

Notice of Cabinet

Date: Tuesday, 10 December 2024 at 10.15 am

Venue: HMS Phoebe, BCP Civic Centre, Bournemouth BH2 6DY



Membership:

Chairman:

Cllr M Earl

Vice Chairman:

Cllr M Cox

Cllr D Brown
Cllr R Burton
Cllr A Hadley

Cllr J Hanna
Cllr R Herrett
Cllr A Martin

Cllr S Moore
Cllr K Wilson

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

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

<https://democracy.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?MIId=5906>

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

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

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

GRAHAM FARRANT
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

2 December 2024

**DEBATE
NOT HATE**



Available online and
on the Mod.gov app



Maintaining and promoting high standards of conduct

Declaring interests at meetings

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

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



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

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

Bias Test

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

Predetermination Test

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

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

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

Selflessness

Councillors should act solely in terms of the public interest

Integrity

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

Objectivity

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

Accountability

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

Openness

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

Honesty & Integrity

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

Leadership

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

AGENDA

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

1. Apologies

To receive any apologies for absence from Councillors.

2. Declarations of Interests

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

Declarations received will be reported at the meeting.

3. Confirmation of Minutes

To confirm and sign as a correct record the minutes of the Meeting held on 30 October 2024.

9 - 14

4. Public Issues

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

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

The deadline for the submission of public questions is mid-day on Wednesday 4 December 2024 [12 noon, 3 clear working days before the meeting].

The deadline for the submission of a statement is mid-day on Monday 9 December 2024 [mid-day the working day before the meeting].

The deadline for the submission of a petition is Monday 25 November 2024 [10 working days before the meeting].

5. Recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committees

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

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

6. Council Budget Monitoring 2024/25 at Quarter Two

15 - 56

This report provides the quarter two 2024/25 projected financial outturn information for the general fund and housing revenue account (HRA).

The February 2024 approved general fund budget for 2024/25 was balanced on the assumption of £38m in savings, efficiencies, and additional resources.

Consistent with the position being reported by other upper tier authorities, the relentless demand for services and ever-increasing costs is a continual financial challenge. The 2024/25 quarter two budget monitoring position for BCP Council is a net forecast overspend for the year of £3m. In line with

the previous year, this is after the release of the corporate contingencies in support the overall position.

Officers are committed to working tirelessly to bring the forecast back into balance. The intention is that Portfolio Holder, Directors, and Budget Holders will be able to demonstrate the impact of this effort as part of the quarter three budget monitoring report. This work will include the implementation of mitigation strategies and a tightening of controls on expenditure. It is critical they do so to maintain the council's financial health as the medium-term financial plan makes no allowance for the current forecast overspend.

7. Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) Update

57 - 76

This report:

- Aims to ensure the council continues to maintain a balanced 2025/26 budget forecast by considering the impact that changes to the previous assumptions will have on the underlying approved position and taking mitigating action where necessary. This includes the announcements relevant to local government in the Chancellors 30 October Budget statement.
- Should be considered alongside the "Assessing the serious cashflow issue caused by ever-increasing demand and cost outstripping High Needs Dedicated Schools Grant government funding" report on the 10 December 2024 Cabinet agenda. That separate report provides an update on the ongoing conversation with the Department for Education (DfE) and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) further to the letter of the Director of Finance issued on the 22 May 2024. This letter outlined concerns about the impact the ever-increasing deficit on the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) will have on the council's ability to set a legally balanced budget for 2025/26.

In addition, the report proposes not to change the Local Council Tax Support Scheme (LCTSS) for 2025/26 and therefore continue with the same scheme the council has operated since April 2019.

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

77 - 108

This report provides performance information setting out how the council meets its responsibilities in ensuring that all council housing within the Housing Revenue Account is managed in a way that meets compliance with current health and safety legislation, best practice and regulatory standards to ensure the health and safety of residents. It also sets out issues concerning compliance and demonstrates how these are being managed.

The report also provides details of the annual self-assessment carried out against the Housing Ombudsman's Complaint Handling Code.

Over the last 12 months significant progress has been made in aligning approach to compliance specifically around gas and electrical safety which is now all driven from a single system with the work undertaken by the

councils in house team of engineers.

The Housing Quality Network, (HQN) will shortly be undertaking an independent inspection of our services in line with the Consumer Standards which will help to support areas of improvement and provide wider assurance in areas where enhancements to the service have been made.

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| 9. Assessing the serious cashflow issue caused by ever-increasing demand and cost outstripping High Needs Dedicated Schools Grant government funding. | 109 - 140 |
| <p>This report presents the background to and an update on the ongoing conversation with the Department for Education (DfE) and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) further to the letter from the Director of Finance issued on the 22 May 2024. This letter outlined concerns about the impact the ever-increasing deficit on the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), caused by increasing demand and cost outstripping government funding, will have on the council's ability to set a legally balanced budget for 2025/26.</p> | |
| 10. Pay and Reward progress update | 141 - 154 |
| <p>Since the creation of BCP Council through the merger of the four preceding councils in April 2019 we have been working with the trade unions to negotiate a new Pay and Reward package which aligns pay and conditions across all colleagues.</p> <p>This report sets out the results of the recent trade union ballot process and outlines next steps.</p> <p>[PLEASE NOTE: Should the Cabinet wish to discuss the detail of the confidential appendix the meeting will be required to move into Confidential (Exempt) Session]</p> | |
| 11. BCP Council Plan for Play | 155 - 438 |
| <p>The BCP Council Plan for Play brings forward a strategy that sets out how our play infrastructure should be managed, designed and improved.</p> <p>This strategy directly aligns and supports many of the Council's key ambitions. This report highlights the detail contained in the strategy, most notably how our stock of play facilities – play equipment, cycle and BMX facilities – is in severe decline and in need of significant investment.</p> <p>The Plan for Play includes an Improvement Plan for a phased approach to investing in the equipment that is crucial to our young people and their physical and mental well-being. This investment will make an immediate impact that ensures play areas stay open and create a pathway to work with communities, local business and funders to support our play needs.</p> <p>Adopting the Plan for Play creates a vision and priorities for future provision across BCP and can be applied as funds become available or decisions are made.</p> | |
| 12. BCP Council Libraries – Update on Library Strategy Development | 439 - 498 |
| <p>This report updates Cabinet on progress being made with the future</p> | |

library strategy following consultation with the Public during May and June 24. It also provides Cabinet with the Needs Assessment document which has been developed to aid the evaluation of any future proposed change.

The report sets out the next phase of work to determine recommendations in relation to the future library service model and explains the connection with the wider asset management work which is underway organisationally to seek efficiencies around the corporate estate.

It is anticipated that a further report to Cabinet will be presented after end of May 2025, to present the key elements of the proposed library strategy, including options on a site-by-site basis.

13. East Cliff and Springbourne Neighbourhood Plan

499 - 520

Neighbourhood Planning gives local people the opportunity to develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood and shape the development and growth of their local area. BCP Council as the Local Planning Authority has a legal duty to support and advise town/parish councils and neighbourhood forums through the process to prepare neighbourhood plans, following statutory legislation, regulations and procedure.

Cabinet is asked to agree the first stage of the Neighbourhood Plan making process, which is to designate a Neighbourhood Forum and boundary.

Consultation has shown support for establishment of a Neighbourhood Plan for East Cliff and Springbourne. Differences of opinion on the boundary, however have also been raised. Potential amendments and extensions to the boundary have been explored, however, agreement has not been reached. Consequently, no change to the boundary is recommended.

14. Hawkwood Road Phase 2

521 - 568

This report sets out the redevelopment opportunity at Hawkwood Road, which is a priority project for the Boscombe Towns Fund. The report outlines two options for the delivery; either a mixed use site of residential home and a clinical facility in collaboration with the NHS (subject to contract, (Option 1) or a 100% residential scheme (Option 2) . The report confirms we will use best endeavours to pursue Option 1 mixed-use project, however, seeks authority to retain the flexibility to deliver the 100% residential (option 2), if necessary. The financial viability is dependent on Homes England grant for the delivery of 100% affordable homes and sufficient headroom in the Housing Revenue Account. Hawkwood Road delivers significant social and physical regeneration to the ward of Boscombe West and the associated local context. The project also contributes the delivery of much needed social homes.

[PLEASE NOTE: Should the Cabinet wish to discuss the detail of the confidential appendices the meeting will be required to move into Confidential (Exempt) Session]

15. Housing Delivery Council Newbuild Housing and Acquisition Strategy (CNHAS) update and Harbour Sail acquisition

569 - 592

This report provides an update on the Council Newbuild Housing and

Acquisition Strategy established in 2021 and sets out the priorities for delivering more Council owned homes of all tenures.

It includes the acquisition of the Harbour Sail, a 12-storey high-rise building in Poole, under the Council's New Build Housing and Acquisition Strategy (CNHAS) Programme 4a (subject to satisfactory warranties and no incumbrance to lettings). The building comprises 32 leasehold flats currently owned by Stonewater Limited. The acquisition is intended to provide temporary accommodation as part of the Council's broader housing strategy.

[PLEASE NOTE: Should the Cabinet wish to discuss the detail of the confidential appendix the meeting will be required to move into Confidential (Exempt) Session]

16. Travel Plan Monitoring Fees

593 - 664

Travel Plan Monitoring fees are inconsistently applied across BCP. This report sets out and seeks approval to harmonise travel plan monitoring fees across BCP.

17. Linwood Special School SEND Post 16 Provision at Ted Webster

665 - 674

The council has experienced a significant increase in the number of children requiring an Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP) over the last 3 years. Sustained growth has resulted in a greater use of independent specialist school places and a shortage of specialist provision locally. This has increased unit costs of provision and intensified budget pressures in the dedicated schools grant high needs funding block. As part of the council's response to growth and improvement in the system, the council has developed a draft Sufficiency Strategy. The Sufficiency Strategy is a key part of the council's work to deliver a sustainable system, working collaboratively with our partners to ensure that the needs of children and young people are met without escalating costs, and supporting delivery of the DSG Recovery Plan. A key area of focus for the strategy is to develop and expand our Post 16 offer locally. In delivering the priorities identified in the SEND Sufficiency Strategy, additional Post 16 specialist provision is being planned and commissioned working with Linwood Special School.

This report contains a proposal to expand Linwood Special School on a satellite site hosted at the former Ted Webster Children's Centre. The project will provide a total of 60 specialist post-16 places with a focus on supporting young people transition into an independent, healthy adulthood. Capital investment is required to refurbish and remodel the existing buildings to deliver a high quality, accessible teaching and learning space. The new facility will open in September 2025. By increasing the availability of local specialist Post 16 places, the council estimates a cost avoidance in the region of £38K - £50k per place, per annum.

[PLEASE NOTE: Should the Cabinet wish to discuss the detail of the confidential appendix the meeting will be required to move into Confidential (Exempt) Session]

18. Transforming Urgent and Emergency Care Services

675 - 704

A system-wide transformation programme to transform and improve urgent and emergency care services for Dorset residents is underway involving health and care partners. It is anticipated that the transformation programme will take 2 years to deliver and should substantially reduce the number of people admitted into hospital when better outcomes could be achieved elsewhere and should result in fewer people waiting in hospital to be discharged while ongoing care is arranged. Work has now progressed and in parallel with other health and care organisations across Dorset the Council must now consider whether to participate in the next phase of the programme.

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

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

20. Cabinet Forward Plan

To Follow

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

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