

BOURNEMOUTH, CHRISTCHURCH AND POOLE COUNCIL
COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 23 July 2024 at 7.15 pm

Present:-

Cllr L Dedman – Chairman

Cllr S Bull – Vice-Chairman

Present: Cllr C Adams, Cllr S Aitkenhead, Cllr H Allen, Cllr M Andrews, Cllr S Armstrong, Cllr J Bagwell, Cllr S Bartlett, Cllr J Beesley, Cllr P Broadhead, Cllr D Brown, Cllr O Brown, Cllr R Burton, Cllr J J Butt, Cllr P Canavan, Cllr S Carr-Brown, Cllr J Challinor, Cllr A Chapmanlaw, Cllr B Chick, Cllr J Clements, Cllr E Connolly, Cllr P Cooper, Cllr M Cox, Cllr D d'Orton-Gibson, Cllr M Dower, Cllr M Earl, Cllr G Farquhar, Cllr D Farr, Cllr A Filer, Cllr D A Flagg, Cllr M Gillett, Cllr C Goodall, Cllr J Hanna, Cllr E Harman, Cllr R Herrett, Cllr P Hilliard, Cllr B Hitchcock, Cllr M Howell, Cllr A Keddie, Cllr M Le Poidevin, Cllr S Mackrow, Cllr R Maidment, Cllr A Martin, Cllr D Martin, Cllr G Martin, Cllr J Martin, Cllr S McCormack, Cllr P Miles, Cllr S Moore, Cllr A-M Moriarty, Cllr B Nanovo, Cllr L Northover, Cllr M Phipps, Cllr K Rampton, Cllr Dr F Rice, Cllr J Richardson, Cllr V Ricketts, Cllr C Rigby, Cllr K Salmon, Cllr J Salmon, Cllr P Sidaway, Cllr P Slade, Cllr V Slade, Cllr M Tarling, Cllr T Trent, Cllr O Walters, Cllr C Weight, Cllr L Williams, Cllr K Wilson and Cllr G Wright

9. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Brian Castle, Mike Cox, Jackie Edwards, Andy Hadley and Chris Matthews.

10. Declarations of Interests

The Chief Executive advised that no individual declarations of interest had been received.

The Monitoring Officer confirmed a dispensation had been granted to all Councillors in respect of agenda item 11: the motion submitted by Councillor P Cooper and seconded by Councillor P Canavan. The reason for the dispensation was to ensure all Councillors were freely able to fully participate in the debate and vote. It was confirmed that the granting of this dispensation would be reported to the next meeting of the Standards Committee.

Councillor Marion Le Poidevin declared an interest in respect of agenda item 10: Member's Allowances Scheme 2024-2025, as she was the

recipient of the Special Responsibility Allowance that was proposed for alteration and reduction.

Councillor J Bagwell left the meeting at 7.43pm.

11. Confirmation of Minutes

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meetings held on 23 April and 7 May 2024.

RESOLVED that the minutes the meetings held on 23 April and 7 May 2024 be approved as a correct record.

12. Announcements and Introductions from the Chairman

The Chairman updated Council on her activity since the previous meetings. Highlights included:

- Stephen Ford Memorial;
- Women's Day;
- Poole D-Day commemoration;
- New Forest Airfield D-Day commemoration;
- Armed Forces Day;
- Dorset Armed Forces Community Business Support Network;
- Winton Library Garden;
- Graduations from Kinson Academy;
- Cllr Hilliard's appointment as Mayor of Christchurch.

The Deputy Chairman updated Council on his activity since the previous meetings. Highlights included:

- Garden Party at Buckingham Palace;
- National Coast Watch Institution 30th anniversary event.

13. Public Issues

The public questions and statements set out in the minutes below are printed as per the wording used within the submissions made in accordance with the constitution.

As a number of public questions were on a similar topic, a single response was given to those questions as set out below.

Public Question from Daniel Glennon

In his response to a question from a resident at the April full council meeting, Councillor Hadley acknowledged that we "need to act with urgency across a wide range of measures" to tackle the climate crisis and this should include individuals "considering a low meat diet".

With this in mind, will the council consider banning all advertising for meat and dairy products on assets they have control over, for example lamppost

banners and roundabouts? There is already a similar ban on alcohol, tobacco and gambling.

Further, will the council commit to using its own communications channels to promote the benefits of a plant-based diet to BCP residents? These would be two easy to achieve and low cost wins in the fight against climate breakdown.

Public Question from Nicola Harris

30 councils have endorsed the Plant Based Treaty to address ⅓ of greenhouse gas emissions which come from the food sector. What we eat matters more than how far it's travelled because food miles account for just a tiny proportion of emissions. For example, UK meat and dairy production account for around 50% of our methane emissions. Scientists agree we must cut methane by 45% this decade to avoid a 1.5C temperature rise.

During an Instagram Q&A last September, councillor Hadley agreed schools could be encouraged to introduce carbon labelling on menus. When Edinburgh agreed their Plant Based Treaty action plan, they committed to a carbon labelling trial with Klimato in schools and also signed up Edinburgh University. Can the council outreach to schools and invite them to consider carbon labelling, and can the council explore this in areas where they have influence over catering and food menus.

Public Question from Helen Winter

In light of the climate crisis and BCP Council's declaration of the climate emergency, would the Council consider passing a motion to supply and serve 100% plant-based food at all internal meetings and events? BCP could join other councils - such as Oxfordshire, Cambridge, Exeter and Norwich - who have led the way on this initiative and signal their commitment to taking action on the climate crisis.

In addition to the environmental benefits, plant-based food is the most inclusive option. It's not about taking away personal choice – plant-based food is delicious, healthy and for everyone!

Public Question from Chris Jolliffe

An analysis by the Office of Health Economics shows that plant-based diets would save the NHS £6.7bn yearly, with 2.1 million fewer cases of disease. Research consistently shows that local governments are trusted more than national politicians making the council well-positioned to introduce plant-based initiatives and deliver public education. Councils such as Edinburgh and Amsterdam have endorsed the Plant Based Treaty and developed plant-based food strategies. What more can the council do to help normalise plant-based foods and encourage the community to eat them?

Public Question from Sasha Jolliffe

Scientists say we've breached 6 of 9 planetary boundaries for liveability on Earth. Our food system is a main driver of 5 of those breached boundaries: climate change, land-use change, biodiversity loss, water use, nitrogen and phosphorus pollution.

It is well-established that plant-based diets have the lowest environmental impact. Even if we ended fossil fuels today, food emissions alone would breach the 1.5C target of the Paris Agreement. A recent Nature Food study showed that vegan diets result in 75% less greenhouse emissions, water pollution and land use compared to diets containing more than 100g of meat daily. Vegan diets were also shown to cut wildlife destruction by 66% and water use by 54%.

Could BCP join 30 councils, including Edinburgh, Belfast and Amsterdam, in endorsing the Plant Based Treaty and committing to a plant-based food strategy to complement our climate action plan?

Public Question from Colin Middleton

When tendering contracts for public events, such as the Christmas market, can businesses be asked to include plant-based options to promote inclusivity and sustainability and increase the current offerings? When 75% of a menu is plant-based, a tipping point occurs which encourages people to choose more sustainable options. What else can the council do in this area?

Public Question from Tom Harris

Councils have poured £238 million of pension funds into factory farming investments, fuelling human rights abuses, the climate emergency, deforestation, biodiversity loss, and large-scale animal suffering.

According to Feedback Global's 2022 analysis, through the Dorset Pension Fund, BCP invested £3 million in industrial animal farm companies and £0.5 million in soya animal-feed companies, including JBS and Tyson.

Around 90% of Amazon deforestation is linked to the continued expansion of animal agriculture, where pristine rainforests are torn down to graze cattle and grow animal feed - all to satisfy our appetite for meat and dairy. Since these products end up in our supermarkets, ultimately, we must take collective responsibility in finding solutions to Amazon deforestation.

In support of Plant Based Treaty, could the council liaise with Dorset Council and look at divesting from factory farming and supporting plant-based projects and soft energy solutions?

Public Question from Sarah Ward

According to the British Ecological Society agricultural pollution is the biggest perpetrator of freshwater pollution. They also stated that changes to farming practices to prevent agricultural pollution should be a top priority for restoring England's waterways. Only 16% of England's rivers are classified as being in good ecological health and we have seen how passionate local people are about the pollution of our precious rivers.

We can greatly reduce the harm to our environment from agricultural pollution by switching to a plant-based food system.

Will BCP council lead by example and also help to normalise plant-based eating by implementing an action plan to promote and prioritise plant-based eating wherever the council has influence? This action plan could also link to solutions suggested by other residents this evening. We would welcome a meeting with the Portfolio Holder for Climate Response, Environment and Energy to discuss how these solutions could be implemented.

Response from Leader of the Council on behalf of the Portfolio Holder for Climate Response, Environment and Energy

Thank you to the eight members of the public who took the time to send in questions concerning plant-based diets. This issue was raised previously at Council on 12 September 2023 and I will revisit some of the points made on that occasion by my colleague Cllr Hadley. As before, we agree that changing to a meat and dairy free diet is an important component in reducing our carbon footprint. However, we do feel we should promote and encourage rather than mandating plant-based options.

As an administration, we welcome the challenge and will look into the implications of prioritising climate friendly advertising on assets we own and utilising our council's communication channels to promote the benefits of a low meat and dairy/plant-based diet to residents in its climate-related messaging.

We will need to explore the current methods of carbon labelling and its effectiveness before considering promoting to schools or using in our own catering and food menus.

On serving 100% plant-based food at all internal meetings and events, any councillor in this chamber is welcome to bring a motion and I would welcome further debate with colleagues on this matter if there is an, forgive me, an appetite to do so.

The Council is not able to endorse the Plant-Based Treaty or production of a stand-alone strategy, however we do endorse encouragement towards a low meat and dairy/meat free diet. We prefer to work with the community whilst not attempting to impose veganism, and promotion of a low meat and dairy/plant-based diet will form part of our Climate strategy going forward

The Council does ask for a variety of food options when tendering large events and sustainably forms part of the quality assessment for all our tenders

It is up to members of the Dorset Pension Fund to explore divesting from factory farming and supporting plant-based projects and soft energy solutions – but as a council, we can't demand this action.

The Council is not able to endorse production of a stand-alone action plan, but will aim to lead by example in promoting and prioritising plant-based eating where it has influence and community support to do so.

The Council believes the steps we have outlined today will help to normalise plant-based foods and encourage the community to eat them.

Public Question from Julie Dinmore (read by Yvonne Orchard)

Whilst understanding that the premises closing is possibly outdated and run down.

Why has NO ALTERNATIVE PREMISES been offered to vulnerable families before closure.

Absorbing into the community (going back to Abuser) on council waiting lists is Totally Unsatisfactory and offers NO SUPPORT that these women and children need.

I should like to know why these families have been abandoned, contrary to UK law which plainly states it is the Councils role to accommodate such families

Response from the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Regulatory Services

Thank you for your question Julie and thank you Yvonne for reading it out and for giving me the chance to address this really important issue.

I want to be clear that no families accommodated at the Bournemouth refuge have been abandoned. There is in fact no one on the waiting list waiting to be accommodated safely after fleeing domestic abuse. We have a statutory duty and we place the safety of anyone fleeing domestic abuse as the highest of priorities. Anyone approaching BCP council will receive the assistance and support they need in order to be safe for those affected by the closure of the refuge. Both BCH a commission partner and the council have provided dedicated staff who have worked tirelessly to support them and move on all households and they have all moved on to their new accommodation.

Half have moved into independent accommodation whilst others who are assessed as still requiring a supported environment moved into alternative supported services and will continue to be supported to move on when they are ready. Every household that has moved into independent accommodation will continue to receive support to settle into their new homes for as long as they need. The decision to close Bournemouth refuge was not taken lightly and whilst the timing was not in line with our original recommissioning plan the decision moves us forward into a model of provision which is informed by an independent assessment and the lived experience of domestic abuse survivors.

The decision was taken in the knowledge that we have sufficient provision to continue to meet the needs of families in the BCP area until our recommissioning work starts later this year. As somebody who is passionate about the issue and has volunteered in domestic abuse services previously I wouldn't support the decision if I didn't have those

reassurances. We still have a refuge which provides self-contained accommodation with communal areas for group work and support. We have specialist safe accommodation for individuals with high needs and risks. We have a range of temporary accommodation for family hostels and self-contained dispersed properties. Families and individuals receive support through our in house teams and our commissioned outreach service whilst in temporary accommodation.

The outreach service also delivers support to victims in their own homes and we provide a community scheme which installs additional security measures for people to provide reassurance and keep them safe. I want to be very clear that every person who is experiencing domestic abuse has options and the council and its partners are on hand to provide support and safe accommodation.

Our safe accommodation strategy is due to be published early next year and sets out our council's ongoing commitment to people experiencing domestic abuse. Our commissioning plan sets out the type and amount of provision we will be procuring to meet the needs identified in our independent needs assessment. The plan is due to be submitted for cabinet approval later this year and will reflect the most up to date needs data for the area.

The aim is to ensure we have a range of good quality accommodation and support with a number of delivery options to meet the varying needs of our customers. This will include refuge provision, self-contained accommodation in the community with support, community outreach and specialist support for children.

I want to thank you again for submitting the question and for the clear passion you have on an issue that everyone should take seriously.

Finally, I would like to mention that if anyone listening to this meeting is experiencing domestic abuse, we have a 24-7 helpline which you can contact on 01202 710 777. An email inbox for abuse support at bcha.org.uk as well as drop ins for women on Tuesdays 10am till 12pm at West Hill Family Hub and for men on Fridays 10am to 12pm at the Joy Cafe in Bosco. Any more general information can be found at womensaid.org.uk.

Public Statement from Philip Gatrell (read by Chief Executive)

Regarding the continuum of scrutiny and accountability concerns reflected in my question to Council's 23rd April 2024 meeting, the Leader's response:

- Does not dissent from the Constitution's pending addition of the Monitoring Officer's duty under "1989 Act" Sections 5 and 5A to report actual contraventions of law to each Member. Thus conforming with Janie Berry's practice regarding Birmingham Council's Constitution.
- References an "Assurance Review Framework" which fails to address directly the maladministration and service failure complaints not reported internally to all Members following Ombudsman case

decisions under the “1974 Act”. The 130 fully investigated cases from 1 April 2019 to 5th July 2024 include 92 upheld complaints.

- May mistake the Ombudsman’s 1974 Act “report” trigger for the 1989 Act which obligates Monitoring Officer reporting to Members “as soon as practicable”.
- Incongruously conveys Monitoring Officer reporting to Members has not been practicable since Council’s inauguration.

BBC’s 3rd May 2024 article concerning Ombudsman case 23004502 underscores these failings.

Public Statement from Gillian Parke (read by Chief Executive)

I am writing to submit a concern re the closure of the women’s refuge and the lack of commissioning a replacement service in its place. As a DV survivor who was moved to Bournemouth 30 years ago by the police under a false name, I’m all too aware of the necessity of refuge place, which I really wish had been available to me at the time.

My concern is the potential of completely retraumatising these women by placing them in B&B accommodation or hostels where men are living. And for women, especially with children, the refuge offers support and friendship to develop confidence and self-respect, so what is planned to put in its place? The lack of support still causes me an ongoing depressive illness which I still have to deal with from time to time now.

Public Statement from Elizabeth Glass (read by Chief Executive)

UK100 – Were we asked if we wished to achieve net zero harder and faster than required by the government?

Were we asked whether we would be happy to forego such things as pothole repairs, and lose amenities such as Kings Park Nursery, paddling pools and car park closures to pay for it?

A ‘Which’ survey for 2024 ranked Bournemouth 79th and Poole 88th out of 126 seaside towns – down from last year.

Instead of following the globalist agenda, the council should use its resources to restore the conurbation back to a prime tourist destination. This would provide far greater benefits for the people and businesses in the area.

I urge the new leader to withdraw BCP from the UK100.

Public Statement from John Sprackling (read by Chief Executive)

The Council is developing a business case for improving the remainder of the Beach Road car park, after the sale of a substantial portion for development. I believe that this is unlikely to stack up financially due to the costs incurred on the improvements relative to the Northern part of the site and any road parking income.

The Council should appraise options by assessing the future of the entire site as one project so that the proceeds from the sale can, in part, be earmarked to assist with the costs of improvement of the remainder. In this way, there is likely to be a better outcome for taxpayers.

Public Statement from Phillip Stanley Watts

If you look back at our history, this area has always been at the forefront of international links from welcoming refugees (especially when our relatives have perished in camps) and also the first to welcome language students into our homes. As children we were taught to respect different cultures.

This helped at the time of the Olympics welcoming so many Olympic teams and their ambassadors into the Mayor's Parlour because their training bases were in this area. International friendship links take many forms whether cultural sporting links, economic and climate animal conservation links with tree planting in Romania. In a time when international friendship is sadly lacking there should be more twinning links not less.

Public Statement from Yvonne Orchard

Ms Orchard chose to withdraw her statement but requested that the Portfolio Holder for Housing & Regulatory Services correspond with her by email.

14. Cabinet 17 July 2024 - Minute No. 25 - Arndale House and 1-17 Kingland Road Poole (AKA Kingland House)

Councillor David Brown, the Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing presented the report on behalf of the Portfolio Holder for Finance and outlined the recommendations as set out on the agenda.

Councillor Andy Martin seconded the motion.

RESOLVED: that Council:-

- a) **grant approval for the surrender of the existing head lease and regrant of a long new lease to facilitate the head lessee's proposed development in accordance with the Heads of Terms set out in the exempt report attached at appendix 1; and**
- b) **delegate authority to the Director of Finance in his capacity as Corporate Property Officer, the Director of Law and Governance and the Portfolio Holder for Finance to finalise the detailed terms of the Agreement for surrender and new lease.**

Voting: Nem.con

15. Cabinet 17 July 2024 - Minute no. 26 - South Part of Beach Road Car Park

Councillor David Brown, the Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing presented the report on behalf of the Portfolio Holder for Finance and outlined the recommendations as set out on the agenda.

Councillor Milie Earl seconded the motion.

RESOLVED: that having considered the responses received from the public notices, Council: -

- a) approve a resolution to appropriate for planning purposes, the south part of Beach Road Car Park (the site) shown outlined red in appendix 1, once it is formally closed and reaffirm the approval (given, in principle, on 27 February 2024) to proceed with disposal of the site pursuant to section 233 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990;
- b) delegate authority to the Corporate Property Officer, to record by way of memorandum the appropriation at the required time, which can be placed within the deeds for future reference;
- c) reaffirm approval to delegate authority to the Corporate Property Officer, in consultation with the Director of Finance, the Director of Law and Governance and the Portfolio Holder for Dynamic Places, to select the preferred offer and finalise the detailed terms of the disposal; and
- d) note that, subject to Cabinet approval of its forthcoming business case, it is the council's intention to make improvements to the retained rear public car parking area, including consideration of the scope to increase current capacity, provide more compliant spaces and improve accessibility and wayfinding, as well as consideration of a local traffic management scheme. The council and its consultant are now engaged in this process.

Voting: F:56, A:13, (Abstentions: 0)

Councillor F Rice left the meeting at 8.32pm.

16. Cabinet 17 July 2024 - Minute no. 30 - Adult Social Care Transformation Business Case

Councillor David Brown, the Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing presented the report and outlined the recommendations as set out on the agenda.

Councillor Jeff Hanna seconded the motion.

RESOLVED: That Council:-

- (a) Approves in principle the business case for a new adult social care transformation delivery model to improve outcomes for residents and to achieve financial efficiencies and savings enabled by investment of up to 2.9M;
- (b) Agrees to the establishment of a formal transformation programme; 'Fulfilled Lives';
- (c) Agrees to an initial 12-month investment of 1.79M, with an interim report to Cabinet on progress of the design phase in January 2025 and a full report by July 2025, with recommendations for further investment; and

- (d) Invites the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee to provide regular scrutiny of progress towards benefits and sustainable change. In particular the Committee be invited to review the progress against the four priority areas of the Fulfilled Lives programme and the risks and opportunities of data with ASC transformation.**

Voting: Nem.con

17. Cabinet 17 July 2024 - Minute 33 - Youth Justice Plan 2024/25

Councillor Richard Burton, the Portfolio Holder for Children, Young People, Education and Skills presented the report and outlined the recommendations as set out on the agenda.

Councillor Kieron Wilson seconded the motion.

RESOLVED:- that Council approve the Youth Justice Plan 2024/25.

Voting: Nem.con

Councillor J Hanna left the meeting at 8.44pm.

18. Members' Allowances Scheme 2024-2025

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Millie Earl, presented the report and outlined the recommendations as set out on the agenda.

The recommendation was seconded by Councillor Richard Burton.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) Council considers the attached report at Appendix 1 and its recommendations and adopts the proposed Scheme of Members Allowances for BCP Council as set out in Appendix 2, subject to any amendments Council may wish to agree; and**
- (b) A full review of the Members Allowances Scheme be completed during the 2024/5 municipal year commencing in Autumn 2024.**

Voting: F:50, A:11 (5 abstentions)

Councillors J Butt, A Filer, D Flagg, B Hitchcock, R Maidment, P Miles, B Nanovo, K Rampton, J Richardson, V Ricketts and L Williams left the meeting at 9.14pm

The meeting was adjourned at 9.16pm and resumed at 9.33pm

19. Sandbanks Peninsula Neighbourhood Plan

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Millie Earl, presented the report and outlined the recommendations as set out on the agenda.

The recommendation was seconded by Councillor Andy Martin.

Following debate, it was:

RESOLVED: That Council:-

- a) Note the results of the Sandbanks Peninsula Neighbourhood Plan referendum held on 18 July 2024 (Declaration of Result of Poll - Appendix 1 and Ballot Box Verification Record – Appendix 2);**
- b) Subject to a positive referendum result, agree to make the Sandbanks Peninsula Neighbourhood Plan (Appendix 3) and Appendices (Appendix 4), that was subject to referendum on 18 July 2024, part of BCP Council's statutory development plan so that it can be used alongside the Local Plan to determine planning applications in the Sandbanks Peninsula neighbourhood area; and**
- c) Approve the Local Planning Authority's Decision Statement (Appendix 5) and delegate publication and circulation of the Decision Statement and Neighbourhood Plan to the Director of Planning and Transport in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Dynamic Places.**

Voting: Nem.con.

Councillor J Clements declared an interest, recused herself and left the room for the duration of the item, returning at 9.47pm.

20. Notices of Motions in accordance with Procedure Rule 10

The following motion was submitted in accordance with Procedure Rule 9 of the Meeting Procedure Rules and was moved by Councillor P Cooper and seconded by Councillor P Canavan:

This Council acknowledges that there is a housing crisis across the country, including within BCP. There are a variety of factors that have led to this, however, as a Local Authority, we could begin to tackle this by agreeing to use the forthcoming review of the Housing Strategy to explore:

- a) Enhancing the 'Housing First' approach to tackling homelessness at BCP Council so that no-one has to sleep rough and that the standard of available accommodation is assessed and maintained.
- b) The existing arrangements in order to make empty properties become available more quickly.
- c) Lobby central government for a new definition of affordable housing that accurately reflects people's ability to pay, with some discretion to allow for local pay and housing costs.

- d) Reviewing, in consultation other appropriate bodies, the viability assessment methodology used for housing developers and ways in which existing rules can be applied or amended to increase the number of affordable homes.
- e) The possibility of using Dorset Pension Fund and investors in developing an inward investment strategy to support Local Authority-built homes in the BCP area.
- f) Co-produce a Tenants' Charter with local residents to influence housing and tenancy standards across BCP.
- g) The licensing of all private sector rented housing and adding its voice to local and national calls for a ban on 'no fault' (Section 21) evictions.
- h) The existing mandatory licensing of HMOs and if additional measures are required to ensure consistent standards are applied and whether existing enforcement measures are adequate.
- i) What measures are required to regulate Airbnbs and holiday lets in BCP.
- j) Whether, given the announcements by the new Government, the house building targets in the Local Plan need reviewing.

Councillor D Brown moved an amendment. The amendment was seconded by Councillor M Earl and amended point € of the motion to read:

(e) the possibility of supporting Local Authority built homes in the BCP area by developing an inward investment strategy to seek investment from external investors such as Dorset Pension Fund.

Council agreed the amendment.

Voting: Nem.con

Council then debated the substantive motion as amended, and it was:

RESOLVED: That:-

This Council acknowledges that there is a housing crisis across the country, including within BCP. There are a variety of factors that have led to this, however, as a Local Authority, we could begin to tackle this by agreeing to use the forthcoming review of the Housing Strategy to explore:

- a) **Enhancing the 'Housing First' approach to tackling homelessness at BCP Council so that no-one has to sleep rough and that the standard of available accommodation is assessed and maintained.**

- b) The existing arrangements in order to make empty properties become available more quickly.**
- c) Lobby central government for a new definition of affordable housing that accurately reflects people's ability to pay, with some discretion to allow for local pay and housing costs.**
- d) Reviewing, in consultation other appropriate bodies, the viability assessment methodology used for housing developers and ways in which existing rules can be applied or amended to increase the number of affordable homes.**
- e) the possibility of supporting Local Authority built homes in the BCP area by developing an inward investment strategy to seek investment from external investors such as Dorset Pension Fund.**
- f) Co-produce a Tenants' Charter with local residents to influence housing and tenancy standards across BCP.**
- g) The licensing of all private sector rented housing and adding its voice to local and national calls for a ban on 'no fault' (Section 21) evictions.**
- h) The existing mandatory licensing of HMOs and if additional measures are required to ensure consistent standards are applied and whether existing enforcement measures are adequate.**
- i) What measures are required to regulate Airbnbs and holiday lets in BCP.**
- j) Whether, given the announcements by the new Government, the house building targets in the Local Plan need reviewing.**

Voting: F:43 A:3 (5 abstentions)

The following motion was submitted in accordance with Procedure Rule 9 of the Meeting Procedure Rules and was moved by Councillor O Walters and seconded by Councillor V Slade:

BCP council notes that:

- (i) While adult hospices receive on average one-third of their income from Government, for children's hospices it is on average one-fifth (source: Hospice UK), and for Julia's House it is just 8%.**
- (ii) The national body for children's palliative care, Together for Short Lives, submitted Freedom of Information requests to all local Health & Social Care boards to ask how much they spent on hospice services per child case in the 2022/23 year. The answers varied UK-wide from £511 per child to £28. In Dorset ICB area it was £99.96.**

- (iii) Julia's House only has a small commissioning contract with Dorset ICB and has no contract with BaNES Swindon & Wiltshire (BSW) ICB.
- (iv) There is also huge regional variation in the services available through the NHS: 24/7 end of life care at home is not available through the NHS in Wiltshire and only available in parts of Dorset, despite being required by the NICE Gold Standards Framework.
- (v) Lobby the Dorset Integrated Care Board (ICB) to increase the funding for children's hospice care, and to Julia's House Children's Hospice in particular when funds become available, and to guarantee that the funding includes for the last six weeks palliative care for any child who receives this from Julia's House Children's Hospice.
- (vi) Ask BaNES Swindon & Wiltshire (BSW) ICB to commission Julia's House from 2025 onwards as their residents already rely on these services, which are at risk for lack of funding.
- (vii) Ensure that the Council Leaders of Wiltshire Council, Bath and North East Somerset Council and Swindon Borough Council are aware of the lack of funding for Children's Hospices in the BaNES Swindon & Wiltshire (BSW) ICB area, with particular reference to Julia's House being one of the least state-funded hospices in England.
- (viii) Work with our local parliamentarians to help bring this disparity in funding to the notice of the national government.
- (ix) Write to the Secretary of State for Health to lobby for increased funding for Children's Hospices and recognition of their critical work for life limited children and their families.

Following debate, it was:

RESOLVED: That:-

BCP council notes that:

- (i) **While adult hospices receive on average one-third of their income from Government, for children's hospices it is on average one-fifth (source: Hospice UK), and for Julia's House it is just 8%.**
- (ii) **The national body for children's palliative care, Together for Short Lives, submitted Freedom of Information requests to all local Health & Social Care boards to ask how much they spent on hospice services per child case in the 2022/23 year. The answers varied UK-wide from £511 per child to £28. In Dorset ICB area it was £99.96.**
- (iii) **Julia's House only has a small commissioning contract with Dorset ICB and has no contract with BaNES Swindon & Wiltshire (BSW) ICB.**
- (iv) **There is also huge regional variation in the services available through the NHS: 24/7 end of life care at home is not available through the NHS in Wiltshire and only available in parts of Dorset, despite being required by the NICE Gold Standards Framework.**
- (v) **Lobby the Dorset Integrated Care Board (ICB) to increase the funding for children's hospice care, and to Julia's House Children's Hospice in particular when funds become available,**

and to guarantee that the funding includes for the last six weeks palliative care for any child who receives this from Julia's House Children's Hospice.

- (vi) **Ask BaNES Swindon & Wiltshire (BSW) ICB to commission Julia's House from 2025 onwards as their residents already rely on these services, which are at risk for lack of funding.**
- (vii) **Ensure that the Council Leaders of Wiltshire Council, Bath and North East Somerset Council and Swindon Borough Council are aware of the lack of funding for Children's Hospices in the BaNES Swindon & Wiltshire (BSW) ICB area, with particular reference to Julia's House being one of the least state-funded hospices in England.**
- (viii) **Work with our local parliamentarians to help bring this disparity in funding to the notice of the national government.**
- (ix) **Write to the Secretary of State for Health to lobby for increased funding for Children's Hospices and recognition of their critical work for life limited children and their families**

Voting: Nem.Con.

21. Questions from Councillors

Question from Councillor P Canavan:

The BCP Access to Food Partnership is currently funded by the National Lottery Community Fund until April 2025. What steps can be taken to ensure that funding is maintained and, if necessary, is it possible to ensure that there is an allocation in the budget to ensure that this important work can continue?

Reply from the Leader of the Council, Councillor M Earl on behalf of the Portfolio Holder for Finance

As a member of the Access to Food Partnership since its inception through my work founding the community fridges in my own community, and through my work on its steering group since becoming a Portfolio Holder, I agree that the work of the partnership is incredibly important and have experienced first-hand how it has taken our community food provision coordination and cooperation to award winning heights.

I'm delighted to report that in recognition of the outstanding work of the Partnership, the National lottery have confirmed that they are extending the funding for a further year until March 2026. To ensure that this kind of valuable preventative work continues sustainably beyond that, Cabinet is holding a workshop around a number of projects that sit under the Empowering Communities strand of work in August.

Question from Councillor E Connolly:

What is the strategy for developing opportunities for external and internal income generation through progressing tender processes for small businesses such as food and drink vendors in popular sites?

Reply from the Leader of the Council, Councillor M Earl on behalf of the Portfolio Holder for Finance

Commercial operations reviews, new opportunities to deliver internally and externally across all of our sites. The approach taken in relation to any offer being internally or externally delivered will vary dependent on several factors as would be identified through an analysis of the opportunity. These would include items such as strategic objective that the opportunity is supporting, if it is a temporary or a longer term offer and the location of the opportunity in relation to logistics arrangements.

As opportunities arise, the relevant processes, including procurement and ensuring the relevant planning permissions were in place would be undertaken. An example would be street food corner in Bournemouth Slower Gardens. Pictures are advertised through a mailing list, social media and on nationwide caterers associations websites and assessed on quality.

Bookings for a maximum of a month are taken to ensure a changing offer. For larger town events, these are done through a more detailed procurement process with quality and pricing assessments. Thank you.

Supplementary Question from Councillor E Connolly

So, there are plenty of busy spots across BCP where small pop-ups like coffee vans would be an improvement on existing services, improve the offer for visitors and locals and not be to the detriment of council income. And there are residents in my ward who would be keen to apply for short simple trials of that sort of thing. But from that answer previously, it's not very clear to me what the strategy is for that and how to go about it, how the decisions are made and that process. So perhaps by follow up, could the Portfolio Holder confirm that the Council is actively looking to explore such opportunities for every generation and that there aren't any barriers within the Council that would prevent those being looked at? Thank you.

Reply from the Leader of the Council, Councillor M Earl on behalf of the Portfolio Holder for Finance

I will actually feed back to the Portfolio Holder and we'll try and get a bit more of an in-depth answer on that. But from my experience, the commercial operations team are open to suggestions of ways in which people can utilize land, utilize some of our key sites and be able to actually generate an income for the Council through that. So there are no barriers, it's more around who can come to us and deliver. Obviously, when we have a site or a place that comes up, we have to go through the procurement process which is a little bit different. So I'd always recommend that external organisations and businesses come to us in the first instance if they've seen an opportunity. Thank you.

Question from Councillor E Connolly:

Where a waste bin is contaminated and is not collected by the refuse team, what is the policy on providing labelling and signage and providing instructions on how to have the refuse removed?

Reply from the Leader of the Council, Councillor M Earl on behalf of the Portfolio Holder for Climate Response, Environment and Energy

Our recycling crew check your bin before collecting it and if there's something in there that shouldn't be, it will not be collected and they will leave a tag attached to it. The tag has a list of common items and will help you find out what was in the bin that should not be.

Once you have removed the incorrect items and tag, it can then be placed out for collection on your next recycling collection day. If you cannot remove the items or you have too much waste to fit in your bin, you will need to take it to a recycling centre.

Supplementary Question from Councillor E Connolly

In Boscombe, we have lots of flats, HMOs, high turnover of residents and there's repeated instances of people inadvertently contaminating waste or not understanding the rules or passers-by using the bins. For some reason, it seems as though labelling isn't being applied as the policy everywhere. So a lot of people are finding that they don't know what to do with it, they don't know why it's being contaminated. And then it becomes a focal point for fly-tipping and other rubbish. So it's really important that it's labelled and people know the next steps. So, could you do a little bit of investigating into whether there are the gaps and whether that policy is being applied and making sure that the label has always been applied or could be expanded? Thank you.

Reply from the Leader of the Council, Councillor M Earl on behalf of the Portfolio Holder for Climate Response, Environment and Energy

I actually had an incident reported to me from a shop over in Southbourne recently, which had someone dump a load of rubbish in a private bin, in a commercially operated bin, from a business. And we kind of went down this route of having to discover, having to find out what to do with it because it didn't feel reasonable to wheel it down to the tip.

The best advice that I got from that and what the resident has now implemented is that actually it's around security. So I would always encourage people to secure their bins, to prevent fly-tipping, to prevent people putting stuff into it. When I worked at Bournemouth Food Bank, we used to have a lock on our bin to stop all sorts of people using it. So I'd really recommend that that as an opportunity. And the other thing, of course, is to keep it fenced off and keep it in a particular area where it's not accessible to passers-by. But I'll take on board your comments and I'll feed them back to the Portfolio Holder for a more thorough response. Thanks.

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

The Chief executive advised Council on the urgent decisions taken since the previous meeting. These included:

- The decision to postpone meetings during the pre-election period, which is why other urgent decisions had to be taken;

- The decision to accept grant funding for the HR Support Pilots project;
- The decision to take forward the recommendations for Council of the Newfield Housing and Acquisition Strategy in order to deliver local homes for local people;
- The decision to agree an overall increase in the capital program for Poole Museum and the grant funding that came behind that;
- The decision under Simpler Waste Recycling Reforms to purchase six food waste collection vehicles and the food waste containers in order to implement that as soon as possible; and
- The decision to enable private funding as part of the Towns Fund Program for the digital connectivity project.

It was confirmed that all decisions had been published to the Council's website.

The meeting ended at 10.47 pm

CHAIRMAN