

Notice of Environment and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee



Date: Wednesday, 14 May 2025 at 6.00 pm

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

Membership:

Chairman: To be elected

Vice Chairman: To be elected

Membership of the Environment and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be appointed at Annual Council on 6 May 2025.

All Members of the Environment and Place 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=5916>

If you would like any further information on the items to be considered at the meeting please contact: Rebekah Rhodes or email rebekah.rhodes@bcpCouncil.gov.uk

Press enquiries should be directed to the Press Office: Tel: 01202 454668 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

6 May 2025

**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. **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. **Election of Chair**

To elect a Chair for the Environment and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the 2025/26 municipal year.

4. **Election of Vice-Chair**

To elect a Vice-Chair for the Environment and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the 2025/26 municipal year.

5. **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.

6. **Confirmation of Minutes**

To confirm and sign as a correct record the minutes of the Meeting held on 2 April 2025.

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7. **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.bcpccouncil.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CommitteeID=151&Info=1&bcr=1>

The deadline for the submission of public questions is mid-day Thursday 8 May 2025 3 clear working days before the meeting.

The deadline for the submission of a statement is midday Tuesday 13 May 2025 the working day before the meeting.

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

meeting.

8. Recommendations from Portfolio Holders, Cabinet or Council

11 - 20

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 is asked to consider a request for scrutiny recently made by Council, and to determine the request in line with the associated constitution procedure rules.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

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

21 - 68

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 is not something that can be rectified during the examination.

Cabinet is 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 is also recommended to be withdrawn due its strong ties with the draft Local Plan.

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

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

10. Work Plan

69 - 80

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

11. Future Meeting Dates

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.

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

Minutes of the Meeting held on 02 April 2025 at 6.00 pm

Present:-

Cllr C Rigby – Chairman

Cllr D d'Orton-Gibson – Vice-Chairman

Present: Cllr B Chick, Cllr J Clements, Cllr C Goodall, Cllr L Northover,
Cllr G Wright and Cllr P Canavan

Also in attendance: Cllr Felicity Rice (virtually)

42. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Vanessa Rickets and Cllr Jamie Martin.

43. Substitute Members

Cllr Patrick Canavan substituted for Cllr Jamie Martin.

44. Declarations of Interests

There were no declarations of interest made on this occasion.

45. Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 26 February 2025 were approved as a correct record.

46. Public Issues

There were no public issues received for this meeting.

47. Recommendations from Portfolio Holders, Cabinet or Council

The Chair 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. 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 is asked to consider two requests for scrutiny recently made by Council and to determine these requests in line with the associated constitution procedure rules.

Stop the closure of Redhill Paddling Pool

A petition to stop the closure of Redhill Paddling Pool was presented by a member of the public at full council and the recommendation below was agreed.

Council asked that Overview and Scrutiny investigate how the council arrived at this situation and investigate ways to keep the paddling pool open and report back to full Council.

Motion to Strengthen building standards through Local Authority Control.

A motion was submitted to full Council following the Government's commitment to building high quality, affordable homes to address the housing crisis. This motion asked the Leader of the Council to write to the Secretary of State and Outline the council position.

There was an amendment made to that motion which added a fourth action which was as follows:

- Refer the motion to the Environment and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee for recommendation of the Council's policy position on this matter."

Following discussion of both requests it was agreed to accept the Paddling Pool request but not to add the Building standards issue to the work plan for the Committee. However, the Committee agreed that it would welcome the submission of a scrutiny request on this issue with greater detail.

RESOLVED

**1. That the Redhill paddling pool matter be added to the work plan
That the Building Standards item would not be added to the work plan
due to the Council's position being outlined in the original motion.**

48. Planning Service Improvement Update

The Leader of the Council 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 Committee were informed of updates on the ongoing work to improve the performance of the BCP Council planning service with significant successes in the last year to reduce the backlog and stabilise the workforce.

The Committee were informed that the service had improved massively, there were concerns regarding performance and the team have worked hard on this and growth has been recognised.

The team now has a lot of permanent staff compared to previously having a lot of agency staff.

MasterGov, combined planning portal, has been implemented which makes it easier for residents to look for applications. Although the system did not have everything that was wanted, it had to be implemented by 31 March.

The team is on a continuing journey.

There was a discussion around the Local Plan which was rejected and the next steps which would have a fresh evidence base with up to date information which would stand in good stead. The team were aware there would need to be more work done on this and there would be refined consultations.

The Committee Chair commented that the next steps Cabinet report maybe something they wanted to have at their next meeting.

RESOLVED that the Committee note and endorse the measures underway to improve and transform the planning service.

Voting: Unanimous

49. Recommendations from the Safer Accommodation Strategy Working Group

The Lead Member of the working group 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. At its meeting on 20 November 2024 the Environment and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed to establish a working group to consider the BCP Council Safer Accommodation Strategy in response to a recommendation referred to the Committee from Full Council. The group met three times during January and February 2025. The findings of the working group and the recommendations are summarised in the appendix to the report.

The lead member of the working group went through the 3 Key lines of enquiry the working group looked at. The group established that there was no one size fits all with accommodation, many declined group accommodation for various reasons. Separate accommodation could work better for some as well.

The strategy did not look at just domestic abuse amongst couples other groups were mentioned in the working group such as elderly or friends who live together.

The positive work that had gone into the strategy was acknowledged by the group and the lead member thanked officer who helped facilitate the group as well as the officers from the housing team.

RESOLVED that

Recommendations to Cabinet

- 1. That as part of the Safe Accommodation Strategy development, officers consider an awareness campaign and/or guidance materials on the different types of financial support that are available to support those fleeing domestic abuse, in particular in relation to different types of housing tenure (e.g. shared tenancies, joint mortgages), in order to break down a potentially**

significant barrier to survivors accessing support to end their abuse.

- 2. That the engagement plan for the Safe Accommodation Strategy should ensure that the voices of those with lived experience are heard and reflected within the Strategy.**
- 3. That an all councillor briefing session be added to the Safe Accommodation Strategy engagement plan, to ensure members are adequately informed about the strategy and able to contribute views, and to enable them to fulfil their role within the community by communicating the benefits of the Safe Accommodation Strategy to residents.**
- 4. a) that the provision of safe accommodation and associated commissioning process be reviewed,**

b) that scrutiny members be invited to review and input into this review, prior to the commencement of commissioning, through an additional meeting of this working group.
- 5. That the use of temporary accommodation be continuously reviewed and specific KPIs be established for monitoring the success of the new safe accommodation model, including occupancy rates, length of stay, outcomes for survivors (e.g., successful move-on to permanent housing), and survivor satisfaction. These KPIs should be reviewed regularly by the relevant scrutiny committee to ensure accountability and transparency.**
- 6. That Cabinet, with the support of the council's Corporate Management Board, be requested to take a view on forthcoming decisions that may be of significant or contentious public impact, regardless of decision-making thresholds, and an all councillor briefing be held before any such decisions are made, to enable all councillors, and particularly ward councillors, to be properly informed.**

Recommendations to Environment and Place Overview and Scrutiny

- 1. Notes recommendation 4 to Cabinet and agrees to re-engage this working group to support commissioning work at an appropriate time.**
- 2. Notes recommendation 5 to Cabinet and assists in the development of KPIs related to the Safe Accommodation Strategy by scheduling a scrutiny item to provide test and challenge to draft measures.**

- 3. Schedules annual updates on the progress of the implementation of the Safer Accommodation strategy and the wider domestic abuse work, including monitoring of associated KPIs, and that all O&S chairs be invited to attend, so that they can schedule associated scrutiny appropriately. This may be as part of a wider annual update to scrutiny on housing matters.**

Voting: Unanimous

50. Play Streets Update

Councillor Felicity Rice updated the Committee on her recent meeting regarding Play Streets.

Play street is a scheme where residents on quiet streets can close their streets for up to 3 hours either regularly or a few times a year, to make it safe for play or socialising.

The draft policy has been reviewed and the full policy should be ready to view in around 3 weeks and there would be communications going out regarding this.

51. 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 'D' to these Minutes in the Minute Book. The Committee was asked to consider and identify work priorities for publication in a Work Plan.

The Committee decided that they would like to have the Cabinet report on the Local Plan on the agenda for their meeting in May.

**RESOLVED that
the Overview and Scrutiny Committee review, updated and confirmed
its Work Plan adding the Red Hill Paddling Pool item and the Local
Plan report.**

Voting: Nem Con

52. Future Meeting Dates

The next meeting is Wednesday 14 May 2025 6.00pm

The meeting ended at 7.25 pm

CHAIRMAN

ENVIRONMENT AND PLACE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE



Report subject	Recommendations from Portfolio Holders, Cabinet or Council
Meeting date	26 February 2025
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	<p>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.</p> <p>The O&S Committee is asked to consider a request for scrutiny recently made by Council, and to determine the request in line with the associated constitution procedure rules.</p>
Recommendations	It is RECOMMENDED that the O&S committee considers and approves or rejects the request for scrutiny as set out in this report.
Reason for recommendations	To comply with the decision of Council and the requirements of the council's constitution.
Portfolio Holder(s):	Not applicable for this decision
Corporate Director	Graham Farrant
Report Authors	Lindsay Marshall, Overview and Scrutiny Specialist
Wards	Council-wide
Classification	For Decision

Process for consideration of scrutiny requests

1. This report relates to requests for scrutiny made to the O&S committee by a Portfolio Holder, Cabinet or Council. The process for determining requests to O&S Committees from these bodies is set out by the council's constitution procedure rules as follows:

- *Where Portfolio Holders, the Cabinet or Council request that O&S Committees undertake a specified piece of work, the relevant O&S Committee shall respond to the request as soon as it is possible to do so.*
 - *The Committee will assess the value to be added by the work suggested when determining whether to exercise its powers in this respect. Where it chooses to exercise its powers in relation to the request, it will report back its findings and any recommendations to Cabinet and/or Full Council.*
 - *Where the Committee chooses not to exercise its powers in relation to the request, it will provide reasons for this to the body that made the original request.*
2. In addition, the constitution requires that *no item of work shall join the work plan of any O&S Committee without an assessment of:*
 - *detail outlining the background to the issue suggested;*
 - *the proposed method of undertaking the work;*
 - *likely timescale associated with undertaking the work; and*
 - *the anticipated outcome and value to be added by the work proposed.'*
 3. The O&S Committee should follow these processes when determining requests for scrutiny.

Requests for consideration

Protect Christchurch Harbour

4. **Background** - At its 25 March 2025 meeting, the Council was presented with a petition , and to ask the Environment & Place O&S Committee for consideration.
5. **Scrutiny process and timescale** - this was not set out by Council, although debate at Council included the suggestion that the O&S Committee could assist in this matter by considering the proposals from Christchurch Harbour and Marine Society for potential inclusion into the Local plan and report back to Cabinet and Council. This matter may therefore be well suited to a working group or series of commissioned evidence sessions to inform the work.
6. **Anticipated outcome and value to be added by the work proposed** - this was not clearly stated by Council and requires further consideration by the Committee. Since the decision was made by Council further proposals for the scope of the work, including the anticipated outcome and value, have been provided by Councillor Vanessa Ricketts who presented the petition at Council. This is attached at Appendix 2.
7. The full decision of Council is set out at Appendix 1.

Options Appraisal

8. The O&S Committee may choose to agree or reject the requests made. This decision should be made in line with the requirements of the constitution as set out above, particularly in relation to the anticipated value and outcome of proposed work and the resources available to undertake work.
9. If requests are agreed, the committee should determine methods and timescales for scrutiny, taking account of other priorities already established within the committee work programme. This may be delegated to the Chair of the Committee to consider with officers and report back.
10. If requests are rejected, the Committee should provide reasons for this to the body making the request.

Summary of financial implications

11. There are no financial implications associated with this decision to determine scrutiny requests.

Summary of legal implications

12. There are no legal implications associated with this decision to determine scrutiny requests.

Summary of human resources implications

13. There are no human resources implications associated with this decision to determine scrutiny requests

Summary of sustainability impact

14. There are no sustainability impacts associated with this decision to determine scrutiny requests.

Summary of public health implications

15. There are no public health implications associated with this decision to determine scrutiny requests.

Summary of equality implications

16. There are no equality implications associated with this decision to determine scrutiny requests.

Summary of risk assessment

17. There are no risks associated with this decision to determine scrutiny requests.

Background papers

Current Environment & Place O&S Committee work programme

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Extract Minute, Council 25 March 2025.

Appendix 2 – Protect Christchurch Harbour, scoping proposals from Councillor V Ricketts.

Extract Minute of Council meeting held on 25 March 2025.

Minute 90, Petition: Protect Christchurch Harbour

'RESOLVED:- that the petition be referred to the next available Environment and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting for consideration.

Consideration was given to a petition calling for BCP Council to produce and adopt a Christchurch Harbour Protection Policy.

The petition organiser, Vanessa Ricketts, Secretary to the Christchurch Harbour Marine Society provided background relating to the submitted petition.

The Portfolio Holder for Climate Response, Environment and Energy spoke on the petition highlighting the work which has taken place and emphasising the pressures on the harbour.

Members spoke in support of the petition, thanking the petition organiser for bringing the petition to Council and Councillor Michael Tarling moved the following recommendation:

That the petition be referred to the next available Environment and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting for consideration.

This motion was seconded by Councillor Andy Hadley.

Members spoke in support of recommendation.

RESOLVED that the petition be referred to the next available Environment and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting for consideration.

Voting: Agreed with no dissent

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

Please complete all sections as fully as possible

1. Issue requested for scrutiny

The urgent need for a Christchurch Harbour Protection Policy to be included in the BCP Local Plan – addressing the ecological importance of the harbour, its functional link to the River Avon SAC, and growing evidence of environmental decline.

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

To ensure that the Local Plan includes a robust and enforceable Christchurch Harbour Protection Policy that:

- Recognises the harbour's ecological importance and functional linkage to the River Avon SAC.
- Prevents further degradation from pollution, development, and climate-driven

pressures.

- Mandates mitigation measures including nutrient neutrality and better wastewater management.
- Embeds Christchurch Harbour as a protected and strategic ecological asset for the BCP area.
- Responds directly to resident concerns and Natural England's updated site condition reports.

3. Background to the issue

Over 4,400 residents have signed a petition calling for Christchurch Harbour to be protected from pollution and environmental decline. The harbour, designated as an SSSI and functionally linked to the River Avon SAC, is under increasing pressure.

Recent Natural England site checks in November 2024 show:

- Unit 9 (Priory Marsh) is now in an 'unfavourable declining' condition due to loss of effective grazing, brackish intrusion, and swamp encroachment – reducing biodiversity and bird habitat quality.
- Unit 11 (Stanpit Marsh), while still favourable, is suffering from unmanaged saltmarsh erosion and climate-induced 'squeeze' against urban land, with no mitigation currently in place.
- Unit 12 (main estuary unit) data supports previous evidence of sediment shifts, biodiversity pressure, and sensitive flora at risk.

Natural England confirms Christchurch Harbour is functionally linked to the River Avon SAC and used by protected migratory species like Sea Lamprey.

The draft Christchurch Harbour Protection Policy, submitted by CH&MS and The Meyrick 1970 Settlement, provides a policy model that can be adopted into the Local Plan to mitigate these impacts. It includes nutrient neutrality requirements, pollution control, and a framework for development screening based on ecological sensitivity.

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

- A Task and Finish Group to examine and support inclusion of a Christchurch Harbour Protection Policy in the Local Plan.
- Review of the petition and community evidence base, including CH&MS draft policy proposal.
- Examination of SSSI site condition assessments and habitat data from Units 9, 11, and 12.
- Consideration of planning and environmental legal frameworks (SSSI, SAC, Habitats Regulations).
- Engagement with Natural England, the Environment Agency, and council planners to refine policy wording.
- Site visit and stakeholder evidence sessions to gather local insight and ecological perspectives.

- Production of a scrutiny report making formal policy recommendations for the Local Plan.

5. Key dates and anticipated timescale for the scrutiny work

- May 2025 – E&P O&S Committee to agree scope.
- June–July 2025 – Evidence gathering and consultation, including site visit and draft policy review.
- August 2025 – Development of scrutiny recommendations and proposed policy wording.
- October 2025 – Final scrutiny report and Local Plan input submitted to Cabinet and Policy teams.

6. Notes/ additional guidance

Evidence documents attached

Document last reviewed – January 2022

Contact – democratic.services@bcpcouncil.gov.uk

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CABINET



Report subject	BCP Local Plan next steps, updated Local Development Scheme (LDS) and Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)
Meeting date	13 May 2025
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	<p>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 is not something that can be rectified during the examination.</p> <p>Cabinet is therefore recommended to withdraw the draft BCP Local Plan from examination.</p> <p>The associated Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule that was submitted for its own examination at the same time is also recommended to be withdrawn due its strong ties with the draft Local Plan.</p> <p>If Cabinet and Council agree the withdrawal of the Local Plan and CIL Charging Schedule, a new Local Plan will need to be prepared. A timetable (Local Development Scheme - LDS) for this new Plan is recommended in Appendix 1.</p> <p>To facilitate community involvement and good plan making and development management processes, an updated Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) is also recommended for Cabinet to agree at Appendix 2.</p>
Recommendations	<p>It is RECOMMENDED that Cabinet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Recommends to Council that the draft BCP Local Plan be withdrawn from examination. b. Recommends to Council that the draft BCP CIL Charging Schedule be withdrawn from examination. c. Agree to the publication of a new Local Development Scheme at Appendix 1 and submission to Government, subject to Council agreement to withdraw the draft BCP Local Plan under recommendation a. d. Agree the updated Statement of Community Involvement at Appendix 2.

Reason for recommendations	<p>The draft BCP Local Plan has not been supported by the Inspectors' at examination Stage 1.</p> <p>Local Authorities are required to produce, and keep up to date, a Local Development Scheme (LDS) which sets out the future planning documents the Council will be producing within a three-year period and the timescales and key milestones for their preparation. A new LDS is needed if the Council chooses to withdraw the draft BCP Local Plan and start work on a new BCP Local Plan.</p> <p>To update the SCI for the purpose of good planning.</p>
Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Millie Earl, Leader of the Council and Chair of Cabinet
Corporate Director	Glynn Barton, Chief Operations Officer
Report Authors	Caroline Peach, Head of Strategic Planning
Wards	Council-wide
Classification	For Decision and Recommendation to Council

Draft BCP Local Plan – Background

1. The draft BCP Local Plan was considered and agreed for public consultation and submission to the Secretary of State at Cabinet on 13 December 2023 and by Council on 9 January 2024.
2. Following public consultation between 20 March and 3 May 2024 (Regulation 19), the draft Plan was submitted to the Secretary of State on 27 June 2024.
3. Examination Stage 1 hearings took place between 21 and 23 of January 2025. The hearings were to examine compliance with statutory procedures and legal compliance, including the Duty to Cooperate (DtC), housing needs and the housing requirement. Subject to the Plan being found sound at Stage 1 the Plan would proceed to Stage 2 where the rest of the Plan would be considered.
4. In the week commencing the 3 March 2025, the Council received a post hearing letter from the Inspectors which confirmed that they did not support the Plan. A copy of the letter has been published on the examination web site: [Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Local Plan & CIL Examination](#)
5. Paragraph 29 of the letter states, "On the basis of all the evidence before us, and for the reasons set out above, we therefore conclude that the Council has failed to engage constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis during the preparation of the Plan so far as it relates to the strategic matter of housing."

BCP Council and Duty to Cooperate

6. The background to the DtC can be summarised as follows:
 - The Government determined that the standard method for calculating housing need would use 2014-based household projections, even though more recent projections were available.
 - In 2016, the Office of National Statistics (ONS) advised that Bournemouth was one of six towns that had a significant over-estimation of student emigration figures. This was adjusted by the ONS for its projections from 2016 onwards, but this meant that the 2014-based household projections were inaccurate.
 - Therefore, an alternative method was used by BCP Council as the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2023) allowed an alternative approach where there were exceptional circumstances, which placed housing need at 1,600 homes per year. BCP Council could identify land for this amount of need and therefore there was no shortfall to be met by neighbours. DtC meetings therefore focused on other issues such as nutrient neutrality.
 - BCP Council held an advisory meeting with the Planning Inspectorate to discuss this issue and they advised that they felt that the Council would be better identifying a shortfall and discussing with neighbours, then relying on exceptional circumstances for an alternative approach.
 - This change in approach was the reason for the late identification of a shortfall
 - The Local Plan Inspectors were “not persuaded that there are ‘exceptional circumstances’ in BCP which justify an alternative approach to assessing housing need” (para.33 of the Inspectors letter). This matter could only be tested at the examination.
7. Paragraph 37 of the letter sets out the options now open to the Council: “In the light of the failure to adequately discharge the DtC [Duty to Cooperate], there are two options open to the Council, either to withdraw the Plan from examination or to ask that we write a report setting out our conclusions. The latter option would incur further expense, and the contents of our report would likely be very similar to this letter.”
8. Paragraph 31 of the Planning Policy Guidance (PPG) states that,

“As the duty to cooperate relates to the preparation of the plan it cannot be rectified post-submission, so if the Inspector finds that the duty has not been complied with they will recommend that the local plan is not adopted and the examination will not proceed any further. The most appropriate course of action is likely to be for the local planning authority to withdraw the plan and engage in the necessary discussions and actions with other relevant local planning authorities and bodies. In these circumstances the local planning authority will need to re-publish the revised plan for consultation before it is re-submitted for examination.”

Options for the draft BCP Local Plan

9. There are limited options open to the Council. These have been set out by the Inspectors in their letter and paragraphs 7 and 8 above.
10. **Withdraw the Plan** (recommended to Cabinet and Council) - If the Council chooses to withdraw the Plan, the way becomes clear to focus resources on the

preparation of a new Local Plan. Note that if the draft BCP Local Plan had been supported at Stage 1 of the examination then it would have been challenging in terms of resources to undertake Stage 2 of the examination, consult on modifications and adopt the Plan at the same time as starting a partial review as required by Government.

11. If the Council support withdrawal of the BCP Local Plan, then a new LDS setting out the timetable for the preparation of a new Local Plan is needed. The updated LDS attached as Appendix 1 provides this. The LDS continues to be subject to the need for further clarification from Government and the publication of regulations and guidance for plan-making reforms, expected in Summer/ Autumn 2025.
12. The draft BCP Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule was submitted to the Secretary of State for examination on 27 June 2024. This was proposed to be a follow-on examination after the draft BCP Local Plan examination had been completed. However, if the Council supports withdrawal of the BCP Local Plan, it is recommended that the draft BCP Community CIL Charging Schedule is also withdrawn. This is because the draft CIL Charging Schedule is inextricably linked to the draft BCP Local Plan, its policies and evidence base. A new CIL Charging Schedule would need to be prepared.
13. **Ask that the Inspectors write a report setting out their conclusions** – The Inspectors have already indicated that this would incur further expense for the Council and the contents of their report would likely be very similar to the letter that has already received. Based on the reasons given by the Inspectors for not supporting the Plan, this option is not recommended.
14. **Do nothing** – The Council could choose to make no decision. However, there is a statutory requirement placed on all Local Authorities to have an up-to-date Local Plan in place and for the Local Planning Authorities to review their plans every five years. The Bournemouth Core Strategy (2012), Christchurch Core Strategy (2014) and Poole Local Plan (2018) are all older than 5 years and, as such, we have a statutory duty to produce a plan. This means that a 'do nothing approach' is not a viable option. It also does not provide key stakeholders such as the community, businesses and infrastructure providers with certainty about where development and investments should and will occur.

Next steps for a BCP Local Plan

15. If Council decides to withdraw the draft BCP Local Plan from examination, a new LDS is needed to provide clarity on the timetable for the preparation of a new Local Plan.
16. The indicative timetable for the new Local Plan (Appendix 1) is based on the requirements in the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act (LURA) to produce a Local Plan within 30 months. Much of the detail on the plan-making reforms is still to be published and confirmed. In the absence of these details, the Planning Advisory Service has recommended using the details published under the 2023 consultation regarding the new system and this consultation has shaped the indicative timetable in Appendix 1.
17. The indicative timetable includes 3 assessment points, called Gateways to check on progress and to help address issues early in the process. Planning Inspectors

will likely be involved with at least 2 of these Gateway stages. The 30-month timeframe for plan preparation is triggered at Gateway 1.

18. Two formal stages of public consultation will be needed: visioning and strategy development (8 weeks) and response to a draft plan (6 weeks). However, in advance of these stages and Gateway 1, BCP Council intends to carry out early engagement to front load the process.
19. Significant changes and requirements will be needed for the new Local Plan, which will be considered under the NPPF December 2024. This includes mandatory Government housing figures (new standard method), assessment of Green Belt and new definition of 'Grey Belt'. The draft BCP Local Plan included 1,600 homes per year for 15 years (24,000). The new housing requirement will be almost 3,000 homes per year (45,000).
20. It is intended that robust early engagement will assist local communities in understanding what national policy requires of this new plan and enable them to influence where growth is to be planned.
21. The new Local Plan making process is expected to increase the use of digital tools and use of templates to support efficiencies and produce simpler, visual and accessible plans.
22. Until a BCP Local Plan is in place, current Local Plans where relevant and the Government's reforms are informing decisions as the revised National Planning Policy Framework is a material consideration in the Council's decisions on planning applications.

Local Development Scheme

23. A draft LDS was considered by Cabinet on 5 March and subsequently submitted to Government as required on 6 March. This was submitted as a draft because this LDS had been prepared in advance of the Council receiving the letter from the Inspectors' examining the draft BCP Local Plan. The draft LDS considered in March was prepared on the basis that the Plan would be supported at Stage 1 and that the Council would carry out a partial review of the Plan to address the Government's new Plan making requirements e.g mandatory housing figures prepared using a new standard method of calculation and Green Belt review.
24. As the BCP Plan has not been supported at examination, subject to the Council's consideration and decision about whether to withdraw the Plan, the draft LDS needs to be updated to reflect the change in situation. It would no longer be a partial review of the Plan, but a completely new Local Plan reflecting the Government's new planning system.
25. The available options for Cabinet (not Council) to consider are:
 - i. To approve the draft LDS in appendix 1; or
 - ii. To approve the draft LDS in appendix 1 with changes; or
 - iii. To not agree the draft LDS in appendix 1.Options i) and ii) include submission of an updated LDS to Government.

Statement of Community Involvement

26. Local planning authorities are required through the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) to produce a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI), which sets out how they will engage with communities on planning matters including preparation of local plans and planning applications.
27. BCP Council's SCI was adopted in September 2020: [Statement of Community Involvement | BCP](#). Local Planning Authorities are required to review their SCIs every five years from the adoption date.
28. It is important that SCIs are kept up to date to ensure effective community involvement at all stages of the planning process and to reflect any changes to engagement. A local planning authority may review and update their SCI at the same time as reviewing and updating a plan to reflect what action is taken to involve the community in any change to the plan.
29. Since it is close to five years since the adoption of the SCI and subject to the Council's decision to withdraw the draft BCP Local Plan, work will begin on a new Local Plan, it is therefore an appropriate time to update the SCI.
30. The updated SCI is a refresh of the 2020 document and includes primarily factual updates and deletions. These include:
 - a) Removal of reference to Covid-19
 - b) Removal of references to neighbour notification letters.
(In February 2023, BCP Council agreed a budget for 2023/24. This included the implementation of £32.9m of savings from 1 April 2023. This included changes to our approach to consultation on planning applications).
 - c) Removal of reference and details relating to the Council's Corporate Strategy November 2019 and inclusion of details relating to the December 2024 Strategy.
 - d) Removal of reference to the Council's constitution July 2019 and inclusion of reference to January 2025.
 - e) Removal of reference to the Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)
 - f) Removal of reference to Growth and Infrastructure unit.
 - g) Update of the General engagement and consultation principles in relation to inclusive engagement and consultation - with more specific ways that this will be done such as use of plain English.
 - h) Inclusion of reference to the Government's Planning Reforms.
 - i) Inclusion of reference to a revised Local Development Scheme in 2025.
 - j) Update to the reference to made/adopted Neighbourhood Plans.
 - k) Updated text relating to Specific and General consultation bodies.
 - l) Inclusion of reference to Environmental Outcome reports (under Sustainability Appraisal).
 - m) Other minor text updates.

31. The available options for Cabinet (not Council) to consider are:

- i. To approve the draft SCI in appendix 2; or
- ii. To approve the draft SCI in appendix 2 with changes; or
- iii. To not agree the draft SCI in appendix 2.

Summary of financial implications

32. The budgetary implications of this report relate to the options above. Withdrawal of the BCP Local Plan would mean incurring no further costs on this Plan. Instead, costs would be focussed on a new Local Plan, making use of evidence wherever possible from the BCP Local Plan. The costs of asking the Inspectors to provide a report is unknown but this is likely to be significantly less than if their conclusions are subsequently challenged.
33. Initial assumptions have been built into the MTFP in respect to growth pressures and re-charging the Local Plan reserve.

Summary of legal implications

34. The preparation of a Local Development Scheme and Local Plan are statutory requirements of the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011) and Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. The Local Plan must be prepared in line with relevant legislation as well as having regard to national planning policy and guidance.
35. Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) requires the local planning authority to produce a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) every five years.

Summary of human resources implications

36. N/A

Summary of sustainability impact

37. The LDS sets out a timetable for the production of the Local Plan and in itself does not give rise to any impact upon environmental matters or climate change. The Local Plan has a comprehensive suite of assessments including Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment. The SCI is a refresh and update of the previous document and does not give rise to any impact upon environmental matters or climate change.

Summary of public health implications

38. Implications will be considered as part of plan-making and decision-taking

Summary of equality implications

39. Implications will be considered as part of plan-making and decision-taking.

Summary of risk assessment

40. There is reputational risk associated with asking for an Inspectors' report and the doing nothing options, as these would cause delay and increase uncertainty for decision makers and developers.
41. The LDS, for which the timetables are being considered, will identify the risks to meeting the Local Plan milestones and sets out some mitigation to each risk. These risks will need to reflect some uncertainty about the yet to be published regulations and guidance for the new planning system moving forwards.
42. There is a reputational risk associated with not updating the SCI in a timely manner in accordance with planning legislation.

Background papers

Planning Reforms and new Local Development Scheme (item 13 Cabinet 5 March 2025: [Welcome to BCP Council | BCP](#)).

National Planning Policy Framework 2024: [National Planning Policy Framework - GOV.UK](#)

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Local Development Scheme

Appendix 2 – Statement of Community Involvement



Local Development Scheme

May 2025

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Introduction

1. Local planning authorities are required by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) to publish and maintain a Local Development Scheme (LDS). The primary role of the LDS is to set out what documents will make up the development plan for the area and provide a timetable for their preparation.
2. Legislation states that a Local Development Scheme must specify:
 - The Local Development Documents which are to be Development Plan Documents (Section 2);
 - The subject matter and geographical area to which each development plan document relates (Section 3);
 - The timetable for the preparation and revision of the Development Plan Documents (Section 4);
 - Which Development Plan Documents, if any, are to be prepared jointly with one or more other local planning authorities (Section 2);
 - Any matter or area in respect of which the authority has agreed (or proposes to agree) to the constitution of a joint committee (with other Local Planning Authorities) (not applicable); and
 - The timetable for the preparation of the Authorities' monitoring reports (section 5).
3. The Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) requires the LDS to be kept up-to-date and be made publicly available, so that local communities and interested parties can keep track of the progress of development plan documents.
4. This LDS supersedes the Council's previous draft LDS published in March 2025.

Development Plan Documents

5. The Development Plan Documents for the BCP area currently consists of:
 - Bournemouth Local Plan (saved policies) 2002
 - Bournemouth Affordable Housing Development Plan Document 2009
 - Bournemouth Core Strategy 2012
 - Bournemouth Town Centre Area Action Plan 2013
 - Christchurch Local Plan (saved policies) 2001
 - East Dorset and Christchurch Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy 2014
 - Poole Local Plan 2018
 - 'Made' Neighbourhood Plans (Broadstone, Poole Quay Forum, Highcliffe and Walkford, Hurn, Sandbanks Peninsular and Boscombe and Pokesdown)
 - The Bournemouth, Christchurch, Poole and Dorset Waste Plan (2019)
 - The Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Minerals Strategy and Minerals Sites Plan (2014)
6. In the future the Development Plan Documents for the BCP area will consist of:
 - The BCP Local Plan
 - 'Made' Neighbourhood Plans
 - The Bournemouth, Christchurch, Poole and Dorset Waste Plan (2019)
 - The Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Minerals Strategy and Minerals Sites Plan (2014)
7. In addition to the development plan documents, there are also other important documents that relate to the development plan, including;
 - Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule
 - Statement of Community Involvement
 - Supplementary Planning Documents
 - Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plans
8. These are not development plan documents and details about these various documents can be found separately on our website.

Development Plan Document Details

9. This section sets out the subject matter and geographical area to which each development plan document relates.

BCP Local Plan

10. Work on the preparation of a BCP Local Plan commenced in 2019 when the Council began consulting on issues and gathering evidence. A draft Local Plan was then submitted to the Secretary of State for examination in June 2024. The examining Inspectors undertook an initial examination stage considering the Duty to Cooperate, Legal Compliance and Housing Requirement in January 2025. The examining Inspectors identified substantive issues with regard to the Council's approach to the Duty to Cooperate and that Local Plan is recommended to be withdrawn.
11. It is a legal requirement to have an up to date Local Plan for our area and work must now commence on a new BCP Local Plan. The new BCP Local Plan will provide an overarching and cohesive development strategy for the whole of BCP area. It will set out how much, where and what type of development will take place across our area, giving us control over development decisions. The Local Plan has an important role in meeting the Council's corporate objectives and will help us to raise the quality of development so we can achieve the placemaking objectives we aspire to within the BCP area.
12. The BCP Local Plan will cover a 15 year period post adoption and, once adopted, will provide one up to date planning document that is based on up to date social, economic and environmental evidence. As well as setting out our development strategy the Local Plan will provide policies by which to determine planning applications, and will allocate sites to guide new development.
13. The BCP Local Plan will cover the whole of the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole administrative area and will be produced by BCP Council.
14. Once adopted the BCP Local Plan will supersede:
- Bournemouth Local Plan (saved policies) 2002
 - Bournemouth Affordable Housing Development Plan Document 2009
 - Bournemouth Core Strategy 2012

- Bournemouth Town Centre Area Action Plan 2013
- Christchurch Local Plan (saved policies) 2001
- East Dorset and Christchurch Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy 2014
- Poole Local Plan 2018

15. The new Local Plan will be prepared under the revised plan-making system provided for under the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 (as soon as the relevant provisions are brought into force in 2025).
16. The indicative timetable for the new Local Plan is set out in Section 4 and is based on the requirements in the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act (LURA) to produce a Local Plan within 30 months. Much of the detail on the plan-making reforms is still to be published and confirmed. In the absence of these details the Planning Advisory Service has recommended using the details published under the 2023 consultation regarding the new system and this consultation has shaped the indicative timetable.
17. The indicative timetable for the new Local Plan includes 3 assessment points, called Gateways to check on progress and to help address issues early in the process. Planning Inspectors will likely be involved with at least 2 of these Gateway stages. The 30-month timeframe for plan preparation is triggered at Gateway 1.
18. Two formal stages of public consultation will be needed: visioning and strategy development (8 weeks) and response to a draft plan (6 weeks). However, in advance of these stages and Gateway 1, BCP Council intends to carry out early engagement to front load the process. This will assist local communities in having early understanding of and influence on the Plan.
19. The new Plan making process is expected to increase the use of digital tools and use of templates to support efficiencies and produce simpler, visual and accessible plans.
20. Currently all development plan documents are required to be subject to on-going Sustainability Appraisal which informs the content of the Local Plan. The Sustainability Appraisal must meet the requirements of United Kingdom regulations. As such, the Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SA/SEA) are an integral part of the Local Plan preparation process. As part of the planning reforms it is proposed that the Sustainability Appraisal process will be replaced by an Environmental Outcomes Report. Further details on the new process are yet to be released. The Sustainability Appraisal process

or Environmental Outcomes process will take place alongside the Local Plan and the relevant reports will be made available at the various stages of plan preparation.

Neighbourhood Plans

21. Neighbourhood Plan cover specific designated 'neighbourhood areas'. A parish council, town council or a designated neighbourhood forum can apply to have an area designated as a 'neighbourhood area' for the purpose of preparing a neighbourhood plan. Neighbourhood plans provide a specific strategy and/or set of policies for future development in the neighbourhood area. The content and scope of the plans can vary from place to place.
22. Neighbourhood plans must meet certain specified 'basic conditions'. These ensure plans contribute to the achievement of sustainable development, have regard to national policy and guidance and are in general conformity with adopted strategic local planning policies.
23. There are currently six made neighbourhood plans in the BCP area.
 - Broadstone (2018)
 - Poole Quays Forum (2017)
 - Boscombe and Pokesdown (2019)
 - Highcliffe and Walkford (2023)
 - Sandbanks Peninsula (2024)
 - Hurn (2024)
24. In addition, preparation on neighbourhood plans have been progressing in the following areas:
 - Christchurch Town
 - Burton and Winkton
 - Queen's Park and Charminster
25. East Cliff and Springbourne and Lilliput are also in the process of establishing a neighbourhood area.
26. The geographical scope and where known the subject matter of the neighbourhood plan areas can be viewed on our website [Neighbourhood Planning | BCP](#).

Minerals and waste plans

24. The Bournemouth, Christchurch, Poole and Dorset Waste Plan (2019) identifies sites for new waste management facilities to meet the county's needs. It provides the policy framework for determining planning applications for waste management facilities up to 2033. This plan is now five years old and is in need of review.
25. The Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Minerals Strategy was adopted in 2014. A five year review was carried out in 2020, as required by the National Planning Policy Framework. The review concludes that while an update of the Strategy is not currently required further work is needed to ensure the strategy remains suitable.
26. Both the Waste Plan and Minerals Strategy were prepared jointly between Dorset Council and BCP Council to cover the administrative areas of both Councils. BCP and Dorset Councils are continuing to work together on minerals and waste issues.
27. Dorset Council have set out that they aim to integrate the currently separate minerals and waste plans into a single document, to establish a strategic approach and set out the appropriate policy structure and site allocations to maintain a steady and appropriate supply of minerals to meet identified need. It will also establish the strategic approach and appropriate policy basis and site allocations to manage waste. The Plan will be taken forward as a new-style local plan. Once adopted, it is anticipated that the Minerals and Waste Plan will supersede the Minerals Strategy (2014), the Bournemouth, Christchurch, Poole and Dorset Mineral Sites Plan (2019) and the Bournemouth, Christchurch, Poole and Dorset Waste Plan (2019).

Timelines

27. The timetable for the new BCP Local Plan is set out below and noted above. Adoption is anticipated by the end of 2028.
28. The preparation of **Neighbourhood Plans** must follow the process set out in Neighbourhood Planning (General) regulations 2012. The main stages of the Neighbourhood Plan process are:
- Publication of the draft Neighbourhood Plan (Regulation 14): The draft plan is published for consultation by the neighbourhood planning body.
 - Submission of the Neighbourhood Plan (Regulation 16): The draft Neighbourhood plan is submitted to the local planning authority and is publicised for a minimum of 6 weeks.
 - Examination (Regulation 18): The local authority appoint an independent examiner to consider that the neighbourhood plan meets the basic conditions and other requirements set out by law. The examiner will issue a report to confirm if the plan can proceed to referendum or if modifications are required.
 - Referendum: People on the electoral register are entitled to vote on whether or not the neighbourhood plan should be used to help decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area.
Plan is 'made': If successful at referendum the neighbourhood plan is formally made and becomes part of the development plan.
29. Burton and Winkton have published a pre submission draft plan for consultation (Reg 14). The consultation closed in November 2024. It is anticipated that the plan will be submitted and examined in 2025, with a view to the referendum and plan being made in late 2025 or early 2026.
30. Christchurch Town and Queen's Park and Charminster are yet to publish draft plans. It is anticipated that Christchurch Town will publish a draft plan for consultation (Reg 14) in 2025 with a view to a referendum and plan being made in 2026. Queen's Park and Charminster are at an earlier stage of plan preparation and are likely to publish a draft plan in 2026.
31. Up to date information about the process of neighbourhood plans can be found on our website.

New BCP Local Plan													2026												2027												2028											
Task	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec																
Key dates summary																																																
Evidence gathering																																																
Notice of start of plan making																																																
Prepare Project Initiation Document																																																
Early engagement																																																
Gateway 1																																																
Visioning and strategy development																																																
Consultation on options 8 weeks																																																
Visioning and strategy development																																																
Gateway 2																																																
Writing the plan																																																
Consultation on draft plan 6 weeks																																																
Make changes																																																
Gateway 3																																																
Examination																																																
Adoption																																																
30 Months																																																

Other documents

Community Infrastructure Levy

32. The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) will sets out a charging schedule of tariffs to be applied to qualifying development in the BCP area. This will allow funding to be secured for infrastructure that is needed because of development in the area. The tariff is typically applied per m2 of net additional residential floorspace. The rate of the tariff has been determined by examining the ability of development to bear the charge without unduly affecting a development's viability.
33. The CIL charging schedule will be prepared by BCP Council to cover the administrative area of the Council.
34. The stages and the proposed timetable for the production of the CIL Charging is set out below and will follow that of the proposed BCP Local Plan timetable.
 - Stage 1: Publication/Consultation on Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule
 - Stage 2: Publication/Consultation on Draft Charging Schedule
 - Stage 3: Submission for Examination.
 - Stage 4: Examination of the Draft Charging Schedule

Statement of Community Involvement

35. The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) was adopted in 2025. It sets out how the council will consult on planning matters including the preparation of planning policy and the determination of planning applications. The Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017 introduced new requirements for the SCI and as such it is now a requirement to review the SCI every 5 years. The next review of the SCI is therefore due to take place in 2030.

Supplementary Planning Documents

36. Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) are typically produced to provide more detailed guidance on how a particular policy (or policies) should be implemented. There are currently a number of Supplementary Planning Documents that relate to the legacy areas' Local Plans. A full list of the existing SPDs is available on our website at: www.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/planningpolicy.
37. The SPDs required to support the BCP Local Plan will be reviewed as the Local Plan is developed.

Authority Monitoring Report (AMR)

38. The Council is required to produce an Authority Monitoring Report (AMR), setting out how it has monitored progress against key milestones in the programme of plan making, including how effective the programme has been. The AMR will also show how the Council has monitored the implementation of plan policies and will help to establish whether there is a need to revise the LDS. The AMR will be produced annually.



Statement of Community Involvement

May 2025

**Planning and Transport
Strategic Planning**

Introduction

1.1 The role of planning is important in shaping the places where people live and work.

1.2 The planning system provides opportunities for local people to take part in making key decisions about how their local areas will develop over time. A planning system that provides many opportunities for local people to participate is essential in creating and delivering inclusive, accessible and safe sustainable communities.

1.3 BCP Council, as a local planning authority, is responsible for preparing a range of planning policy documents which collectively is known as the Local Development Plan (LDP). It is also responsible for the determination of planning applications for a range of development proposals across the area. Community involvement in both these functions is a fundamental component of the planning process.

1.4 As part of the suite of planning documents, the council is statutorily required by the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) to produce a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) every five years. The purpose of the SCI is to set out how we will engage with local communities and organisations on a range of planning matters including:

- the preparation of relevant LDP documents and other local planning documents
- the consideration and determination of planning applications for development

Background

1.5 BCP Council had inherited three legacy SCIs from the preceding Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole councils, all adopted 2015 and 2016. The new Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole council produced a new SCI in 2020, this updated SCI will replace the 2020 version.

1.6 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) revised in December 2024 values meaningful, effective engagement and making participation in public consultation genuinely easy for all. The NPPF (2024: para 16) states that the planning system should be genuinely plan led. Para 16(c) clarifies that plans should be shaped by early, proportionate and effective engagement between plan-makers and communities, local organisations, businesses, infrastructure providers and operators and statutory consultees. The council is committed to maintaining the fundamental elements of effective and meaningful engagement whilst recognising the social and technological behaviour changes taking place in the community.

1.7 The Localism Act (2011) introduced a duty to cooperate when plan making with adjoining authorities and other bodies on strategic cross boundary strategic infrastructure, including transport, flooding, housing and open space requirements. The three preceding local authority areas of Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole and Dorset Council, New Forest District Council and New Forest National Park Authority have been cooperating on a range

of strategic matters for several years. BCP Council intends to continue effective discussion on such matters to enable the duty to be met in full.

1.8 The Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017 has introduced requirements for local planning authorities to set out policies in the SCI for involving interested parties in the preliminary stages of plan making including supporting communities who wish to undertake neighbourhood planning.

1.9 The council has produced this SCI to ensure local communities, individuals and other interested local organisations can be involved and engaged in local planning matters.

The SCI therefore sets out:

- the key stages in the preparation of development plan and supplementary planning documents and identifies the opportunities for consultation and involvement by communities, individuals and other local organisations
- the opportunities for local people to comment on planning applications for development which affects them
- additional guidance and assistance offered to potential and existing neighbourhood plan making bodies including the statutory stages for any modification to a 'made' neighbourhood plan

1.10 The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) Regulations 2017 require the local planning authority to complete a review of its SCI every five years. However, it may also be reviewed within this period to accord with new regulations and guidance, or when fundamental changes take place that warrants a fresh SCI, for example to temporarily introduce changes to the methods of engaging the community and stakeholders.

1.11 We reserve the right to revise the SCI for minor changes or where temporary situations may cause temporary arrangements to methods of engagement. Where necessary revisions are made, we will continue to take steps to engage by means which are reasonably practicable. This will ensure that plan-making and decision making can progress in accordance with the regulations and the provisions of the SCI.

The benefits of involving the community

1.12 Local communities are those that are most likely to be affected by development proposals in their areas. They are also those who know the most about their neighbourhood. Involving the community in the consideration of planning matters for their area can have a number of benefits, which include:

- benefitting from detailed local knowledge, expertise and perspective of local people, organisations and community groups
- greater community support for, and ownership of policies, strategies and decisions
- community commitment to the future development of their area
- improving the quality of life and of the built and natural environment

1.13 When undertaking engagement with local communities on planning matters, the Local Planning Authority will promote fairness in the consultation process through application of the Gunning Principles. These principles state that:

- a. Consultation must take place when the proposal is still at a formative stage.
- b. Sufficient information is put forward with the proposal to allow for intelligent consideration and response.
- c. Adequate time must be given for consideration of the proposal and response to it.
- d. The consultation responses must be conscientiously considered by the decision maker.

Links with other corporate plans and strategies

1.14 The SCI has been prepared in the context of the adopted BCP Council Corporate Strategy (December 2024) which sets out what the council intends to achieve over the next 4 years. The strategy makes clear that the council is modern, accessible and accountable, committed to providing effective community leadership. It sets out two high level priorities

1. Vibrant Place, where people and nature flourish, with a thriving economy in a healthy, natural environment
2. Our People and communities. Everyone leads a fulfilled life, maximising opportunity for all. are to improve the quality of life for our residents to

1.15 The methods set out in the adopted (2021) BCP Council Community Engagement and Consultation Strategy will commit us to improve the way decisions are made by reviewing our public engagement methodology, transparency and communication and providing more satisfactory methods of communicating with the council as digital technology evolves over time.

The Council's Constitution (January 2025)

1.16 The Constitution sets out rules and procedures which explain how council business is done and how decisions are made. The Constitution gives residents and others certain rights and opportunities to participate in decision-making and contribute to public meetings. Procedures for asking questions, submitting petitions and taking part in certain meetings are contained within the Constitution and set out on the council's website.

Our engagement and consultation principles

1.17 The following general engagement and consultation principles will be applied when preparing planning documents as part of the LDP and in assessing and determining planning applications for development.

General engagement and consultation principles

We will:

Ensure public engagement and consultation is as inclusive as possible. This will be done by:

- Ensure that traditionally hard to reach groups have the opportunity to be involved in the planning process
- Ensure fair and equal treatment of all members of the community
- Use Plain English and avoid the use of planning jargon where possible
- Where required, make information available in a range of easily accessible formats (e.g. in languages, large print, electronic, paper copies).
- Utilise a range of different communication formats and methods, proportionate to the type
- Holding events or meetings in accessible locations at times appropriate for different members of the community

We will do this so that the widest range of residents and local organisations can be involved in, and influence the preparation of, local development plan documents and in the planning application decision making process.

Use consultation methods that are appropriate to each stage of the planning process.

The Council will use a range of techniques to engage with the community including making use of existing community and local interest groups. Seeking the views of the community and other local organisations at the earliest possible stages and throughout the planning process.

Promote methods of engagement and consultation that make communication and involvement more meaningful, easier, faster and cost effective, such as the use of the

council's website, email, e-bulletin subscriber service and other digital and innovative technology.

Provide more opportunities for contact with the community through the use of workshops, meetings and other events and where practicable, be flexible in the timing of such events so that as wide an audience as possible can be reached.

How to use this document

1.18 This document sets out the council's commitments to consultation for both plan-making and planning application decision-taking.

Section 2 deals with plan making. All Specific and General Consultees for BCP Council are set out. Organisations and individuals can request to be included within the consultee list at any time. Details will be maintained on the council's consultation database and all those on the database will be notified of future planning policy consultations.

Section 3 explains how planning applications are dealt with and shows how individuals and the community can be involved in the planning application process, including any right of appeal.

2 The Local Development Plan for BCP Council: plan-making

2.1 The council is responsible for preparing a range of planning documents that collectively make up the Local Development Plan (LDP). Such documents provide the planning strategy, policies, site allocations and guidance aimed at managing growth and development across the Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole areas.

2.2 There are currently two main types of local planning policy documents prepared by the council, as follows:

- (i) **Development Plan Documents (DPDs)** are statutory documents, including the Local Plan that set the planning strategy, policies and site allocations for a local authority area.
- (ii) **Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs)** are non-statutory documents that provide further detail and guidance on the implementation of policies and proposals contained in adopted DPDs. Whilst SPDs do not have the same 'weight' as DPDs, they can be an important 'material consideration' in the process of assessing and determining planning applications for development.

2.3 The government is currently in the process of introducing planning reforms. Development Plan Documents will remain and consist of Local Plans and Supplementary Plans. The Supplementary Plans will be able to cover any subject matter which may be in a Local Plan or Minerals and Waste Plan, but must be site specific or relate to two or more sites which an authority consider to be 'nearby' to each other; except for design related supplementary plans which may be authority area wide. As a result SPDs are likely to remain in place until new style Local Plans and Supplementary Plans are introduced.

2.4 Alongside Local Plan production there is a current requirement to prepare Sustainability Appraisal (SA), integrated with a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to assess the environmental social and economic effects of the Plan. As part of the planning reforms changes are proposed to introduce Environment Reports and further details are anticipated in 2025. Documents prepared as part of the SA or Environmental Reporting process will be published on the council's website.

2.5 The council will also consult on changes to Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). A locally set charge which can be applied to development to help fund infrastructure required to accommodate growth e.g. heathland mitigation; strategic borough-wide transport improvements and flood defences; additional educational, health, social care, leisure and community facilities; green infrastructure/open space and public realm improvements.

2.6 Whilst not prepared by the council, it is obliged at various key stages of the neighbourhood planning process to consult with residents and interested parties when applications for forum and/or area designations are submitted. The draft Neighbourhood Plan (at Reg 16) will also require the council to undertake public consultation in accordance with the SCI. Consultation at the referendum stage is undertaken under separate legislative

regulations. However, all consultation feedback is reported to council committees to enable informed decision making to take place, in accordance with the council's Constitution.

2.7 The Local Development Scheme 2025 sets out a programme for the preparation of new development plan documents including the BCP Local Plan. The LDS will also be published on the council's website.

The current context

2.8 A new BCP Local Plan will be produced and will replace the legacy authorities' existing planning policies set out in The Bournemouth Core Strategy, Bournemouth AAP, Bournemouth Saved policies (2022), Bournemouth AH DPD (2009), Christchurch and East Dorset LP (2014), Christchurch saved policies (2001), Poole Local Plan 2018.

2.9 The list below sets out the current Local Development Plans:

- **Bournemouth Core Strategy (2012)**
- **Bournemouth Town Centre Area Action Plan (2013)**
- **Saved policies from the Bournemouth District Wide Local Plan 2002**
- **Affordable Housing DPD (2009)**
- **Boscombe & Pokesdown Neighbourhood Plan (2019)**
- **Christchurch and East Dorset Local Plan Part 1 – Core Strategy (2014)**
- **Hurn Neighbourhood Plan (2024)**
- **Highcliffe and Walkford Neighbourhood Plan (2023)**
- **Remaining saved policies from the Borough of Christchurch Local Plan (2001)**
- **Poole Local Plan 2018**
- **Broadstone Neighbourhood Plan 2018**
- **Poole Quays Forum Neighbourhood Plan 2017**
- **Sandbanks Peninsula Neighbourhood Plan (2024)**
- **Bournemouth, Dorset & Poole Minerals Strategy (2014)**
- **Bournemouth, Christchurch, Poole and Dorset Waste Plan (2019)**
- **Bournemouth, Christchurch, Poole and Dorset Mineral Sites Plan (2019)**

Other planning documents

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule - an evidence based adopted local planning charge based on net additional floorspace created by new residential development. The Charging Schedule and Local Plan form the mechanisms for collecting developer contributions to enable infrastructure that supports housing growth.

Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plans - documents that define the special character of each of Bournemouth's conservation areas and the approach to their preservation and enhancement.

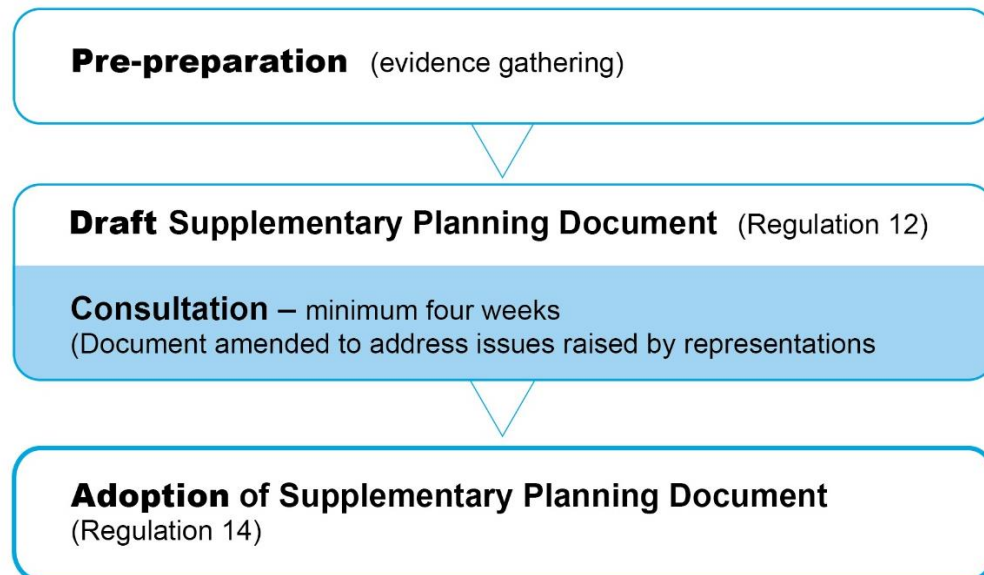
Stages in Local Plan preparation

2.10 Diagram 1 below sets out the statutory process in the preparation of local plan documents.



Stages in the preparation of Supplementary Planning Documents

2.11 Diagram 2 below sets out the stages in the preparation of supplementary planning documents, which as they are not statutory documents are subject to a more streamlined preparation process.



Ways to get involved in the development of new planning policies

2.12 The table below sets out the range of methods that can be used in engaging with the community and other stakeholders. The method(s) used will be those that are appropriate to the stage of the planning process, the issues that are being considered and the community involved.

Website	All planning policy documents, engagement, consultations and supporting information will be available on our dedicated 'haveyoursay' webpage. We may also use the website for online comment forms, questionnaires and feedback
Email	Emails may include information on consultations, responses, the stage of preparation reached, adoption and general updates.
Social media	Where appropriate, social media such as the council's Facebook or X (Formally known as Twitter) may be used to communicate planning matters with groups who are hard to reach or do not traditionally respond to other methods of communication.
Telephone	Where appropriate, to be used where alternative methods are not practical for individuals or groups who do not have internet access.
Meetings (including virtual/digital meetings)	Meetings with individuals, businesses, groups and organisations will be used where appropriate and relevant to the document being prepared. We may offer to attend meetings which are held by existing groups to clarify or explain issues or documents we are consulting on.
Digital communication and consultations	We will seek to use emerging or new digital technology to engage with residents and interested parties, capturing feedback through the use of new technology.
Workshops (including virtual/digital workshops)	Facilitated workshops may be used where appropriate and relevant to allow discussion on issues in detail and to ensure that a range of interested parties have the opportunity to express their views and opinions.
Exhibitions (including virtual/digital exhibitions)	Exhibitions may be used to explain specific proposals and, when staffed, will be used as a method for clarifying our approach and generating feedback.
Video conferencing targeted meetings	In appropriate situations, video conference type meetings may be arranged with representative groups who are not normally engaged in planning consultations to make sure their views are heard.
Local publicity	Where appropriate, additional publicity measures may be taken at a local level.
Walkabout tours	In certain instances, 'walkabout tours' may be used as a way of engaging with a range of stakeholders with interests in a specific geographical area.



Who will be consulted in the preparation of planning documents

2.13 The Town & Country Planning (Local Planning) England Regulations 2012 identify 'specific consultation bodies' and 'general consultation bodies' that local planning authorities must consult. The Government has indicated that it may update these consultation bodies.

Specific consultation bodies:

- BCP Town and Parish Councils
- Relevant Adjoining Local Planning Authorities:
 - Dorset Council
 - New Forest District Council
- Electronic communications companies/owners or operators of telecommunications
- Apparatus: BT, Three, Openreach, Telefónica UK Ltd (O2), Vodafone Ltd
- British Gas
- Dorset Healthcare NHS Trust
- Historic England
- Environment Agency
- Highways England
- Homes England
- Marine Management Organisation
- National Grid
- Natural England
- Network Rail
- Scottish and Southern Energy PLC
- Bournemouth Water Ltd
- Wessex Water

General consultation bodies:

- Neighbourhood Forums
- Resident and community groups
- Places of worship and religious groups
- Gypsy and Traveller groups
- Heritage groups
- Leisure and recreation groups
- Healthcare and community safety groups
- Citizen, political and societal groups

- Business and economy groups
- Developers and planning agents
- Wider stakeholders and individuals

2.14 The strategic planning team maintain a database of organisations and individuals who we are statutorily obliged to consult with and those who have expressed an interest in being involved in the development plan process. As the database is capable of continuous update, any organisation or individual can sign up for notifications by adding their contact details to the mailing list, similarly they can remove their contact details as appropriate.

How your views will be taken into account

2.15 When a consultation event has ended, all the representations we have received will be fully considered and our response will be set out in a summary document. Where appropriate, the planning document consulted on will be revised to reflect the representations received. The summary consultation document will set out:

- who was consulted
- how they were consulted
- a summary of the main issues raised in the comments
- how the comments have been taken into account in the final document

2.16 The summary will be published on our website alongside the consultation documents.

Adoption of LDP and supplementary planning documents

2.17 Once the formal stages of plan preparation have been completed, as set out in Diagrams 1 and 2 (under paragraphs 2.12 and 2.13) documents are required to be formally adopted by the council. All Development Plan and Supplementary Planning Documents must be adopted by full council.

Development Plans - consultation principles

2.18 In the preparation of development plan and supplementary planning documents we will apply the following principles:

Preparing development plan and supplementary planning documents

We will:

Provide clear information on both the purpose of the engagement and consultation being undertaken and the issues under consideration.

Design engagement and consultation events to provide at least the minimum statutory consultation period and wherever practicable or appropriate, exceed these, and coordinate and combine engagement and consultation events to reduce duplication and waste.

Keep records of all representations received through consultation and wherever practicable, provide an appropriate acknowledgement.

Publish responses to representations and use the results to inform policy and service development.

Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment

2.19 As part of the preparation of Development Plan Documents the council is currently required to undertake Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). SA examines the implications of the LDP on the community, the environment and natural resources, whereas SEAs are undertaken to measure the effects of the plan, policy or programme on the environment generally. The process aims to combine social, environmental and economic considerations into the preparation of plans in order to promote sustainable development. In addition, as part of the SA process, our development plan documents are also subject to separate appraisal in respect of health and equalities issues in the form of Health Impact Assessment (HIA) and Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA). As part of the planning reforms the process is likely to change involving new Environmental Outcome reports but the details have not yet been released.

2.20 If the current process remains in place SA scoping will be undertaken at the commencement of the Local Plan process and the resulting SA framework and methodology applied to subsequent DPDs. An SA report will then be produced for consultation alongside a development plan document, at each stage in its preparation. A final SA report will be published prior to a development plan document being adopted by the council. However, this process may be updated through the introduction of Environmental Outcome Reports.

Fulfilling the requirements of Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment

If the current SA system remains, we will:

Undertake and consult on a revised scoping document and develop an updated SA framework and methodology which will be applied to the review of the Local Plan and subsequent development plan documents, as appropriate.

Publish SA reports for consultation, alongside development plan documents, at each stage in their preparation.

Amend SA reports, where appropriate, in response to any comments received.

Produce a final SA report prior to a development plan document being adopted.

The Duty to Cooperate

2.21 The Localism Act 2011 introduced a new 'Duty to Cooperate', requiring local Authorities and a number of other public bodies to:

- Cooperate in relation to issues of sustainable development or the use of land that would result in a significant impact on at least two local planning authority areas.
- Set out planning policies to address these issues.
- 'Engage constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis' in developing strategic policies.
- Consider joint approaches to plan making.

2.22 The NPPF sets out the strategic issues where cooperation might be appropriate and further guidance is provided on 'planning strategically across local boundaries', highlighting the importance of joint working to meet development requirements that cannot be wholly met within a single local planning area, through either joint planning policies or informal strategies such as infrastructure and investment plans.

2.23 BCP Council will be required to demonstrate that it has complied with, and fulfilled the requirements of the Duty to Cooperate in preparing its Local Development Plan and associated documents. In this regard the commitments below will be implemented.

Fulfilling the Duty to Cooperate

We will:

Identify those issues that will require to be considered jointly with neighbouring local authorities and other public and private bodies and actively engage with them in fulfilling the requirements of the duty to cooperate.

Produce appropriate documentation that sets out duty to cooperate arrangements for identified issues and includes details of the decisions reached and why.

Neighbourhood Planning

2.24 Neighbourhood planning was introduced by the Localism Act 2011 and the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations (2012). The Localism Act sets out the areas of neighbourhood planning for which local planning authorities are responsible. In meeting these responsibilities, Strategic Planning will support community groups through their applications to become designated neighbourhood forums, as well as town or parish councils with general powers of competence to progress through key statutory stages of neighbourhood plan production.

2.25 The Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017 and Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012 introduced a duty on local authorities to extend advice and assistance on proposals

for modification of 'made' neighbourhood plans. This is reflected in our commitments in the table below.

Neighbourhood Planning

We will:

- Comply with all Neighbourhood Planning legislation and regulatory requirements.
- Provide guidance and support to prospective neighbourhood groups in wishing to establish themselves as a neighbourhood forum and designate a neighbourhood area.
- Provide advice and assistance to a designated neighbourhood forum or town or parish council in the preparation of a neighbourhood plan, subject to the availability of resources.
- Make the appropriate checks to ensure that a submitted neighbourhood plan meets basic conditions and legal requirements.
- Publish the submission version of the Neighbourhood Plan for public consultation on the council's website for a period of 6 weeks and gather representations received to be forwarded to the examiner for consideration.
- Make arrangements to appoint independent examiner for the examination of a neighbourhood plan - generally examination will be by written representations.
- Make the examiner's report available on the council's webpages.
- Progress to referendum and write to eligible residents and businesses on the council's electoral register informing them that a referendum will be held at least 28 days prior to the voting date.
- Notify residents of Neighbourhood Planning referendums in their area, on the council's website.
- Following a positive referendum and subject to the Plan meeting EU obligations, progress the Plan to adoption.
- Publicise the Neighbourhood Plan on the council's website and in libraries and put up site notices in the Neighbourhood Area publicising the adoption of the Plan.
- Provide advice and assistance to modify 'made' plans and provision for changing neighbourhood area boundaries.

Community Infrastructure Levy

2.26 The three preceding authority areas have separate adopted Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedules. CIL provides the main mechanism for development in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole to contribute towards providing the infrastructure required to accommodate growth in the town. The CIL Charging Schedule sets out the rates (set at £ per square metre of new floorspace) that are applied to development depending on location in the council areas. The adopted rates will be subject to monitoring and periodic review to ensure that they remain up to date and effective. Where, in the future, the adopted Charging Schedule needs to be amended the council will ensure that it will consult widely to ensure that any proposed changes are subject to the appropriate engagement with local communities, infrastructure providers, developers and other stakeholders.

Community Infrastructure Levy

We will:

- Continue to allocate funding through the Neighbourhood Portion of CIL.
- Regularly review the operation and effectiveness of the adopted Charging Schedules.
- Report on the collection and expenditure of CIL monies
- Maintain regular engagement with communities, interested parties and infrastructure providers to ensure the town's infrastructure needs evidence base is kept up to date.
- Publish an Infrastructure Funding Statement identifying infrastructure needs, costs, sources of funding and spending.
- Undertake consultation with communities and organisations in accordance with the CIL Regulations requirements for engagement prior to any formal review of the adopted CIL Charging Schedule.

How locally elected councillors will be involved

2.27 Councillors are the locally elected representatives for the area. Councillors attend Council meetings and a number of them may be appointed to sit on various committees such as the Planning Committee. The Overview and Scrutiny Board plays a vital role in maintaining an overview of the Council's work and looking in depth at areas of particular significance or concern.

What resources does Strategic Planning have?

2.28 Undertaking engagement and consultation is an integral part of the work of the Planning Service, but it is also resource intensive. There are direct costs in terms of resources and staff time. What we have set out in this Statement of Community Involvement is capable of being resourced from within existing budgets, based on the current resources available to the service.

2.29 We will aim to use the most cost-effective methods of engagement and consultation, provide a high-quality service to all customers and where possible, will work with others to coordinate consultations where we can and use innovative technology to assist us where possible.

3 Development management - planning applications

3.1 The requirements for advertising and consulting on planning applications are set out in The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015. Table 1 sets out how BCP Council will meet the statutory publication requirements for various categories of planning application. Please also see paragraph 3.3 below.

Development type	How BCP Council will meet statutory requirements
Applications for non-major development including; household, minor, change of use, variation of condition and others.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site notice(s) • Publish on website
Major applications (as set out in Article 2) of the Development Management Procedure Order 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advertisement in local newspaper • Site notice(s) • Publish on website
Major applications accompanied by an environmental statement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advertisement in local newspaper • Site notice(s) • Publish on website
Applications for Development affecting the setting of a Listed Building or a Conservation Area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advertisement in local newspaper • Site Notice(s) • Publish on website
Applications which do not accord with (departures from) the statutory development plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advertisement in local newspaper • Site Notice(s)
Applications which affect a Public Right of Way (PRoW) to which Part 3 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 applies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advertisement in local newspaper • Site Notice(s) • Publish on website
Notice of hedgerow removals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notify town/parish council (where existing)
Development by Electronic Communications Code Operators GPDO 2015 Sch 2, Part 16	<p>If development is not in accordance with the development plan or would affect a PRO to which Part 3 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 applies: Site notice and advertisement in local newspaper</p> <p>On sites of 1 hectare or more: Site notice(s) Advertisement in local newspaper</p> <p>All other development not covered above: Site notice(s) Advertisement in local newspaper</p>

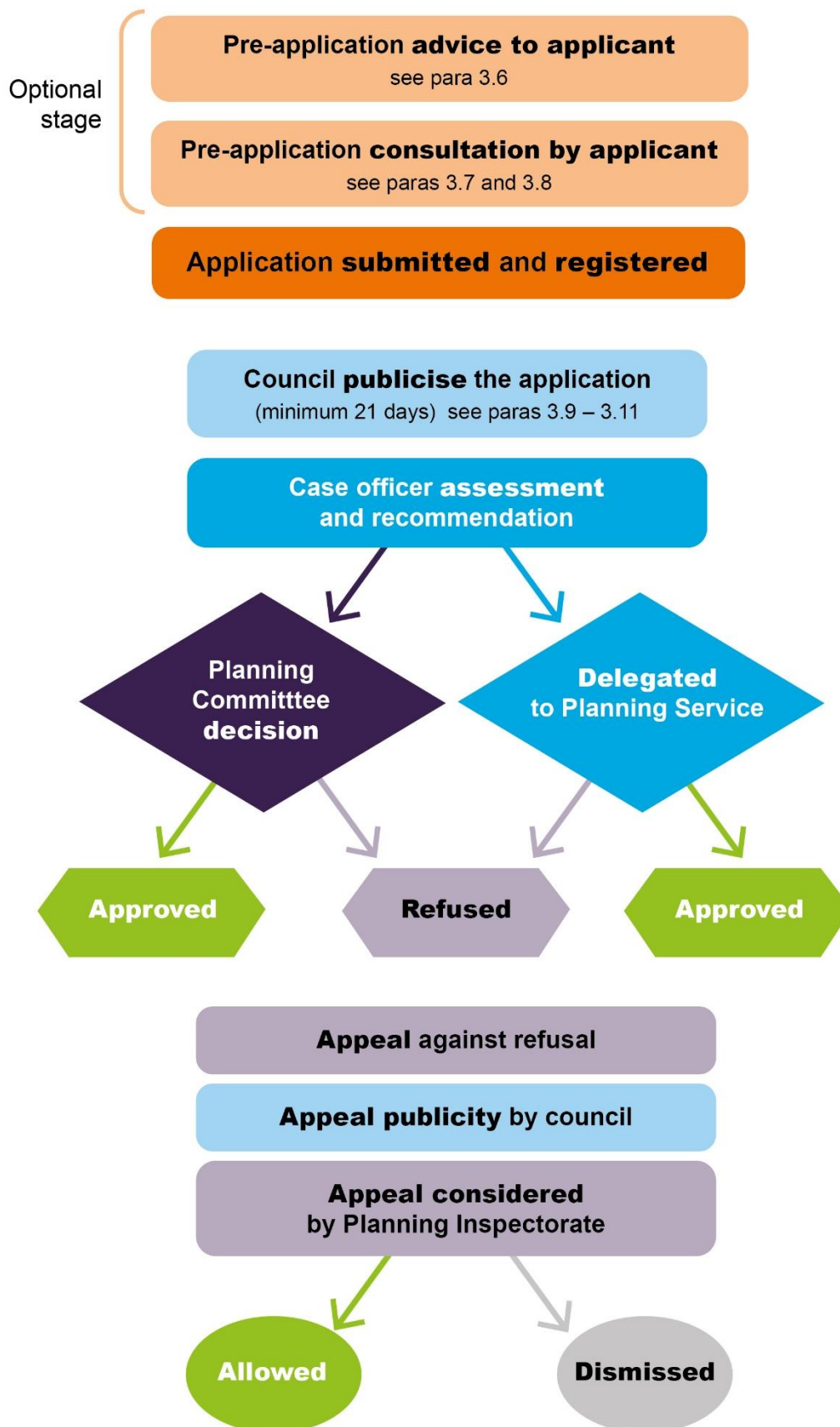
Application for non-material amendment.	No statutory requirement however, applications for non-materials amendments will be published on the BCP planning website application portals.
Certain applications for Permitted Development requiring Prior Approval as defined by the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2015 as amended.	Notify each adjoining owner or occupier about a proposed development by serving on them a notice where required by the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2015 as amended.

3.2 The council is committed to engagement and consultation on planning applications in line with legal requirements. Site notices are posted on or near the land to which the application relates for not less than 21 days in accordance with the relevant legislation. The council advertise applications in the local press where required. People can request a copy of the weekly list and they are encouraged to make themselves known to the local planning authority. The notice will briefly describe the proposal and specify a date by which representations should be made (not less than 21 days from the date of posting). Representations must be made in writing, preferably using the Council's online comment facility via the BCP Council website.

3.3 The council encourages pre-application engagement and consultation in line with the NPPF (2024).

3.4 The following flowchart sets out the planning application process (opportunities for public/ward councillors' involvement highlighted in pale blue).

Planning application process



Pre-application discussions with applicant

3.5 Most applications can benefit from obtaining advice at the pre-application stage, before an application is submitted. Pre-application discussions and written advice from the LPA provides greater certainty and clarity to applicants by identifying relevant planning issues and requirements that can influence the final scheme at an early stage, before it is submitted.

Pre-application consultation

3.6 Applicants are strongly encouraged to engage in pre-application consultation for major or potentially controversial development schemes where appropriate. Pre-application consultation provides an opportunity for applicants/agents/developers to explain their proposals to the local community and allow them the opportunity to express their views and raise concerns directly with applicant with the possibility of influencing the proposal prior to the submission of a planning application.

3.7 The council recognises the importance of actively and creatively engaging the community in the shaping and development of the places where people live and work and the role this can have in fostering a sense of pride and ownership in a local area. To achieve this, the council will consider the use of engagement forums and events to allow elected councillors to liaise with invited local community leaders, schools, community groups, business representatives and other relevant key stakeholders. In this way, forums can participate in discussion to consider a site's future use, design and layout, before a proposed development scheme is submitted to the council. This process aligns with the spirit of the Government's 'Localism' agenda.

How local communities are involved when a planning application is received

3.8 When a planning application is received, properties will be notified by site notice. The public normally have 21 days (extended where the period includes a bank holiday) to make comments on any application proposal and the deadline for comments will be displayed at the bottom of the site notice(s). A decision will not be made until the latest publicity period has expired. Copies of application forms, plans and supporting documents are available for the public to view on the council's website.

3.9 In addition to the weekly lists, the council has a statutory obligation to advertise specific types of applications within a local newspaper – in our case, the Daily Echo.

The council publishes public notices to advertise the following types of applications:

- Applications for Major Development as set out in article 2 of the Development Management Procedure Order 2015.
- Major Applications accompanied by an Environmental Statement.
- Applications for Development within a Conservation Area

- Applications for Listed Building Consent where works to the exterior of the building are proposed.
- Applications affecting the setting of Listed Buildings.
- Applications which do not accord with (departures from) from the statutory Development Plan.
- Applications affecting a public right of way to which Part 3 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 applies.
- Certain development by Electronic Communications Code Operators

Who makes decisions on planning applications?

3.10 A wide variety of planning applications are received each year, ranging from small householder and minor applications, change of use, variation of conditions to large commercial, retail, housing or mixed-use developments. The council makes decisions on these planning applications in one of two ways:

- i. The Director of Planning and Transport can determine applications under delegated powers. This accounts for more than 90% of all applications received.
- ii. Planning Committee deals with those other applications considered to be more contentious as set out in the BCP Constitution.

3.11 Planning application decisions are made taking into account the recommendation of planning officers, the adopted development plan and other relevant material considerations, including consultation comments and third-party representation. Consultation arrangements and the application of planning policy is the same whichever route is chosen.

3.12 Once a planning application has been determined, the decision will be available to view on the council's website.

3.13 The following commitments set out our approach to how the planning application process will be undertaken and what information will be made available.

Undertaking the planning application process

We will:

Encourage applicants to undertake pre-submission consultations with local communities on large or significant development proposals.

Encourage applicants to engage in pre-application discussions with the council for major or significant/controversial applications.

Encourage householders to undertake informal discussions with neighbours over householder proposals.

Allow access to all planning application files (except where confidentiality exclusions apply) and develop document management systems so that, progressively, all files are available electronically through the BCP Council website.

Negotiate minor changes with applicants where necessary and address issues identified through the publicity and consultation exercises on an application where they are considered to hold merit.

Where an application has been amended, officers will exercise their professional judgement to decide whether further publicity and consultation is necessary in the interests of fairness. The time period for any further publicity may be shorter than 21 days depending on the extent of change to the scheme.

In the interests of economy, it is not possible to respond to specific points raised in representations or to provide individual notification of the outcome of the application.

Appendix 1

Glossary of planning terms and acronyms

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) - the financial contribution raised from new development that is used to fund the provision of infrastructure (eg transport schemes, flood defences, parks and green spaces etc), that is needed as a result of development.

Local Plan - key document that sets out the long-term spatial vision for an area, together with the spatial objectives, strategic policies and development management policies required to deliver that vision. The Local Plan has the status of a Development Plan Document.

Development Plan - as set out in Section 38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act, an authority's development plan consists of relevant documents contained within its Local Plan.

Duty to Cooperate - provision of the Localism Act 2011, that has created a duty on local authorities to cooperate with each other when making plans.

Overview and Scrutiny Board - advisory committee dealing with the development of planning policy.

Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) - an assessment tool used to ensure that policies, plans, programmes and strategies do not discriminate against any group or individual on the grounds of age, disability, sex, gender reassignment, pregnancy/maternity, marriage/civil partnership, race, religious belief or faith, sexual orientation, armed forces communities, social inequality or human rights.

General Consultation Bodies - defined in Part 1 of The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.

Gunning Principles - following a landmark case in 1985 (R v LB Brent ex parte Gunning), Stephen Sedley QC proposed four consultation principles applicable to all public consultations by public bodies in the UK. These include ensuring consultation is undertaken when proposals are still at a formative stage, that there is sufficient information provided for the public to make an informed choice, that adequate time is given for consideration and response and, that consultation responses are conscientiously taken into account by decision makers.

Health Impact Assessment (HIA) - an assessment tool used in determining how policies, plans, programmes and strategies can contribute to improving the health and wellbeing of communities.

Annual Monitoring Report – Authorities monitoring the indicators of achievement and targets set out in the Local Plan. The monitoring report assists with identifying how well the Local Plan's key outcomes related to the strategic objectives are being implemented.

Local Development Plan (LDP) - the name for the portfolio of Local Development Documents.

Local Development Scheme (LDS) - a work programme showing when planning policy documents will be produced.

Localism Act 2011 - legislation that brought about a number of reforms to the planning system which included the abolition of regional strategies; the duty to cooperate and introduction of neighbourhood planning.

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (revised 2024) - document that sets out the Government's planning policies and how these are to be applied. It also provides the framework within which local people and their accountable councils can produce their own distinctive local and neighbourhood plans, which reflect the needs and priorities of their communities.

Neighbourhood Planning – Introduced by the Localism Act 2011, this is a means by which local communities are provided with the rights and powers to decide the future of the places where they live and work by developing a Neighbourhood Plan. When made, the plan has the same status as the Local Plan.

Local Planning Authority (LPA) - term for the body as part of the council that has responsibility for setting local planning policies and making decisions on planning applications.

Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) - sets out the standards which authorities will achieve with regard to involving local communities in the preparation of local development documents and development management decisions.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) - a generic term used to describe environmental assessment as applied to policies, plans and programmes. The European 'SEA Directive' (2001/42/EC) requires a formal 'environmental assessment of certain plans and programmes, including those in the field of planning and land use'.

Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) - document that provides supplementary information in respect of the policies in Development Plan Documents. They do not form part of the Development Plan and are not subject to independent examination.

Specific Consultation Bodies - defined in Part 1 of The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, examples given in Appendix 2.

Sustainability Appraisal (SA) - tool for appraising policies to ensure they reflect sustainable development objectives (i.e. social, environmental and economic factors) and required in the Act to be undertaken for all local development documents.

Stakeholders - any individual or organisation who has an interest in the way an area develops. This may include residents, developers, community groups, employers etc...

The Regulations - Town & Country (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 No. 767

Appendix 2

List of Specific Consultation Bodies as interpreted from the Town & Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012

BCP Town and Parish Councils

Relevant Adjoining Local Planning Authorities:

Dorset Council

New Forest District Council

Relevant Adjoining town and parish councils: (not exhaustive for BCP)

Arne

Colehill

Corfe Castle

Corfe Mullen

Ferndown

Lytchett Matravers

Lytchett Minster and Upton

Morden

Pamphill and Shapwick

Studland

Sturminster Marshall

Wareham St Martin

West Parley

Wimborne Minster

Electronic communications companies/owners or operators of telecommunications apparatus

BT

EE

Three

Openreach

SSE Telecoms

Telefónica UK Ltd (O2)

Vodafone Ltd

Licence granted under section 7(2) of the Gas act 1986(9): British Gas

Dorset Health and Wellbeing Board

Historic England

Environment Agency

Highways England

Homes and Communities Agency

Marine Management Organisation

National Grid

Natural England

Network Rail

Licence granted under section 6(1)(b) or (c) of the Electricity Act 1989

Scottish and Southern Energy PLC

Bournemouth Water Ltd

Wessex Water

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ENVIRONMENT AND PLACE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE



Report subject	Work Plan
Meeting date	2 April 2025
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	The Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) Committee is asked to consider and identify work priorities for publication in a Work Plan.
Recommendations	It is RECOMMENDED that: the Overview and Scrutiny Committee review, update and confirm its Work Plan.
Reason for recommendations	The Council's Constitution requires all Overview and Scrutiny Committees to set out proposed work in a Work Plan which will be published with each agenda.
Portfolio Holder(s):	N/A – Overview and Scrutiny is a non-executive function
Corporate Director	Graham Farrant, Chief Executive
Report Authors	Lindsay Marshall, Overview and Scrutiny Specialist
Wards	Council-wide
Classification	For Decision

Work Plan updates

1. This report provides the latest version of the Committee's Work Plan at Appendix A and guidance on how to populate and review the Work Plan in line with the Council's Constitution. For the purposes of this report, all references to Overview and Scrutiny Committees shall also apply to the Overview and Scrutiny Board unless otherwise stated.
2. Items added to the Work Plan since the last publication are highlighted as 'NEW'. Councillors are asked to consider and confirm the latest Work Plan.
3. In addition to the latest Work Plan, the Committee is asked to consider the following two requests for scrutiny which have been received since the last meeting and are attached at Appendix B:
 - Building Control – requested by Councillor Peter Cooper.
 - Review Timings for pedestrian crossings – Councillor Felicity Rice & Councillor Adrian Chapmanlaw

4. The most recent [Cabinet Forward Plan](#) can be viewed on the council's website. This link is included in each O&S Work Plan report for councillors to view and refer to when considering whether any items of pre-decision scrutiny will join the O&S Committee Work Plan.

Resources to support O&S Work

5. The Constitution requires that O&S committees take account of the resources available to support proposals for O&S work. Advice on maximising the resource available to O&S Committees is set out in the O&S Work Planning Guidance document referenced below.

Work programming guidance and tools

6. The [Overview and Scrutiny Committees Terms of Reference](#) document provides detail on the principles of scrutiny at BCP Council, the membership, functions and remit of each O&S committee and the variety of working methods available.
7. The [O&S Work Planning Guidance](#) document provides detail on all aspects of work planning including how to determine requests for scrutiny in line with the Council's constitution.
8. The [O&S Framework for scrutiny topic selection](#) was drawn up by O&S councillors in conjunction with the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny. The framework provides detail on the criteria for proactive, reactive and pre-decision scrutiny topics, and guidance on how these can be selected to contribute to value-added scrutiny outcomes.
9. The '[Request for consideration of an issue by Overview and Scrutiny](#)' form is an example form to be used by councillors and residents when making a new suggestion for a scrutiny topic. Word copies of the form are available from Democratic Services upon request by using the contact details on this agenda.

Options Appraisal

10. The O&S Committee is asked to review, update and confirm its Work Plan, taking account of the supporting documents provided and including the determination of any new requests for scrutiny. This will ensure member ownership of the Work Plan and that reports can be prepared in a timely way.
11. If updates to the Work Plan are not confirmed there may be an impact on timeliness of reports and other scrutiny activity.

Summary of financial implications

12. There are financial implications arising from this report.

Summary of legal implications

13. There are no legal implications arising from this report. The Council's Constitution requires that all O&S bodies set out proposed work in a Work Plan which will be published with each agenda. The recommendation proposed in this report will fulfil this requirement.

Summary of human resources implications

14. There are no human resources implications arising from this report.

Summary of sustainability impact

15. There are no sustainability resources implications arising from this report.

Summary of public health implications

16. There are no public health implications arising from this report.

Summary of equality implications

17. There are no equality implications arising from this report. Any councillor and any member of the public may make suggestions for overview and scrutiny work. Further detail on this process is included within O&S Procedure Rules at Part 4 of the Council's Constitution.

Summary of risk assessment

18. There is a risk of challenge to the Council if the Constitutional requirement to establish and publish a Work Plan is not met.

Background papers

- [Overview and Scrutiny Committees Terms of Reference](#)
- [O&S Work Planning Guidance document](#)
- [O&S Framework for scrutiny topic selection](#)
- [‘Request for consideration of an issue by Overview and Scrutiny’](#)

Further detail on these background papers is contained within the body of this report.

Appendices

Appendix A - Current O&S Work Plan

Appendix B – i) Scrutiny Request from Councillor Peter Cooper

ii) Scrutiny Request from Councillor Felicity Rice and Councillor Adrian Chapmanlaw

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BCP Council Environment and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Work Plan. Updated 24.03.25

Guidance notes:

- 2/3 items per committee meeting is the recommended maximum for effective scrutiny.
- The Environment and Place O&S Committee will approach work through a lens of **SUSTAINABILITY**
- Items requiring further scoping are identified and should be scoped using the Key Lines of Enquiry tool.



	Subject and Background	How will Scrutiny be done	Lead Officer/Cabinet Member	Report Information
Meeting Date: 14 May 2025				
1	Local Plan next steps, updated Local Development Scheme (LDS) and Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)	Cabinet Report	Cllr Mille Earl/Wendy Lane	
2				
3	Christchurch Harbour Petition to Council	Scrutiny Request	Cllr Vanessa Ricketts	
Meeting Date: 9 July 2025				
1	Reserved for pre-decision or reactive scrutiny decision or reactive scrutiny (awaiting Cabinet FP update)			
2	Printing retention - to consider the environmental impact of the Council's email and document retention.	Committee Report	Cllr Andy Hadley/ Cllr Jeff Hanna	Scrutiny Request

Key: Pre-decision or reactive scrutiny item Proactive Scrutiny item


3	Cliff and Coastal Erosion - consider scrutinising Cliff and Coastal Erosion Management.	Officer briefing on Scrutiny Request and contact with the Chair	Cllr Andy Hadley	Scrutiny Request
Meeting Date: 10 September 2025 – Nothing scheduled for this meeting				
1	Reserved for pre-decision or reactive scrutiny decision or reactive scrutiny (awaiting Cabinet FP update)			
2				
3				
Meeting Date: 19 November 2025				
1	Waste Strategy Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole	Committee Report	Cllr Andy Hadley	
2	Local Transport Plan	Committee Report	Cllr Andy Hadley	
3				
Meeting Date: 25 February 2026				
1	Reserved for pre-decision or reactive scrutiny decision or reactive scrutiny (awaiting Cabinet FP update)			
2				
3				
Items with Dates to be allocated				

Key: Pre-decision or reactive scrutiny item Proactive Scrutiny item

	Van Life – Community Pact – Item to consider details on community pact for vehicle dwellers.	Enquiry Session – to be scoped using KLOE Document	TBC	Report Information KLOE Document – Needs to be scoped
	Climate and Nature - to support work relating to climate and nature by determining a scrutiny process focused on the relevant key priorities within the Corporate Plan	Needs to be Scoped using Kloe Document	Cllr Andy Hadley	Report Information KLOE Document
	Redhill Paddling Pool Council received and debated a petition entitled ‘Stop the closure of Redhill paddling pool’. Environment and Place to investigate how we arrived at this situation and investigate ways to keep the paddling pool open and report back to full Council.’	Needs to be Scoped using KLOE Document	TBC	Report Information KLOE Document
	Plant Based food options – to provide an update on the Councils progress on Plant Based foods offerings.	Committee Report	Cllr Andy Hadley/ Cllr Richard Herrett/ Neil Short	This was agreed to be added to the forward plan at its September 2024 meeting.
Working Groups				
1				

Key:  Pre-decision or reactive scrutiny item  Proactive Scrutiny item

Item suggestions for Briefing Sessions				
	Chemicals Scrutiny – Information session requested for this at May 2024 meeting.	Informal Briefing		This requires further scoping – KLOE document
	Planning Service Improvement – Potential briefing to monitor this improvement journey.	Informal Briefing	Head of Planning	Committee to consider holding interim briefings, to provide 6 monthly updates between formal committee reporting on this topic.

Key:  Pre-decision or reactive scrutiny item  Proactive Scrutiny item

1. Issue requested for scrutiny at Environment and Place O/S

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.

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

To establish a clear and evidence-based policy position for BCP Council on the future of Building Control. This includes exploring how the Council can advocate for stronger local authority powers, improved safety standards, and a more transparent inspection regime. Scrutiny engagement will add value by helping protect residents, restore public trust, and ensure that the built environment across the BCP area is safe, accountable, and properly regulated.

3. Background to the issue

This request follows a motion passed by Full Council on 25 February 2025. The motion called for stronger local authority powers in Building Control and urged the Leader to write to the Secretary of State with the following asks:

- Restore Local Authority control over building inspections.
- Properly invest in and resource Building Control teams.
- End the practice of Developer-Selected Inspections.
- Ensure impartial and transparent inspection processes.

Within the motion, Council agreed to **‘refer the motion to the Environment and Place O&S Committee for recommendation of the Council’s policy position on this matter.’**

The Environment and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered this request from Council on 2 April 2025 and agreed that the request be rejected as the motion at Council had been agreed and there was no clearly valuable work for the committee to add to this agreed motion.

However, the committee agreed to consider an updated scrutiny request on the matter at a future date, with a more refined scope detailing how scrutiny could add value to the matter. This document now contains that proposed scope and sets out Key Lines of Enquiry at section 7 below.

4. Proposed method of scrutiny

A small working group of councillors, supported by officers, to investigate best practice nationally, explore existing capacity within BCP Building Control, and assess the risks and implications of continuing with the current system. A report with findings and policy recommendations should be brought back to the main Committee for endorsement and potential referral to Cabinet.

5. Key dates and anticipated timescale for the scrutiny work (TBC)

The following timescales are proposed:

- May–June 2025: Working group established and begins investigation.
- July–August 2025: Evidence gathering and stakeholder engagement.
- September 2025: Report drafted and presented to Environment and Place O&S.
- October 2025: Final recommendations submitted to Cabinet/Council as appropriate.

6. Notes/ additional guidance

This issue links closely to wider national concerns around building safety, especially in the wake of post-Grenfell reforms and current debates about the independence and effectiveness of inspection processes. The work would contribute to positioning BCP Council as a proactive voice in advocating for resident safety and regulatory integrity in the built environment.

7. Key Lines of Enquiry

- What are the current strengths and weaknesses in the BCP Council's Building Control capacity and enforcement?
- How does the developer-led inspection model impact safety, transparency, and accountability?
- What are the comparative outcomes in areas where Local Authorities retain full control over inspections?
- What investment or resourcing would be required to restore and sustain a strong in-house Building Control service?
- How can BCP Council influence national policy to support stronger local authority powers?
- What mechanisms exist or could be created to ensure independent and impartial inspections?
- What are the views of residents, professionals, and stakeholders on the current and proposed systems?

Submitted by Cllr Peter Cooper

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

Please complete all sections as fully as possible

1. Issue requested for scrutiny

Request from Cllrs Felicity Rice and Adrian Chapmanlaw.

Please can the council review the timing settings for pedestrian crossings in the BCP area. Please see this link for a similar project conducted in Bristol

[Around 100 pedestrian crossings in Bristol will see green man instantly as plan approved | Bristol Live](#)

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

To improve the interaction between residents walking and those driving vehicles at pedestrian crossings that have lights. This project will look at simple crossings and enable people walking to be able to cross quickly after arriving at a crossing. This will benefit people walking, particularly if they have young children with them, or if the weather is bad, because they will not have to wait unnecessarily. It will also benefit drivers in that they will not need to be driving past young children that may be at risk of stepping into the road, and they will learn that if a person is arriving at a pedestrian crossing with lights, that they should slow down and stop because the lights will be changing. They will also not need to drive pass someone waiting in the rain and instead be able to stop and allow the person to cross the road.

In areas with high flows of walkers, there will be a setting so that there is a minimum amount of time between red lights to allow traffic to flow.

This is all good for society to show we care for each other.

3. Background to the issue

In the past there has been a culture within the highways/roads teams to automatically make people walking wait when approaching a pedestrian crossing. It is now time to change this culture for the benefit of everyone.

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

A couple of informal meetings between the relevant officers and one or two councillors with a verbal update report provided to O and S by one of the councillors.

5. Key dates and anticipated timescale for the scrutiny work

It could be added to the next Environment & Place overview and scrutiny meeting.

6. Notes/ additional guidance