

BOURNEMOUTH, CHRISTCHURCH AND POOLE COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENT AND PLACE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting held on 14 May 2025 at 6.00 pm

Present:-

Cllr C Rigby – Chairman

Cllr D d'Orton-Gibson – Vice-Chairman

Present: Cllr C Goodall, Cllr J Martin, Cllr Dr F Rice, Cllr V Ricketts,
Cllr J Edwards and Cllr M Gillett

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Jo Clements, Cllr Birain Chick and Cllr Gavin Wright.

2. Substitute Members

There were no substitute members.

3. Election of Chair

Nominations were sought for the election of Chair. A nomination was received and seconded for Councillor C Rigby. No further nominations were received.

RESOLVED that Councillor C Rigby be elected as Chair of the Environment and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the 2025/26 Municipal Year.

4. Election of Vice-Chair

The Chair sought nominations were sought for the election of Vice Chair. A nomination was received and seconded for Councillor D D'Orton-Gibson. No further nominations were received.

RESOLVED that Councillor D D'Orton-Gibson be elected as Vice Chair of the Environment and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the 2025/26 Municipal Year.

5. Declarations of Interests

Item 8 - Cllr Ricketts declared that she was Secretary of Christchurch Harbour Marine Society which was a voluntary role. Cllr Ricketts presented the petition and then left the meeting after questions and before debate.

Item 9 - BCP Local Plan Cllr Ricketts declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest due to her employment and was not present for this item.

6. Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 2 April 2025 were approved as a correct record.

7. Public Issues

The Committee was advised that there had been no public questions or statements received on this occasion.

8. Recommendations from Portfolio Holders, Cabinet or Council

The Chair presented the item, 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. The Committee was advised that this was to comply with the decision of Council and the requirements of the council's constitution.

The Council's constitution provides that Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) Committees may consider requests for work from a range of sources, including requests from Portfolio Holders, Cabinet and Council.

The O&S Committee was asked to consider a request for scrutiny recently made by Council, and to determine the request in line with the associated constitution procedure rules.

A petition to protect Christchurch Harbour was presented by Cllr V Ricketts at full council and it was recommended that it be referred to the next available Environment and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting for consideration.

RESOLVED that the protect Christchurch Harbour matter be added to the work plan.

9. BCP Local Plan next steps, updated Local Development Scheme (LDS) and Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)

The Portfolio Holder for Planning 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.

Following Stage 1 examination hearings on the draft BCP Local Plan in January 2025, the Inspectors provided a post hearing letter in early March 2025. The letter stated that the Council had failed to adequately discharge the Duty to Cooperate. This was not something that could be rectified during the examination.

It was therefore recommended to withdraw the draft BCP Local Plan from examination.

The associated Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule that was submitted for its own examination at the same time was also recommended to be withdrawn due its strong ties with the draft Local Plan.

If Cabinet and Council agreed the withdrawal of the Local Plan and CIL Charging Schedule, a new Local Plan would need to be prepared. A timetable (Local Development Scheme - LDS) for this new Plan was recommended in Appendix 1.

To facilitate community involvement and good plan making and development management processes, an updated Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) was also recommended for Cabinet to agree at Appendix 2.

There was no formal recommendation made, there was strong support for collaborative scrutiny across committees and early engagement. This would be discussed outside of the meeting between scrutiny chairs.

10. Work Plan

The Chair 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 Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) Committee was asked to consider and identify work priorities for publication in a Work Plan.

There were two scrutiny requests considered by the Committee detailed below:

Building Standards – the effectiveness, enforcement, and future of building inspections within the BCP area, with a focus on restoring Local Authority control and ensuring robust, impartial oversight.

The Committee was informed that there was an enquiry in parliament on this and the results would be published in the autumn which could then be considered with the request.

Pedestrian Crossings – The Committee was asked to review the timing settings for pedestrian crossings in the BCP area.

RESOLVED that the Building Standards request be postponed until the outcome of the Government enquiry in the Autumn, when it would be re assessed. The Committee agreed that Cllrs Rice and Chapmanlaw act as rapporteurs for the pedestrian crossings request and report back at a future meeting. The Committee approved the items on the work plan and delegated responsibility for programming to the Chair and Vice-Chair.

Voting: Unanimous

11. Future Meeting Dates

The next meeting is Wednesday 9 July 2025 6.00pm.

The meeting ended at 8.00 pm

CHAIRMAN