs Reserve**

Resources set aside as part of the process of managing annual fluctuations in the rent, landlord repairs and costs associated with the council's commercial property acquisitions as set out in the Non-Treasury Asset Investment Strategy. Reduction reflects the intent in the financial strategy to dispose of the core non-strategic asset investments. This proposal increases the proposal to increase the reduction from 50% as set out in the September 2022 report to 100%.

This page is intentionally left blank



**BCP COUNCIL**  
**Budget Variances 2022/23**

				£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	
Directorate / Service	Type	Description		June Total Variance	September update	September Total	October update	October Total Variance	
Adult Social Care									
Adult Social Care - Services	Cost of living and other service pressures	Third Party Payments	Potential care costs increase following fair cost of care exercise	1,800		1,800		1,800	
		Third Party Payments	Care costs for people with long term conditions	1,729		1,729		1,729	
		Various	Other miscellaneous pressures (each less than £100k)	149		149		149	
	Savings, Efficiencies and Mitigations	Third Party Payments	Adjustment to the residential and homecare budget from Covid grants	(257)		(257)		(257)	
		Third Party Payments	Care Cost for people with Learning Disabilities and Mental Health needs	(587)		(587)		(587)	
		Income	Estimated additional income from Health for Continuing Health Care eligible people and Section 117	(1,233)		(1,233)		(1,233)	
		Income	Service user contributions	(364)		(364)		(364)	
		Reserves	Utilisation of earmarked reserves specific to the service	(415)		(415)		(415)	
		Employee costs	Directorate unfilled vacancies	(365)		(365)		(365)	
		Review of earmarked reserves	Covid pressures		(113)	(113)		(113)	
		Review of earmarked reserves	Various others each less than £100k		(235)	(235)		(235)	
Adult Social Care - Services Total			457	(348)	109	-	109		
Commissioning Centre of Excellence & Public Health	Cost of living and other service pressures	Third Party Payments	Tricuro contract impact of cost of living including energy prices	171		171		171	
		Various	Other miscellaneous pressures (each less than £100k)	52		52		52	
	Savings, Efficiencies and Mitigations	Third Party Payments	Tricuro efficiencies to manage energy cost pressure	(171)		(171)		(171)	
		Employee costs	Directorate unfilled vacancies	(52)		(52)		(52)	
Commissioning Centre of Excellence & Public Health Total			-	-	-	-	-		
Adult Social Care Total			457	(348)	109	-	109		
Children's Services									
Children's Services	Cost of living and other service pressures	Third Party Contributions	Health contributions for care placements	1,483		1,483		1,483	
		School Transport	Non-delivery of SEND transport savings assumed in the 2022/23 base budget	750		750		750	
		School Transport	SEND / mainstream transport contract costs due to the cost of living including fuel prices	1,250		1,250		1,250	
		School Transport	Mainstream transport - other reasons	(200)		(200)		(200)	
		Electricity/Gas costs	Assumed price variations	182		182		182	
		Staffing	Overall staffing - continued need for higher than expected levels of agency	1,960		1,960	(886)	1,074	
		Staffing	Continuation of additional purchased team (assumed to end in Sept 2022)	630		630	(630)	-	
		Care	Residential care 16-18 savings not deliverable as project not taken forward	211		211		211	
		Care	UASC - pressure of grant deficit for those aged over 18	708		708		708	
		Savings, Efficiencies and Mitigations	Review of earmarked reserves	Review of Public Health Partnership		(635)	(635)		(635)
	Children's Services Total			6,974	(635)	6,339	(1,934)	4,405	
	Children's Services Total			6,974	(635)	6,339	(1,934)	4,405	
	Operations								
Housing	Cost of living and other service pressures	Electricity/Gas costs	Assumed price variations	155		155		155	
		Income pressure	Telecare reduction to budgeted income assumed 22/23	250		250		250	
		Expenditure pressure	Council New Build Housing Acquisition Strategy (CNHAS) saving assumed in the 2022/23 base budget	219		219		219	
		Expenditure pressure	Housing related support contracts inflationary clause	150		150		150	
		Service pressures	Housing Options & Partnerships	-	253	253	(99)	154	
		Savings, Efficiencies and Mitigations	Service saving	Additional one-off dividend from Bournemouth Building Maintenance Ltd	(200)		(200)		(200)
	Service saving		Harmonisation of recharges to the two HRA neighbourhood accounts	(100)		(100)		(100)	
	Service saving		Homelessness Prevention Grant utilised to cover budget costs	(100)		(100)		(100)	
	Service saving		Others miscellaneous savings (each less than £100k)	(347)	(168)	(515)	122	(393)	
	Housing Total			27	(69)	(42)	23	(19)	
Environment	Cost of living and other service pressures	Income pressure	Crematorium income pressure	600		600		600	
		Expenditure pressure	Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) costs	400		400		400	
		Expenditure pressure	Volume of waste bins that need replacement	200		200		200	
		Expenditure pressure	Waste Disposal Contract	150		150		150	
	Savings, Efficiencies and Mitigations	Service saving	Sales of recyclate material – value and volume	(1,000)	(2,149)	(3,149)	49	(3,100)	
		Service saving	Capitalisation of neighbourhood highways costs less associated borrowing costs	(930)		(930)		(930)	
		Service saving	Defer move to HVO fuel across corporate fleet assets (cost avoidance)	(400)		(400)		(400)	
		Service saving	Sales of waste material from the Household Waste Recycling Centres	(100)		(100)		(100)	
		Service saving	Green Waste Income	(278)		(278)		(278)	
		Service saving	Miscellaneous saving less than £100k		(25)	(25)		(25)	
		Service saving	Bereavement Services pricing increase options		(167)	(167)		(167)	
		Service saving	Borrow to finance bin replacements			-	(347)	(347)	
		Environment Total			(1,358)	(2,341)	(3,699)	(298)	(3,997)

				£000 June Total Variance	£000 September update	£000 September Total	£000 October update	£000 October Total Variance		
Directorate / Service	Type	Description								
Destination & Culture	Cost of living and other service pressures	Expenditure pressure	BH Live	436		436		436		
	Savings, Efficiencies and Mitigations	Service saving	Cultural Compact	(129)		(129)		(129)		
		Service saving	Festival Coast Live	(125)		(125)		(125)		
		Service saving	Cultural development and networking	(100)		(100)		(100)		
		Service saving	Income from BH Live	(200)	(200)	(200)		(200)		
	Review of earmarked reserves	SLM reserve	(560)	(560)	(560)		(560)			
Destination & Culture Total				82	(760)	(678)	-	(678)		
Coroners	Cost of living and other service pressures	Expenditure pressure	Increased / complex caseload	100		100		100		
Coroners Total				100	-	100	-	100		
Transport & Engineering	Cost of living and other service pressures	Expenditure pressure	Car Parks, rates increases, card charges and other expenditure items	852		852	75	927		
	Savings, Efficiencies and Mitigations	Service saving	Car park income increase to reflect previous year's performance	(691)		(691)	(572)	(1,263)		
		Service saving	Beach car park tariffs increased	(359)		(359)		(359)		
		Service saving	Remove seasonal concession for car parking		(150)	(150)		(150)		
		Service saving	Street lighting (excluding utility pressure)	(132)		(132)		(132)		
		Service saving	Recharging to capital schemes	(340)		(340)		(340)		
		Service saving	FCERM one off surplus savings from reserve that was to be used for Hamworthy sea wall defences		(260)	(260)		(260)		
		Service saving	Capitalisation of asset engineering		(125)	(125)		(125)		
		Service saving	Various others savings each less than £100k		(119)	(119)		(119)		
		Service saving	Additional income from capital recharges				(400)	(400)		
		Transport & Engineering Total				(670)	(654)	(1,324)	(897)	(2,221)
	Savings, Efficiencies and Mitigations	Service saving	Utilisation of the Community Prosecutions Earmarked Reserve	(105)		(105)		(105)		
		Service saving	Stopping allocation to development of VRN		(150)	(150)		(150)		
		Service saving	Recharge of community safety salaries to DA Grant			-		-		
		Service saving	Various others savings each less than £100k	-	(110)	(110)		(110)		
Communities Total				(105)	(260)	(365)	-	(365)		
Operations Directorate General	Cost of living and other service pressures	Electricity/Gas costs	Assumed price variations	3,106		3,106		3,106		
		Expenditure pressure	Other miscellaneous pressures (each less than £100k)	545		545		545		
	Savings, Efficiencies and Mitigations	Service saving	Other miscellaneous savings (each less than £100k)	(622)		(622)		(622)		
		Savings, Efficiencies and Mitigations	Service saving	Cleaner, Greener, Safer - Total	(388)		(388)		(388)	
Operations Directorate General Total				2,641	-	2,641	-	2,641		
Operations Total				717	(4,084)	(3,367)	(1,172)	(4,539)		
Resources & Transformation										
Customer & Service Delivery	Cost of living and other service pressures	Electricity/Gas costs	Facilities Management - Assumed price variations	485		485		485		
		Service pressures	Library PFI Contract inflationary clause	150		150		150		
		Service pressures	Other less than £100k	83		83		83		
Customer & Service Delivery Total				718	-	718	-	718		
Resources & Transformation General	Cost of living and other service pressures	Employee costs	Major projects team salaries pressure	135		135		135		
		Third Party Payments	Software contracts inflationary clause - resources	157		157		157		
		Third Party Payments	Software contracts inflationary clause - SVPP, dev, customer	14		14		14		
		Service pressures	Other miscellaneous variances (each less than £100k)	38		38		38		
		Transformation	Shortfall against transformation target	1,595		1,595		1,595		
Resources & Transformation General Total				1,939	-	1,939	-	1,939		
Resources & Transformation Total				2,657	-	2,657	-	2,657		
Central Items										
Central Items	Cost of living and other service pressures	Various	Other miscellaneous pressures (each less than £100k)	(34)		(34)		(34)		
		Employee costs	Assumption that the pay award will be above budget at 4% (May) / £1,925 per FTE (June)	4,139		4,139		4,139		
		Employee costs	Assumed 20% element of transformation related redundancy costs which cannot be funded from the FUCR in line with the regulatory framework	250		250		250		
		Interest	Assumed interest payable on capitalisation direction	436		436		436		
	Savings, Efficiencies and Mitigations	Income	Additional Treasury Management Income due to higher interest rates and the additional money made available to the council in advance of the 2021/22 financial year	(1,320)	(100)	(1,420)	(531)	(1,951)		
		Earmarked Reserve	Release Transformation Mitigation Earmarked Reserve not utilised as planned in 2021/22	(1,949)		(1,949)		(1,949)		
		Earmarked Reserve	Release part of the additional 2021/22 surplus to support the impact of the cost-of-living crisis on the council - at June not needed	-		-		-		
		Grant Income	Contain Outbreak Management Fund resources that the Council is able to carry forward into 2022/23 to fund previously planned expenditure	(1,437)		(1,437)		(1,437)		
		Grant Income	Anticipation that the final reconciliation of the Covid 19 Sales, Fees and Charges grant claim will be approved by government	(1,402)		(1,402)		(1,402)		
		Financial Services	Stour Valley and Poole Partnership Revenue and Benefits (SVPP) – release of the 2021/22 operational reserve	(435)		(435)		(435)		
		Contingency	Contingency released to support in-year position	(2,256)	70	(2,186)		(2,186)		
		Beach Huts	Beach hut income as not being transferred to a special purpose vehicle	(3,700)		(3,700)		(3,700)		
		Corporate Provisions	Bournemouth Development Company (BDC) released portion of provision	(1,000)		(1,000)		(1,000)		
		Minimum Revenue Provision	Winter Gardens finance loan		(304)	(304)		(304)		
		Transformation	Remove 2022/23 share of redundancy costs that cannot be charged to transformation		(250)	(250)		(250)		
		Employee costs	Removal of 1.25% National Insurance Levy from November 2022		(583)	(583)		(583)		
		Electricity/Gas costs	Utility Cost Forecast variation based on Government support package				(100)	(100)		
		Central Items Total				(8,708)	(1,167)	(9,875)	(631)	(10,506)
		Central Items Total				(8,708)	(1,167)	(9,875)	(631)	(10,506)
		Grand Total				2,097	(6,234)	(4,137)	(3,737)	(7,874)

## CABINET



Report subject	<b>Cost of Living Pressures</b>
Meeting date	26 October 2022
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	<p>This report sets out the impacts of cost of living pressures on the Council and our communities and describes some of the Council's responses, working with key public and private sector partners to support our communities.</p> <p>Pressures are being seen across our communities arising from the significant increase in energy prices and the effects of rapidly increasing inflation on a wide range of items and commodities. The Council itself is also suffering from these impacts with increasing costs and therefore faces the need to increase fees and charges to reflect the increased cost of production and of providing services.</p> <p>This report describes the pressures and our responses.</p>
Recommendations	<p><b>It is RECOMMENDED that Cabinet:</b></p> <p><b>(a) Notes the pressures that are being felt by many of our communities and supports the actions taken to alleviate those.</b></p> <p><b>(b) Supports the proposed approach to reassessing fees and charges levied by the Council for services</b></p>
Reason for recommendations	The council is providing significant services to support our communities through the effects of the rising cost of living, but is also suffering the effects through increased costs.
Portfolio Holder(s):	<p>Councillor Drew Mellor, Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance &amp; Transformation</p> <p>Councillor Jane Kelly, Lead Member for Communities</p>
Corporate Director	Graham Farrant, Chief Executive
Report Author	Bridget Webber, Head of Policy
Wards	Council-wide

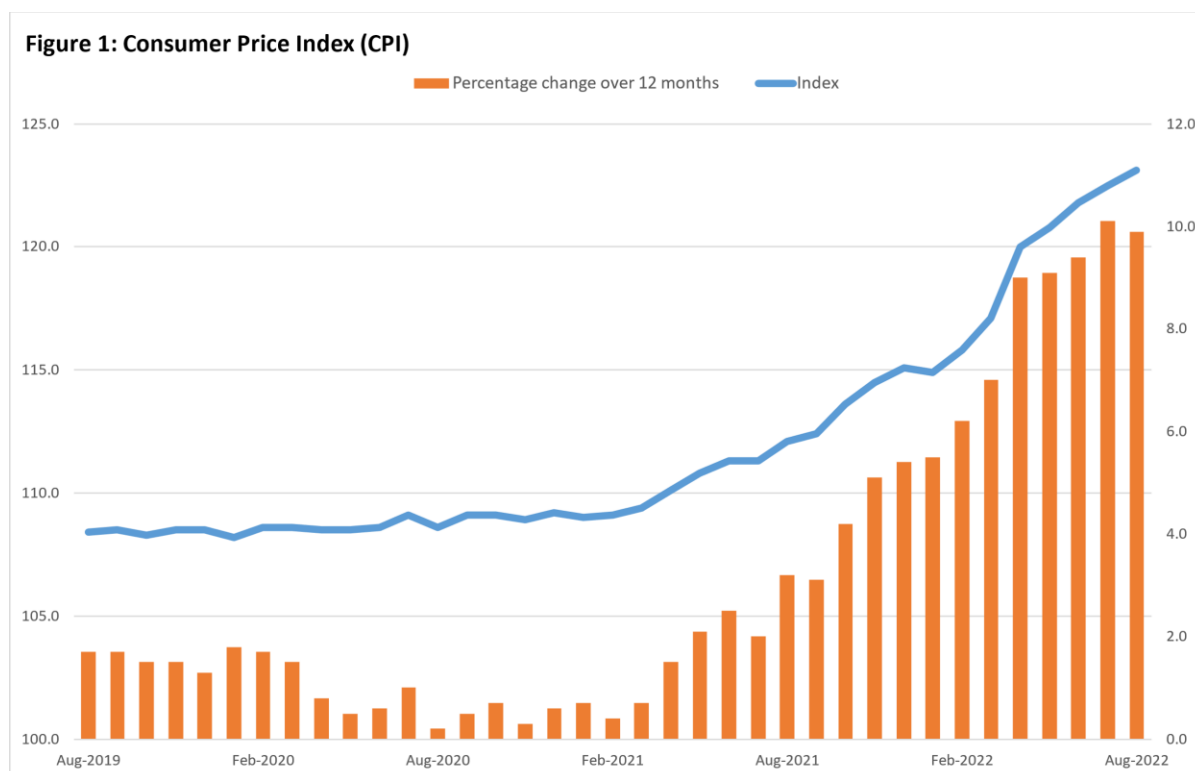
Classification	For Decision
----------------	--------------

## Effect on communities:

1. The impact of the cost of living crisis is felt by communities locally and nationally. Detailed analysis has been completed to build a picture of the local impact and need arising as a result. Key points to note are set out below.

## Inflation

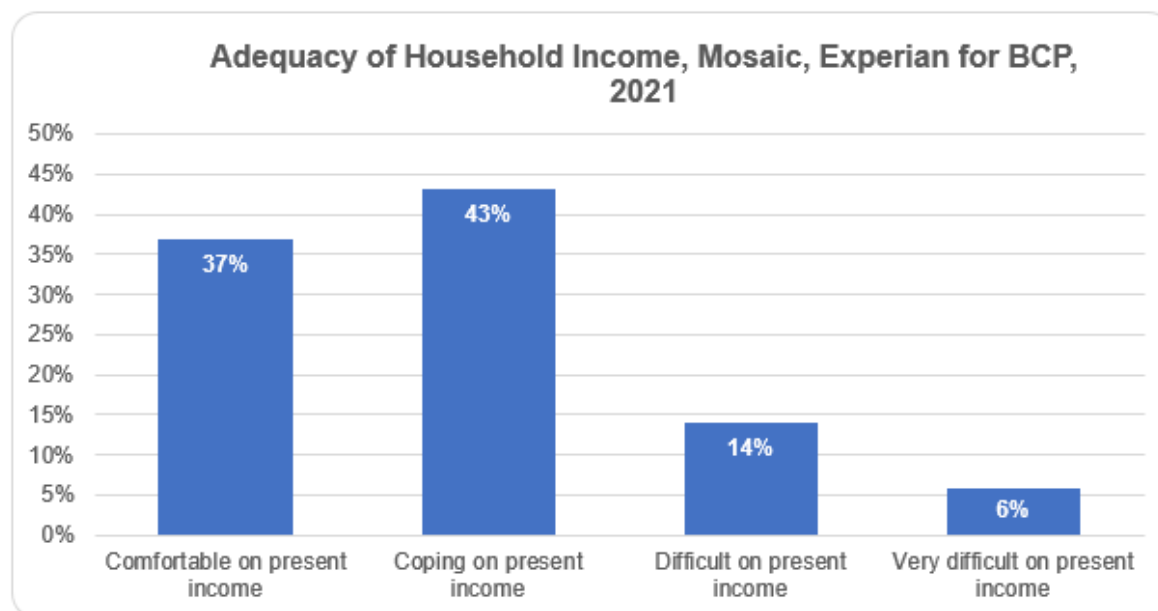
2. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) has increased by 9.9% over the last 12 months to August 2022. In relation to economic growth, provisional figures suggest the economy grew by a modest 0.2% in July following a contraction of -0.6% in June 22. Interest rates are rising with the Bank of England base rate currently 2.25% (Sept 22), but forecast to rise. As costs are increasing across the board, general pay levels are not keeping up with inflation and this is putting further pressure on household bills, particularly given the high rise in the cost of energy consumption. Regular pay reduced by 3% when adjusted for inflation in April - June 2022.
3. CPI has increased significantly since around May 2021 and July 2022. The Consumer Price Index is the official measure of inflation of consumer prices of the United Kingdom.



## Adequacy of household income 2021

4. Based on Experian's data<sup>1</sup> it is estimated around 20% of households are currently finding it difficult or very difficult to cope with the cost of living based on their current income. This pressure will increase as the cost of fuel and food increases in the coming months.

**Figure 2: Adequacy of household income 2021**

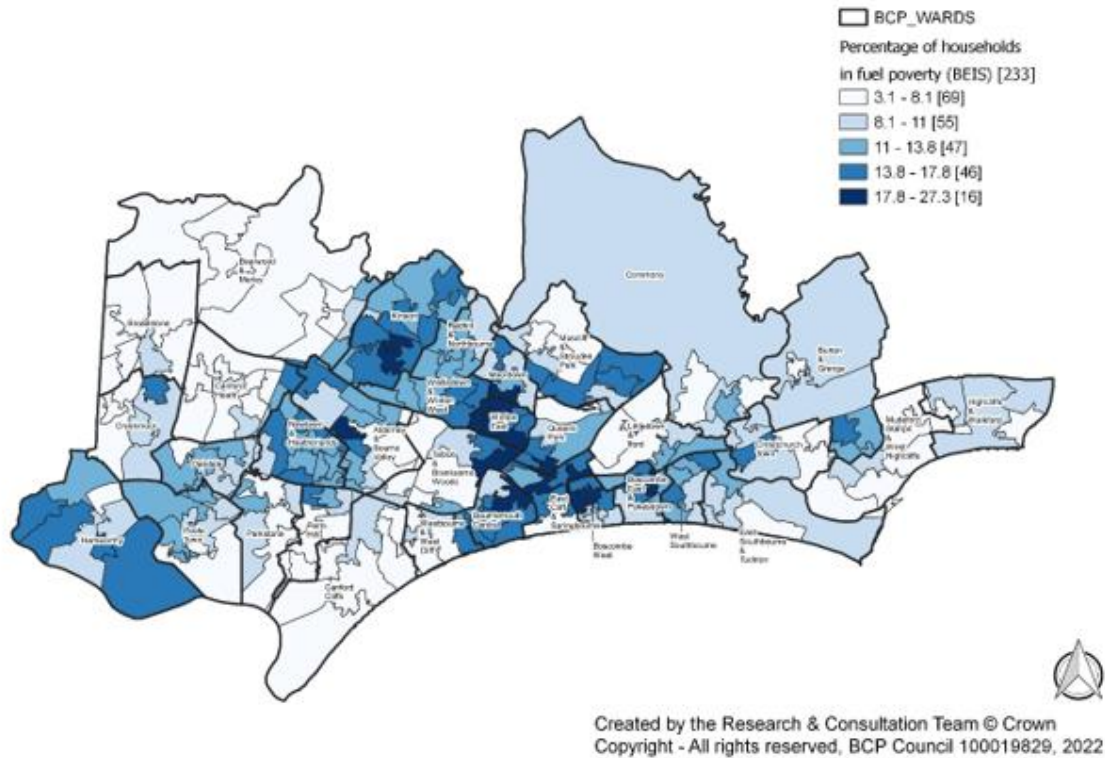


## Fuel Poverty

5. The wards where we see the highest percentage of households in fuel poverty correlate to our priority neighbourhoods - those in the 20% most deprived under the Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2019.
6. A household is defined as being fuel poor if it is living in a property with an energy efficiency rating of band D, E, F or G and the household disposable income (after housing costs and energy needs) is below the poverty line, which is defined as an equivalised disposable income of less than 60% of the national median.

<sup>1</sup> Experian's Mosaic data uses geodemographic classifications of households. Particular characteristics including likely household income can be identified.

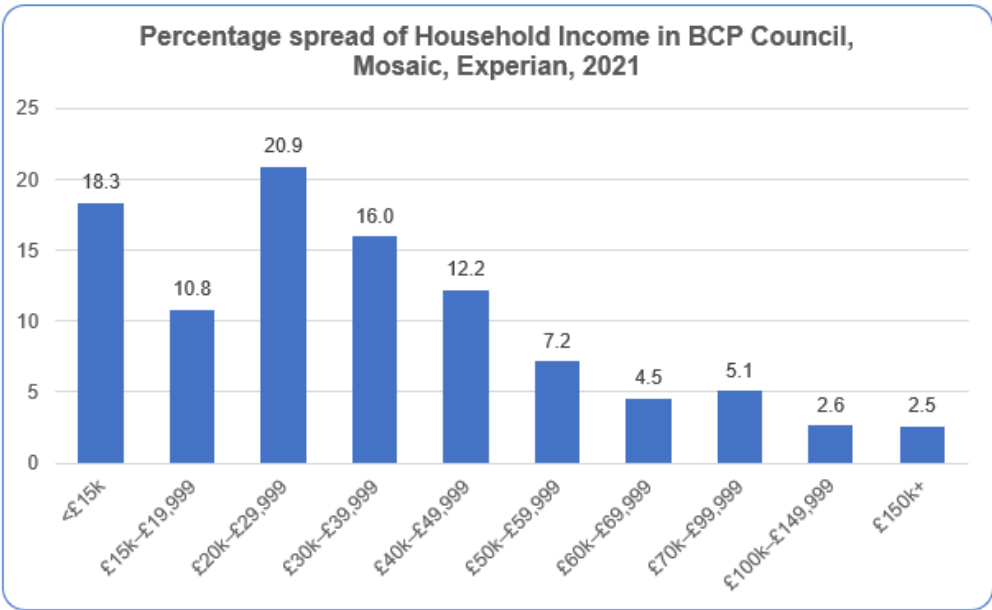
Figure 3: Fuel Poverty in BCP by ward



Household income in BCP

7. Nearly 50% of households in BCP are estimated to earn less than £30K per annum. Figure 3 highlights the percentage of households experiencing fuel poverty per ward with Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole. Based on the assumption that households who use more than 10% of their income on fuel, the new £2.5K energy cap now suggests that around 30% of BCP households are classified as being fuel poor.

Figure 4: Household income in BCP





## Hardest hit

8. Research from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation<sup>2</sup> details that those hardest hit by the cost of living crisis are those already on the lowest income or experiencing income deprivation. The pressures created by high inflation are further exacerbated by increased costs of goods and energy, putting further pressure onto household budgets alongside a reduction of the range of goods in store, particularly budget items, forcing households to buy more expensive items or go without.
9. National research has identified a “Poverty Premium” where those living in poverty are more likely to have to pay more for certain products than households in less deprived areas. Further research has identified a link between the poverty premium and particular protected characteristics. It is recognised that there is a risk of those on low incomes being charged more for banking and credit related products. This is likely to include being on non-standard payment methods for energy or costly tariffs, a risk of underinsurance due to the costs, geographical based premium (insurance will cost more in deprived areas where premiums may be higher due to risk calculations) and facing a high cost for credit due to the having a poorer credit score. Tenure (renting) and digital capability was also seen as factors which could mean certain groups ending up paying more.
10. The risk of paying a poverty premium was found to be greater among those with certain protected characteristics – including race, age and disability as well as health, migration history, sex and religion. The national research commissioned by Fair by Design<sup>3</sup> and undertaken by Bristol University found that across the constituencies covering Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole its estimated that the average cost of this “premium” to a household in poverty is between £384 and £440.
11. Although this report was written during the pandemic the findings are also relevant to the current cost of living crisis. The report recognises that certain minority groups including the younger population, the more elderly, females and disabled are more likely to be impacted. The particular protected characteristics are listed and explained below.
  - Sex – Women generally are paid less per hour and work far fewer paid hours over a lifetime. Women are also more likely to lose paid income due to caring responsibilities. This means single women, pensioners and single parents are very vulnerable as a result of low incomes. In BCP around 8%<sup>4</sup> of females are in single person households. A further 7% of the population are in households with a female lone parent.
  - Race – Some minority populations are more likely to work in low-paid occupations, there are also higher unemployment rates in some BAME groups while black workers are more likely to have insecure work. In 2011 around 5.8%<sup>5</sup> of the population in BCP classified themselves as black or minority ethnic with an additional 5.8% classified as White Irish, Gypsy or Irish Traveller or Other White.
  - Age – it is noted that certain pensioner groups are more likely to be in poverty. This includes Asian or Black pensioners, single female pensioners and pensioners with

---

<sup>2</sup> [Not heating, eating or meeting bills: managing a cost of living crisis on a low income | JRF](#)

<sup>3</sup> The Inequality of Poverty – Exploring the link between the [poverty premium](#) and protected characteristics Sara Davies and David Collings, University of Bristol, February 2021

<sup>4</sup> Household composition in BCP, 2011 Census

<sup>5</sup> Ethnic Group, 2011 Census, ONS

disabilities. It was however the under 35s that were found to be at most risk of poverty as they are more likely to be in low-paid work, housing costs are higher for this age group than for previous generations and they are not accruing wealth through homeownership. In BCP around 22%<sup>6</sup> of the population are aged over 65 with 11.5% of the population aged 25-34. In 2011 over 53% of household heads aged 25-34 were renting in the private sector.

- Disability – the research also found a strong relationship between poverty and disability with mental health prevalence far higher among those in poverty. Across BCP there are nearly 17,300<sup>7</sup> individuals eligible to receive Personal Independence Payments (PIP) with over 6,700 in receipt of this benefit to support psychiatric disorders.

12. The research also explained the importance of intersectionality with those included in a larger number of protected characteristics more likely to be impacted by the poverty premium.

### **Strength Based approaches to working with communities**

13. As part of the Council's transformation, the Communities and Partnerships workstream has been looking at how we work with other public, private, and voluntary sector organisations, residents, and community groups across Bournemouth, Christchurch, and Poole, to deliver positive outcomes for the area and our communities.
14. The strength based approach to working with our communities is at the heart of how we will take these elements forward. It has incorporated best practice, such as strength-based working, which builds on the assets, resources, skills and experience which already exist in communities and empowers local individuals, communities and organisations to address local need and deliver positive outcomes.
15. The BCP Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2020-2023 has a priority to 'empower and engage with communities with the highest need in order to improve healthy life expectancy'. In June 2021, the Board approved the development of the Vibrant Communities Partnership Board to oversee the strategic development and delivery of key workstreams to enable the growth and development of Vibrant Communities.
16. The Vibrant Communities Partnership Board takes a partnership approach to developing vibrant communities in the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole area by:
  - overseeing the delivery of the Community and Voluntary Sector and Volunteering Strategy across Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole ensuring that volunteering and social action is strengthened
  - overseeing the delivery of the Community Engagement and Consultation Strategy across Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole, ensuring that there are meaningful, accessible routes for residents and partners to engage with each other so that everyone's voice can be heard
  - supporting the development of vibrant communities in our priority neighbourhoods using strength-based approaches via a dedicated Community Development Team
  - championing the use of strength-based approaches across all partners, focussing on what's strong, not what's wrong, in our communities and enabling communities to do more for themselves

---

<sup>6</sup> Mid-2020 Population Estimates, ONS

<sup>7</sup> Personal Independence Payments, Stat Xplore, February 2022, DWP

- ensuring that we use the Lived Experience to shape our services and embracing co-design
- promoting partnership working between local public services, the voluntary and community sector and local communities to enable greater support for those in need

## **Impact on the Voluntary and Community Sector**

17. There has been a significant decrease in donations to community food settings such as food banks as more people struggle with household costs. Surplus food from supermarkets has reduced and is likely to be further reduced by the recent agreement to remove best before dates on food. Alongside this, there has been a significant increase in people seeking support through community food settings. This is causing several local food settings to pay for more food to supplement existing stock supplies. The lack of storage space, particularly for Poole based food settings, as well as store restrictions on bulk buying restricts food settings from building up resilient stores for the winter.
18. The increased costs of goods and energy bills impacts on voluntary and community sector organisations and groups, as well as the volunteers that help to run this work. Although charities can apply for rate relief they are only eligible for 80% as a maximum relief which can equate to £6,000- £8,000 of a charity's funding being spent on business rates each year.

## **Winter Challenges**

19. The cost of living increase may get worse before it gets better, hence the need to develop longer-term resilience within our communities, based on the assets and strengths they have, rather than an over reliance on financial support.
20. It will also affect businesses, which presents a risk of potential business closures or reductions and ultimately job losses. We are more likely to see these in areas such as the hospitality industry, which are dependent on discretionary spend, and in small businesses which have already been hit hard by the pandemic.
21. Surveys by charities suggest the cost of living crisis is having a significant impact on the victims of domestic violence. In July 2022 the charity Refuge<sup>8</sup> reported that 73% of frontline workers said the cost of living crisis was increasing the barriers to leaving a perpetrator. 75% of respondents said the crisis meant survivors needed to use foodbanks for essentials and 92% said it is pushing survivors into further debt.
22. An August 2022 survey by Women's Aid<sup>9</sup> found that 96% of survivors responding had seen a negative impact on the amount of money available to them as a result of the cost of living increases. Two-thirds of survivors reported that abusers were using the cost of living and concerns about financial hardship as a tool of coercive control and around 73% of women living with the abuser said that the cost of living crisis had prevented or made it harder to leave. There are also risks relating to exploitation, along with an increase in fraud, scams and acquisitive crime.
23. With less money to afford the everyday essentials there is likely to be an increase in loan shark activity, particularly for those already on the lowest incomes, with families. Loan

<sup>8</sup> <https://refuge.org.uk/news/cost-of-living-crisis-is-impacting-survivors-of-domestic-abuse/>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.womensaid.org.uk/the-cost-of-living/>

shark activity is very difficult to detect and tackle as the loan sharks use fear, intimidation and violence as a means to remain undetected. National research from the Think Tank Centre for Social Justice<sup>10</sup> estimates as many as 1.08M people could be borrowing from an illegal money lender with victims experiencing multiple deprivation including low income, already owing money to a legal creditor and having a long-term health condition. Data from the Citizen Advice Centres shows that across BCP currently the most common form of debt the CAB helps with is energy debts<sup>11</sup>. There has been an upward trends in online scams and fraud which is the subject of targeted activity by the Trading Standards Service, particularly where our most vulnerable communities are impacted. In addition, this trend has been identified within the annual strategic assessment of the Safer BCP Partnership and programmes for preventative action are in development.

24. There is likely to be an increase in avoidable hospitalisations and winter deaths, particularly among the elderly and those with an underlying health condition and on low incomes as they may choose to 'eat over heat', leaving them susceptible to health conditions such as pneumonia whilst living in cold/damp conditions.
25. It is possible that we will see an increase in evictions, repossessions and homelessness applications as people are unable to pay their rent or mortgages due to the lack of income and the protections afforded during the pandemic are no longer in place. We are already seeing increased consumer borrowing as people look to use credit cards and loans to help with the cost of living. This year mortgage repossessions have returned to pre-pandemic levels and are on course to match the total number for 2019. Approaches due to the end of private rented sector (PRS) tenancies are at an average of ninety-two per month in 2022, up from seventy-six in 2021. These PRS figures are inclusive of all factors. For rent arrears related reasons specifically the monthly averages have stayed approximately the same across the past three years. Whilst the expectation is that these rates will rise, we do not yet have the data to clarify. We are seeing a steady increase in families presenting to the Council as homeless or being threatened with homelessness.
26. As we saw during the pandemic, there may be an increase in substance abuse as people turn to drink and/or drugs to deal with the pressures they are experiencing. BCP has higher than national average at presentations to A&E with alcohol related conditions - 862 admissions per 100,000 for BCP against 644 admissions national average in 2020/21. Good pathways and close liaison is in place with the hospitals covering BCP, but the majority of individuals do not engage with treatment although alcohol is impacting on their circumstances
27. The cost of all food, but particularly fresh food such as fruit and veg has increased, which may result in changes in eating habits such as consuming less fresh fruit and vegetables and more processed food containing higher fat and sugar levels. The British Medical Journal detailed in an article on 22 September 2022 that a survey of over 500 paediatricians found "*almost two thirds (60%) believed that the crisis was already affecting the health and wellbeing of children and young people. Paediatricians have reported seeing rising mental health concerns in patients and their families, increased poor nutrition, and a rise in families being unable to attend medical appointments as transport costs rise*"<sup>12</sup>. The sale of microwavable meals has increased due to the affordability and reduced energy required to cook them and these are also more likely to

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.centreforsocialjustice.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/CSJ-Illegal-lending-paper.pdf>

<sup>11</sup> <https://public.flourish.studio/story/1634399/>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.bmj.com/content/379/bmj.o2286>

have a higher fat content and be less nutritionally balanced. This may have a follow-on effect in future years as people develop unhealthy eating habits, resulting in increases in obesity, diabetes etc.

28. Suicide, suicide attempts, mental wellbeing and depression may also increase, exacerbated by the potential contributing factors highlighted above including financial worries, family break down, substance mis-use etc. Research from the Money and Mental Health Policy Institute in July 2022 found that 59% of UK adults surveyed said that the cost of living crisis has had a negative impact on their mental health, such as leaving them feeling anxious, depressed or hopeless<sup>13</sup>. Its previous research highlighted *“People in problem debt are three times more likely to have considered suicide than people who are not in problem debt and Long-term factors such as persistent poverty and financial insecurity can put people in at risk of becoming suicidal, as can sudden triggers like the intimidating and threatening letters people receive from lenders”*<sup>14</sup>

## Action Being Taken by the Council and Partners

### Cost of Living Conference

29. In July 2022, the Communities Team held a conference for over 100 frontline workers in the BCP area to raise awareness on the forthcoming cost of living situation and highlighted the range of support already available. The aim of the event was to enable frontline workers to signpost residents to support if they identified someone struggling with the cost of living as part of their day-to-day role. Most of the frontline workers were unaware of the wide range of support available to communities or how it could be accessed. All were given a USB stick with information about the existing support and took away pledges to share that information with their colleagues. The event was deemed a success and at the request of the attendees more are planned during the autumn to share information about new and emerging support, including the Household Support Fund.

### BCP Access to Food Partnership

30. The partnership was formed under the Together We Can programme in April 2020 and has a strength-based Vision to create:

*“a Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole where everyone is able to feed themselves and their family nutritious food, all of the time”*

31. The partnership is led by a steering group of BCP Council, Faithworks Wessex, Public Health Dorset, Community Action Network and local Community Food organisations. The broader partnership is made up of over 200 individuals from over 90 organisations, many of which have signed up to the Access to Food Partnership Charter. The partnership received Lottery funding in April 2022 to continue its work over the next three years. Key elements of the partnership mission are:

- To ensure everyone can access food when in crisis,
- To equip individuals & families with the confidence, skills & resources to consistently feed themselves nourishing food.

---

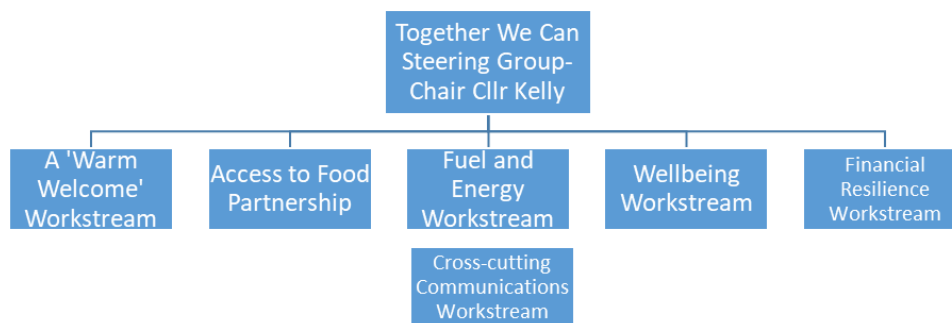
<sup>13</sup> [Cost of living crisis effect on mental health - Money and Mental Health](#)

<sup>14</sup> [Financial difficulty and suicide - Money and Mental Health](#)

- To bring local communities together to identify needs, seize opportunities and solve problems, using local strengths and community assets,
  - To share good information about the local community food offering
  - To make access to food a priority in local policy and decision making.
32. BCP Council employs a Community Food Coordinator to support the partnership to:
- Raise awareness of the support available for those experiencing food insecurity to access free food resources in their communities.
  - Build stronger working networks and share resources across the conurbation to improve access to such services and support.
  - Work with various organisations, groups and local communities, to identify gaps and opportunities to improve how those most vulnerable in our communities can access these food choices.
  - Work holistically, listening broadly and listening deeply to capture lived experience and look to develop sustainable solutions to food insecurity.
33. Since the partnership formed in 2020 over 1,152 frontline staff have been trained in food resilience and how to access community food offers. 81% of schools across Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole are now linked to a local food setting. The partnership has also distributed £192,000 of Household Support Funding to community food settings to enable them to support communities directly during the current financial year.
34. The partnership has developed an Access to Food map, which identifies a range of community food support available across the conurbation and how residents and frontline workers can refer to and access it. This includes over 58 community food settings such as foodbanks, community fridges, social supermarkets, community meals, food parcels, community growing projects and cooking workshops. Since its launch it has been accessed over 49,000 times with 20,000 hits in the last quarter. The map is available as an app version to download to your phone via [www.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/accesstofoodpartnership](http://www.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/accesstofoodpartnership)

### **Together We Can (TWC) Steering Group**

35. The TWC steering group was established in 2020 to lead the community resilience response to the pandemic. It has continued to meet on a monthly basis and has now agreed to move to fortnightly meetings to ensure it can deliver a multi-agency co-ordinated approach to supporting our residents over the winter months. Membership of the steering group currently consists of representatives from the teams in Communities, Housing, Communications, Adult Social Care, Customer, Policy & Performance, Early Years and Emergency Planning. The group also includes representation from a wide range of statutory and voluntary and community organisations including Citizen's Advice, Community Action Network, Clinical Commissioning Group, Faithworks, Dorset Race Equality Council, Prama, Public Health Dorset and the NHS. Membership is fluid based around the current focus of the group and would expand to bring in additional partners around fuel and energy under the proposed governance structure below.
36. The following details the governance structure for the TWC Steering Group overseeing the winter resilience response work:



## Household Support Fund (HSF)

37. Household Support Fund 1 ran between October 2021 and the end of March 2022 and focussed on providing support to two cohorts of residents - households with children and households without children - with support in accessing food and keeping warm over the winter. Through the scheme 63,408 vouchers were issued to households with children and support was provided to 9,166 households through a range of methods such as vouchers, support from community food setting and access to warm clothing depending on the individual needs.
38. The Communities team are currently delivering HSF 2 which ran from April 22 until the end of September and focussed on providing support to households with children, households with pensioners and 'other' households. At the mid-way monitoring point in July 2022, we had issued 24,695 vouchers to households with children, 3,002 to households with pensioners and 4,199 to other households. HSF3 runs from October 2022 to March 2023 and this fund is not ringfenced to specific groups as in previous rounds, but there is an increase in the level of monitoring information that is required. This will put pressure of those delivering the scheme. Funding amounts have been confirmed as the same amounts as for the previous schemes - £2,653,367.04 and are part of a wider package of support under the new Prime Minister. It is proposed that activities set out under the 'Further Work in Development or Underway' section of this report, which require additional funding, are funded through the Household Support Fund, in line with the guidance.

## Safe and Well Visits

39. It is extremely likely that residents will start to use alternative ways to keep themselves warm during the winter months to reduce heating costs such as electric heaters or open flame fires - these all come with an increased risk of fire to the residents and their properties. There is also concern that more people will run household appliances during the night when fuel costs are lower, which is a fire hazard concern.
40. Safe and Well visits are a free service offered by Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service (DWFRS) to help keep people safe in their homes. Residents can request a home visit to get advice around the following topics:



- Using electricity safely
- Cooking safely
- Making an escape plan
- What to do if there is a fire
- Keeping children safe
- Good practice – night-time routine and other points relevant to you
- Identifying and discussing any further support needed

41. DWFRS also operate the Safe and Independent Living (SAIL) scheme, which is a signposting service offering support to help people live independently and safer in their own homes. It is an online referral tool which enables people to access information around a range of subjects such as lunch clubs, money worries, warmer homes, online scams, stop smoking and many others. [Dorset & Wiltshire Fire Service | Safe and Well visits \(dwfire.org.uk\)](https://www.dwfire.org.uk)

### **Bournemouth Christchurch and Poole Affordable Warmth Partnership**

42. This multi-agency, Climate Action Team co-ordinated group delivers energy, poverty and home safety assistance to residents. The Council works with local provider, Ridgewater Energy, that deliver schemes including [Local Energy Advice Partnership \(LEAP\)](#), Healthy Homes Dorset, LEAP Boilers, ECO-Flex grants and others. Residents who meet the eligibility criteria can access services such as free loft or cavity wall insulation and heating improvements, emergency boiler replacements and LEAP Home Energy Advice visits. LEAP give advice and install free energy saving measures such as low energy LED lightbulbs, reflective radiator panels, shower savers and draught-proofing. These activities regularly achieve inward investment, energy and health savings of approximately £3m per year and reduce emissions by 3,000 tCO<sub>2</sub>e.

### **Homelessness Reduction Partnership**

43. The Homelessness Partnership is made up of over 45 services and organisations from all sectors, with the overall aim of preventing and relieving all forms of homelessness. The partnership has co-produced a Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy. It has formed the Homelessness Reduction Board (HRB), Homelessness Forum and various action groups. The work of the partnership has been commended by DLUHC and national organisations such as the Centre for Homelessness Impact, Crisis and Homeless Link.

44. The partnership, led by the HRB, has placed increasing focus on the prevention of homelessness, including upstream prevention, with growing concerns about the cost of living. One of the action groups specifically relates to financial resilience, with focus on helping people including family households remain in their homes. They provide targeted information regarding early intervention and help with budgeting and other monetary concerns. In addition, the partnership has a Meaningful Occupation action group to help people find employment and training. There are also strong links to the Access to Food partnership.

45. A wider Prevention Action Group was launched on 22 September which encompasses an even broader range of homelessness prevention activity and is being facilitated by Crisis. This follows on from the inaugural Homelessness Partnership conference on 14



September where the overall theme was prevention, with around one hundred attendees from over forty local services and organisations.

46. All this partnership activity supplements the prevention work undertaken by the council's housing options team which includes working closely with landlords and other providers to help prevent evictions – including those driven by rent arrears.

### **Citizen's Advice (CA) in BCP**

47. CA provide a wide range of free support to BCP communities and in 2021/22, supported 12,322 BCP residents with 31,665 issues. Using the Government's approved financial modelling this equates to an economic and social value of £28,588,649. The financial value of this work equates to £10,837,954 and the saving to government and public services is £3,577,659. CA have seen a 72% increase in demand for their services between 2020/21 and 2021/22. They are recognised nationally as one of the flagship CA services in the UK and the funding that the council provides for their core staffing enables them to also apply for and deliver funding from DWP, Money Advice Service, Pension Wise, Macmillan Cancer support, Sovereign Housing, Big Lottery, Wessex Water etc. Support can be accessed via face to face appointments, drop-ins, web chat, email or through outreach at community locations, including the Urban Advice Vehicle.  
[Home - Citizens Advice Bournemouth Christchurch & Poole \(citizensadvicebcp.org.uk\)](https://citizensadvicebcp.org.uk)

### **£150 Rebate**

48. Approximately 140,000 residents within Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole are eligible to receive the £150 energy rebate announced by Government in February 2022. Despite there being no system to process the rebate payments, Procurement, ICT and Revenue and Benefits worked together to swiftly procure a system which allows residents who pay by Direct Debit (DD) to receive their rebate automatically. Libraries and customer contact centres have been supporting residents who do not pay by DD to claim their rebate. All eligible residents were paid by 30 September, approximately 92,000 were paid automatically, 31,000 had the rebate paid into their bank account and 17,000 had the payment credited to their council tax account. In total we paid £20.95m.
49. To ensure all eligible residents received the rebate, those who did not submit an application for the rebate, had the £150 credited to their Council Tax before the closing date of 30 September. Associated with this will be clear messaging that any second homeowners who are ineligible will need to repay the amount credited.
50. In addition to the Energy Rebate Scheme the Council was awarded £816K to create a Discretionary Scheme to be paid by 30 November. This scheme applies to taxpayers in Band E to H properties and in receipt of Council Tax Support or Disablement Reduction who are entitled to a £150 rebate. The next phase of this scheme will be published shortly.

### **Cost of Living Working Group**

51. A cost of living working group has been set up with registered housing providers that have stock in the BCP area and involves: Sovereign Housing, Abri Housing, Housing 21 and Sandbourne alongside BCP Homes. The purpose of the group is to:
  - understand the impact of the cost of living on our residents

- share good practice and innovative ideas
- keep abreast of the national picture and updates
- share knowledge, funding streams and resources
- understand opportunities for joint working and projects

52. There was recognition from the group that the impact is wide reaching and will negatively affect income collection levels as residents have to make tough decisions on whether to heat their homes, feed themselves and families or pay their rent. Some will choose to switch off their heating systems which will increase levels of damp and mould within the properties, increasing repair and maintenance costs, impact residents' health and increase pressures on the health services and social care. As well as deterioration in physical health it is expected to have a huge impact on resident's mental health.

53. Areas discussed for consideration among the group were:

- A hardship fund – with clarity required on the criteria and what this should be used for, a couple of providers were operating this since COVID and can share the details.
- Void standard – currently all properties are unfurnished without carpets, with many new tenants unable to afford flooring and do not have the required furniture. This has only been exacerbated by all nominations currently being from the homeless pathway. New residents are signposted to existing upcycling charities to help furnish.
- Under-occupation with many having to heat homes bigger than they require. Sovereign have an under-occupation scheme that can pay for removals, clear arrears etc. BCP Homes have a scheme that can be extended out to the Housing Associations to fund the removals if BCP Council have the nomination rights to the property vacated, identified joint work where Sovereign could clear the arrears and BCP Homes would support and fund the removals. This scheme is currently operating in the Poole neighbourhood has been successful moving on average 40 households a year and likely to be extended across Bournemouth.
- Tenancy Sustainment/support teams that assist residents in maintaining their tenancies, these services will be under even further pressures with those that are working as well as those on benefits being impacted on and requiring assistance. This alongside an increasing number of tenants moving into the social housing stock with complex needs and vulnerabilities. Additional capacity has recently been secured to provide more case management of BCP tenancies but this may still not be enough.
- Welfare Benefit Advice and Financial Inclusion, with the maximisation of income and awareness of various funds available. £1,281,425 additional income was achieved within the Poole neighbourhood from the Your Money Team, and £149,373 additional income through one Financial Inclusion Officer in the Bournemouth neighbourhood within BCP Homes last financial year, but there is recognition that there won't be enough that can be done to support some residents that simply won't be able to afford the cost of living.

### **Further Work in Development or Underway**

#### **Provision of information on the support that is available – for residents, staff and frontline workers including**

54. The Communities Team are currently updating online and offline information points with clear simple links to key support as previously developed under Together We Can during the pandemic. There will be a further Cost of Living event in the Autumn for frontline workers to raise awareness of the support that is available to communities and ensure we have effective signposting across the system to support colleagues on how to access

support in the correct ways. A programme of sharing information at community events and locations will take place alongside information sharing on the intranet and via the Senior Leadership Network to support available to staff and managers in BCP Council.

55. Work is taking place with partners to support and share the goodwill of the Community, connecting individuals and groups that want to help with those in need such as food and financial donations, community activity, facilitating "I need and I can give you" offers

### **Communications campaign**

56. A communications campaign is being developed to raise awareness of existing and new support, ensuring we are using both digital and non-digital content. This will include using community locations people already go to such as libraries and GPs surgeries, utilising community buildings across the Integrated Care System.

### **Funding through grant schemes**

57. The details of the Household Support Fund 3 are now confirmed. The council will work with the community and voluntary sector to develop and deliver support based on the needs of the community.
58. We are awaiting the outcome of our business plan submitted for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund which contains proposals to support energy efficient measures in community buildings and additional support for the community and voluntary sector.
59. Increased promotion of existing energy grants that are available through national schemes and other existing partnerships such as LEAP, Ridgewater Energy and BCP Council.

### **Develop a network of 'A Warm Welcome' spaces**

60. There is a growing movement across the country to develop a network of warm welcoming locations where people who are struggling to afford energy bills can go to warm up. We are proposing the development of a network of 'A Warm Welcome' spaces across BCP, including the promotion of existing support such as lunch clubs, social activities etc. and a directory of Warm Welcome spaces such as the recent announcement of a Warm Welcome space at Rossmore Leisure Centre. Through the Household Support Fund we will explore helping additional groups, communities and businesses to open up and/or extend access to warm space.

### **Access to hot food and cooking facilities – community kitchens and community meals**

61. The Access to Food Partnership will continue to develop a network of locations where people can prepare bulk food together, either as a community or as a household, through open drop in session or organised events. It will continue to help additional groups, communities and business to open up their kitchens as community kitchens – understanding the barriers, creating guidance sheets and linking to support such as food hygiene training/environmental health etc.
62. It will continue to promote cooking clubs, lunch clubs and other community meals and available courses and using the partnership's small grant funding scheme to fund

equipment that enables cheaper home cooking such as air fryers (distributed through community food projects).

### **Access to food supply**

63. The Access to Food Partnership will work with supermarkets and the food supply chain, engaging with retailers to enable bulk buying for community food settings such as Food Banks to enable them to build resilient stores for the Winter. It will also work with the Access to Food network and local employers to identify additional food collection points to make food more accessible for those working shifts, weekends and evenings when community food setting are traditionally closed. Working closely with communities and partnerships it will work to identify our most vulnerable groups and ensure they have access to food through a range of community settings and solutions.

64. It will also link surplus food and produce from allotment and community growing to community food projects, proactively making these connections and ensuring food is shared and reducing food waste. Along side this it will look at how we can make food go further, sharing ideas and support to help food go further, such as batch cooking, preserving and other ideas.

### **Effect on colleagues:**

65. The council is aware that its staff will be feeling the significant impact of the increase in cost of living. We are mindful that 57% of the workforce are receiving an *actual* annual salary of less than £25K and this may be the sole income for a household.

66. Some of the initiatives and support provided to colleagues is set out below.

### **Information and advice**

67. Our internal Employee Assistance programme provided by Health Assured offers several services to support financial wellbeing and provides other information on services available to BCP colleagues. It has been brought together and promoted internally through the Wellbeing pages on the HR hub and includes:

- Our benefits – employee discounts and savings scheme
- Travel discounts
- Managing money and debt advice
- Food support
- Childcare support
- Housing, Council Tax and benefits advice

Sessions offering support, advice, and guidance on managing finances, household budgets and sharing ideas are being run for staff during October and November.

### **National pay award**

68. Negotiations between the National Employers and the unions representing the main local government NJC workforce are expected to conclude by mid October.

69. The offer includes the following:

- With effect from 1 April 2022, an increase of £1,925 on all NJC pay points.
- With effect from 1 April 2022, an increase of 4.04 per cent on all allowances
- With effect from 1 April 2023, an increase of one day to all employees' annual leave entitlement
- With effect from 1 April 2023, the deletion of pay point 1 from the NJC pay spine

This offer would achieve a bottom rate of pay of £10.50 with effect from 1 April 2022 (which equates to a pay increase of 10.50 per cent for employees on pay point 1).

Everyone on the NJC pay spine would receive a minimum 4.04 per cent pay increase and across all colleagues this offer equates to a 5.4% increase for our workforce.

The deletion of pay point 1 on 1 April 2023, would increase the bottom rate to £10.60 (providing 10p headroom above the current upper-end forecast for the national living wage on that date), pending agreement being reached on a 2023 pay award.

Two of the three negotiating trade unions (GMB and UNISON) are in the process of consulting their members on this final pay offer with a neutral stance on whether the offer should be accepted or rejected. The third negotiating union (Unite) have consulted their members with a recommendation that the offer should be rejected.

## **National and Real living wage**

70. Since its introduction in 2014, the national living wage has presented a huge challenge for local government in managing to maintain headroom between the bottom pay points and the statutory national living wage. Local government is almost alone in the public sector in having this challenge. Other public sector pay structures' lower rates of pay are far enough above the national living wage for it not to present the same pressure as we face and involve a far smaller proportion of those sectors' workforces than is the case in local government.
71. Through our work on the Pay and Reward programme we are taking the opportunity to explore options, subject to the Medium Term Financial Plan, to pay our lowest salaries at least equal to or higher than the real living wage.

## **Pay and Reward & Employee Benefits**

72. The implementation of pay and reward will also see the introduction of a new suite of employee benefits as part of the Total Reward package offered to colleagues. This will include salary sacrifice schemes that will enable colleagues to access tax and NI savings on various products and services. The schemes also include a new Financial wellbeing benefit that offers colleagues the opportunity to improve their financial wellbeing by:
  - accessing via their salary, financial resources and tools
  - affordable loans and opportunities for debt consolidation
  - advances on pay
  - flexible savings accounts with access to tracker apps

We are exploring options to bring this in as early as possible ahead of the wider implementation of the pay and reward programme as we recognise that colleagues could benefit from this now.

## **Our new ways of working**

73. Our new ways of working offer several colleagues choice over how and where they work, presenting opportunities to reduce commuting costs and commuting time, improving both home and work life balance
74. Our new HR policies and guidance for managers support and encourage colleagues to explore these options and to think about how different ways of working can benefit both them and the service they are providing.
75. Consideration has been given to the car mileage allowance that is reimbursed to colleagues when undertaking business travel to ascertain whether the amount claimable at least meets and covers the cost of both fuel and the wear and tear of the vehicle. As it stands currently, it is considered that despite the rising cost of fuel, that the amount claimable does still cover these costs and the mileage rates claimable therefore remain unchanged.

## **Income**

76. The Council raises considerable income, in the order of £30m each year from charging fees for services and goods, which represents a significant proportion of our overall income, which is used to fund revenue services. As a result of the inflationary effects on the costs of energy, materials and supplies we are working on the basis of increasing all fees and charges by a further 10% on top of the current fee levels, including the most recent increases. A target 10% increase for all fees and charges will be implemented by officers between January and April.
77. This will include reviewing proposals to finalise the harmonisation of car parking charges, including the proposals to standardise rates between similar types of car parks to remove many of the anomalies that exist, and will also include a review of new areas of charges, including the potential to introduce overnight parking fees and additional areas of controlled parking near to the most popular sites.
78. Officers will also carry out more in-depth benchmarking to ensure that our fees and charges are comparable with other authorities, as well as ensuring they do cover the full costs of providing the service wherever possible. Recent benchmarking has shown the opportunity to increase the fees for some services such as green bins and some significant anomalies in the prices charged by local authorities for some regulatory services.

## **Policy for Fees and Charges**

79. As a matter of policy, we should be maximising our income to cover the cost of services provided implementing the following hierarchy of decisions:
  - a) Charge where we can, using cashless methods wherever possible
  - b) Full cost recovery, calculated to cover all ancillary costs, not just direct costs
  - c) Maximise commercial return, and use market comparisons to set fees
  - d) Increase all fees by inflation each year in January-March
  - e) Lobby government where statutory fees do not cover the full cost of the service

Officers will now implement this strategy in full for all services where fees are charged.

### **Summary of Financial Implications**

80. A decision was taken on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022 by the Chief Executive of BCP Council under Part 3 (Responsibility for Functions), Delegations to Chief Officers, line 68, in the revised Constitution, to accept the £2,653,367.04 allocated by the Department for Work and Pensions under the current Household Support Fund 3.
81. The funding is to provide support between October 2022 and March 2023.
82. The funding is to be allocated in line with the funding guidance in consultation with the Chief Operations Officer and relevant Service Directors.

### **Summary of Legal Implications**

83. None identified

### **Summary of Human Resources Implications**

84. The impact on council colleagues is set out in the body of the report.

### **Summary of Sustainability Impact**

85. None identified

### **Summary of Equality Implications**

86. All protected groups are impacted by the cost of living pressures and section 10 of the report particularly notes the impact of the poverty premium on race, age and disability as well as health, migration history, sex and religion.

### **Summary of Risk Assessment**

87. No risks have been identified

This page is intentionally left blank



## CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE



Report subject	<b>Work Plan</b>
Meeting date	25 October 2022
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	The Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Corporate and Community O&S Committee have worked with Officers to identify the priority areas of work for the Committee with contributions from the Committee members. The work priorities of the Committee have been developed on the basis of risk. The proposed Work Plan is attached at Appendix A. The Committee is asked to consider the proposals contained in the Work Plan and approve or amend the contents. A link to the current published Cabinet Forward Plan is included within the report to aid the Committee in deciding on its priorities for scrutiny.
<b>Recommendations</b>	<b>It is RECOMMENDED that the Corporate and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee amend as appropriate and then approve the Work Plan attached at Appendix A to this report.</b>
Reason for recommendations	The Council's Constitution requires all Overview and Scrutiny bodies to set out proposed work in a Work Plan which will be published with each agenda.

Portfolio Holder(s):	Not applicable
Corporate Director	Graham Farrant, Chief Executive
Contributors	Lindsay Marshall, Overview and Scrutiny Specialist
Wards	N/A
Classification	For Decision

## Background

1. All Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) bodies are required by the Constitution to consider work priorities and set these out in a Work Plan. When approved, this should be published with each agenda.
2. The Constitution requires that the Work Plan of O&S bodies shall consist of work aligned to the principles of the function. The BCP Council O&S function is based upon six principles:
  1. Contributes to sound decision making in a timely way by holding decision makers to account as a 'critical friend'.
  2. A member led and owned function – seeks to continuously improve through self-reflection and development. Enables the voice and concerns of the public to be heard and reflected in the Council's decision-making process.
  3. Engages in decision making and policy development at an appropriate time to be able to have influence.
  4. Contributes to and reflects the vision and priorities of the council.
  5. Agile – able to respond to changing and emerging priorities at the right time with flexible working methods.
3. The O&S Committee may take suggestions from a variety of sources to form its Work Plan. This may include suggestions from members of the public, Officers of the Council, Portfolio Holders, the Cabinet and Council, members of the Committee, and other Councillors who are not on the Committee.
4. The Constitution requires that all suggestions for O&S work will be accompanied by detail outlining the background to the issue suggested, the proposed method of undertaking the work and likely timescale associated, and the anticipated outcome and value to be added by the work proposed. No item of work shall join the Work Plan of the O&S Committee without an assessment of this information.

## Summary of financial implications

5. When establishing a Work Plan, the Constitution requires the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to take into account the resources, including Councillor

availability, Officer and financial resources, available to support their proposals. The Committee may wish to consider the Cabinet Forward Plan to aid in planning its work: [BCP Council – Democracy](#)

6. To ensure sufficient resource availability across all O&S bodies, Officer advice is that, in addition to agenda items, one additional item of scrutiny inquiry work may be commissioned by an Overview and Scrutiny body at any one time. This may take the form of a working group or task and finish group, for example. Bodies commissioned by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee may have conferred upon them the power to act on behalf of the parent body in considering issues within the remit of the parent body and making recommendations directly to Portfolio Holders, Cabinet, Council or other bodies or people within the Council or externally as appropriate.

#### **Summary of legal implications**

7. The Council's Constitution requires all Overview and Scrutiny bodies to set out proposed work in a Work Plan which will be published with each agenda.

#### **Summary of human resources implications**

8. N/A to this decision

#### **Summary of environmental impact**

9. N/A to this decision

#### **Summary of public health implications**

10. N/A to this decision

#### **Summary of equality implications**

11. Any member of the public may make suggestions for Overview and Scrutiny work. Further detail on this process is included with Part 4 of the Council's Constitution.

#### **Summary of risk assessment**

12. N/A to this decision.

#### **Background papers**

None

#### **Appendices**

Appendix A – Corporate and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee proposed Work Plan

Appendix B – Scrutiny request form

This page is intentionally left blank

## Work Plan – BCP Corporate and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The following work plan items are suggested as early priorities to the Corporate and Community O&S Committee by the Chair and Vice Chair, following consultation with officers.

	Subject and background	Anticipated benefits and value to be added by O&S engagement	How will the scrutiny be done?	Lead Officer/Portfolio Holder	Report Information
<b>Meeting Date: Tuesday 25 October 2022</b>					
1.	<b>Seafront – Review of Summer Season</b> To provide an update on the Severe Weather Protocol for Homelessness	To enable the Committee to monitor this issue and target scrutiny as required.	Committee Report	PH – Tourism, Culture and Vibrant Places	Contact Democratic Services for further information
2.	<b>Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) Update</b> To consider the latest Cabinet report presenting the latest medium-term plan (MTFP) of the council.	To enable the Committee to maintain an oversight of the budget and make recommendations as appropriate	Cabinet Report	PH – Finance and Transformation  Director of Finance	Contact Democratic Services for further information – report requested at 2 September meeting
3.	<b>Cost of Living Pressures</b> To consider the latest Cabinet report which outlines the current pressures and council responses.	To enable the Committee to maintain an oversight of the issue and make any recommendations as appropriate.	Cabinet Report	PH – Finance and Transformation and PH – Communities, Health and Leisure	Contact Democratic Services for further information.
<b>Meeting Date: Monday 12 December 2022</b>					
1.	<b>Community Safety Partnership Annual Report</b> To consider an update following the request made by the Committee when	To enable the Committee to maintain an oversight of the issue and make any recommendations as appropriate.	Committee Report	PH – Community Safety and Regulatory Services	Contact Democratic Services for further information.

	<b>Subject and background</b>	<b>Anticipated benefits and value to be added by O&amp;S engagement</b>	<b>How will the scrutiny be done?</b>	<b>Lead Officer/Portfolio Holder</b>	<b>Report Information</b>
	last considered, this will include a review of the recent business cases.				
<b>2.</b>	<b>Neighbourhood Watch</b> To consider the role of neighbourhood watch organisations within the conurbation and partnership work with the Council	To enable the Committee to consider any proposals before consultation	Update and presentation	PH – Community Safety and Regulatory Services Director of Communities	Contact Democratic Services for further information.
<b>3.</b>	<b>Update from the Police and Crime Commissioner</b> To consider a presentation from the Police and Crime Commissioner to provide an update to the Board on Crime and Disorder in BCP.	To engage with partners in the police and consider relevant issues.	Presentation to committee	PH – Community Safety and Regulatory Services Director of Communities	Contact Democratic Services for further information.
<b>4.</b>	<b>Mobile CCTV deployment and policy</b> To consider a report which outlines the current policy and opportunities for engagement	To ensure that the Committee is briefed on the situation and has an opportunity to make recommendations on the issues as appropriate.	Briefing report to the Committee	PH – Community Safety and Regulatory Services Director of Communities	Contact Democratic Services for further information. Request from Place O&S
<b>5.</b>	<b>Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) Update</b> To consider the latest Cabinet report presenting the latest medium-term plan (MTFP) of the council.	To enable the Committee to maintain an oversight of the budget and make recommendations as appropriate	Cabinet Report	PH – Finance and Transformation  Director of Finance	Contact Democratic Services for further information – report requested at 2 September meeting
<b>6.</b>	<b>Future Management of Leisure Centres</b>	To enable the Committee to contribute to the report at the development stage.	Committee report and presentation	PH – Communities Health and Leisure	Contact Democratic

	<b>Subject and background</b>	<b>Anticipated benefits and value to be added by O&amp;S engagement</b>	<b>How will the scrutiny be done?</b>	<b>Lead Officer/Portfolio Holder</b>	<b>Report Information</b>
	To consider a report and presentation outlining future plans for leisure centres within BCP.			Director – Destination and Culture	Services for further information
<b>Meeting Date: Monday 6 February 2023</b>					
<b>1.</b>	<b>Transformation Update</b> To consider an update on the Transformation programme including the financial position	To ensure that the Committee maintains an oversight of this issue.	Committee Report	PH – Finance and Transformation Corporate Director Transformation and Resources	Contact Democratic Services for further information.
<b>2.</b>	<b>Budget and Medium-Term Financial Plan 2023/24</b> To consider the appropriate Cabinet report.	To provide an opportunity for pre-decision scrutiny of the Cabinet report and an opportunity to make recommendations as appropriate.	Cabinet report / briefing paper	PH – Finance and Transformation Director of Finance	Contact Democratic Services for further information.
<b>3.</b>	<b>Feedback report from the Budget Task and Finish Group</b> Decision to be taken on this as it has been superseded by the decision to focus on budget scrutiny within Committee meetings.	To ensure that any recommendations from the task and finish group are considered and the work of the group is noted.	Task and Finish Group Report	PH – Finance and Transformation Director of Finance	Contact Democratic Services for further information.
<b>DATE to be allocated</b>					
<b>1.</b>	<b>End of year Corporate Performance Report</b>	To provide the Committee with an overview of performance and	Committee/ Cabinet report	PH - Finance and Transformation	

	Subject and background	Anticipated benefits and value to be added by O&S engagement	How will the scrutiny be done?	Lead Officer/Portfolio Holder	Report Information
		an opportunity to consider any areas to target scrutiny.		Head of Policy and Research	
2.	<b>Business Improvement Districts</b> To consider information from the local BIDs on current issues and priorities.	To enable the Committee to hear from the Council's partners in the local BIDS and consider ways to work together	Committee Report	PH – Development Growth and Regeneration Director Economic Development	Moved from October meeting date to accommodate buf=dget
<b>Commissioned Work</b> Work commissioned by the Committee (for example task and finish groups and working groups) is listed below: Note – to provide sufficient resource for effective scrutiny, no more than 2 items of commissioned work will run at a time. Further commissioned work can commence upon completion of previous work.					
	<b>Complaints Procedure – Working group</b> To scrutinise and review the current complaints procedure and its effectiveness, to consider any opportunities for improvements.	To allow a more in-depth piece of work to analyse current practice and to consider making recommendations if required	Task and Finish Group	PH – Council Priorities and Delivery	
<b>Update Items</b> The following items of information have been requested as updates to the Committee. The Committee may wish to receive these in an alternative to format to Committee updates (e.g. by emailed briefing note outside of the Committee) to reserve capacity in Committee meetings for items of value-added scrutiny.					
	Items will be added as requests are received from the Committee	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC



	<b>Subject and background</b>	<b>Anticipated benefits and value to be added by O&amp;S engagement</b>	<b>How will the scrutiny be done?</b>	<b>Lead Officer/Portfolio Holder</b>	<b>Report Information</b>
<b>Annual Reports</b>					
	<b>Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Report</b>	Statutory requirement	Committee Report	PH – Community Safety and Regulatory Services	
	<b>Budget Report</b>	Ensure that there is scrutiny of the annual budget setting process	Committee Report	PH – Finance and Transformation Director of Finance	

This page is intentionally left blank

## Request for consideration of an issue by Overview and Scrutiny

---

### **Guidance on the use of this form:**

This form is for use by councillors and members of the public who want to request that an item joins an Overview and Scrutiny agenda. Any issue may be suggested, provided it affects the BCP area or the inhabitants of the area in some way. Scrutiny of the issue can only be requested once in a 12 month period.

The form may also be used for the reporting of a referral item to Overview and Scrutiny by another body of the council, such as Cabinet or Council.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee receiving the request will make an assessment of the issue using the detail provided in this form and determine whether to add it to its forward plan of work.

They may take a variety of steps to progress the issue, including requesting more information on it from officers of the council, asking for a member of the overview and scrutiny committee to 'champion' the issue and report back, or establishing a small working group of councillors to look at the issue in more detail.

If the Committee does not agree to progress the issue it will set out reasons for this and they will be provided to the person submitting this form.

More information can be found at Part 4.C of the BCP Council Constitution, under procedure rules 2.4-2.9

<https://democracy.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/documents/s25674/Part%204%20-%20Procedure%20Rules.pdf>

Please complete all sections as fully as possible

### **1. Issue requested for scrutiny**

Emergency Procedures and Civic Commemorations

### **2. Desired outcome resulting from Overview and Scrutiny engagement, including the value to be added to the Council, the BCP area or its inhabitants.**

A cross-party member led review of emergency planning and civic commemorations procedures undertaking through the Corporate and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

### **3. Background to the issue**

Following the recent death of HM The Queen and the implementation of Operation London Bridge there have been a number of challenges to overcome in relation to how our council operations, democratic processes and civic plans

were implemented. Reflections should include how we liaise with our wider community partners including faith communities to ensure smooth implementation of civic plans; and the balance between the corporate role and the civic role for town councils, charter trustees and mayors.

In terms of wider emergency planning procedures - there have been a number of events covered under emergency procedures – fires on Canford Heath, major storms, Summer 2020 Beach crisis etc – where members have noted a need to reflect on the communications used or the use of emergency powers.

**4. Proposed method of scrutiny - (for example, a committee report or a working group investigation)**

Working Group reporting back through O&S

**5. Key dates and anticipated timescale for the scrutiny work**

We hope that it will be many years before Operation London Bridge is activated again. However we should be expecting a coronation within 6 months and so there are likely to be civic commemorative matters that will need to consider the balance between the role of BCP and of the Charter Trustees and Town Councils. This gives some urgency to the standing up of a working party – ideally to be confirmed at the next meeting of the O&S Committee.

We cannot know when the next Emergency might occur – if weather related this could happen in midwinter.

If the working group were stood up at the next standard meeting in October it could meet several times with a report back early in 2023

**6. Notes/ additional guidance**

Submitted by Cllr Vikki Slade & Cllr Millie Earl

Already contacted Chair of the Committee, Head of Democratic Services and Chief Executive

---

Document last reviewed – January 2022

Contact – [democratic.services@bcpcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@bcpcouncil.gov.uk)