

Notice of Overview and Scrutiny Board

Date: Tuesday, 27 August 2024 at 6.00 pm

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



Membership:

Chairman:

Cllr S Bartlett

Vice Chairman:

Cllr S Aitkenhead

Cllr P Broadhead
Cllr J Beesley
Cllr L Dedman
Cllr C Goodall

Cllr S Mackrow
Cllr L Northover
Cllr Dr F Rice
Cllr K Salmon

Cllr T Trent
Cllr O Walters
Cllr C Weight

All Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Board 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?MId=5946>

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

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

16 August 2024

**DEBATE
NOT HATE**



Available online and
on the Mod.gov app



Maintaining and promoting high standards of conduct

Declaring interests at meetings

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

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



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

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

Bias Test

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

Predetermination Test

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

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

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

Selflessness

Councillors should act solely in terms of the public interest

Integrity

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

Objectivity

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

Accountability

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

Openness

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

Honesty & Integrity

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

Leadership

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

AGENDA

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

1. Apologies

To receive any apologies for absence from Councillors.

2. Substitute Members

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

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

3. Declarations of Interests

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

Declarations received will be reported at the meeting.

4. Confirmation of Minutes

To confirm and sign as a correct record the minutes of the Meeting held on 16 July 2024.

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5. Public Issues

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

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

The deadline for the submission of public questions is midday 3 clear working days before the meeting.

The deadline for the submission of a statement is midday the working day before the meeting.

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

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

6. Council Budget Monitoring 2024/25 at Quarter One

This report provides the quarter one 2024/25 projected financial outturn information for the general fund and housing revenue account (HRA). The February 2024 approved general fund budget for 2024/25 was

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balanced on the assumption of £38m in savings, efficiencies, and additional resources.

The quarter one budget monitoring position for 2024/25 demonstrates the ongoing financial challenges to this authority from relentless increasing demand and cost pressures. These pressures are not dissimilar to those faced by all upper tier local authorities. The council's robust financial governance and proactive management of its budget is enabling significant mitigation.

Services are expected to implement mitigation strategies to address emerging operational pressures identified within the first quarter. This is critical to maintaining the financial health and sustainability of the council as the medium-term financial plan makes no allowance for replenishing any reserves used to balance 2024/25 budget.

The expenditure on the Special Educational Needs and Disability Service (SEND), which is within the high needs budget, continues to exceed the government grant made available as part of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and reflects the rising demand for services in this area. This position has significantly worsened from the already dire position assumed in the budget for 2024/25. BCP Council has taken steps to manage this situation locally but, as a national issue, these steps are limited. Conversations for an urgent solution continue with the Department for Education (DfE) and the Ministry of Housing, Communities, and Local Government (MHCLG).

7. Shared Vision for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole - Overview and Scrutiny Utilisation of the Performance Dashboard

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The Overview and Scrutiny Board to receive a demonstration of the new Performance Dashboard and consider how this can be utilised by the Board as an ongoing tool to drive impactful scrutiny. This item includes the Cabinet report which provides the Quarter 1 monitoring report as an example.

8. Progress update on the 'Best Value Notice'

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The Council was issued with a 'Best Value Notice' by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (DLUHC) on 3 August 2023. This followed an assurance review that was commissioned in response to the Council's July 2022 request for a capitalisation direction under the Exceptional Financial Support programme. The Chief Executive also carried out an internal assurance review prior to this, with the conclusions supported by the external review.

In response to receiving the 'Best Value Notice', an action plan was agreed by Cabinet on 6 September 2023 and has been monitored and updated regularly since.

The 'Best Value Notice' expired on 2 August 2024. This report outlines the good progress made against the action plan.

9. Work Plan

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

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