

Notice of Overview and Scrutiny Board

Date: Tuesday, 15 July 2025 at 6.00 pm

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



Membership:

Chairman:

Vice Chairman:

Cllr S Aitkenhead

Cllr P Broadhead
Cllr J Beesley
Cllr L Dedman
Cllr M Dower

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?MIId=5957>

If you would like any further information on the items to be considered at the meeting please contact: Claire Johnston 01202 123663 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

7 July 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. 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

7 - 14

To confirm and sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 9 June 2025.

5. Work Plan

15 - 24

The Overview and Scrutiny Board is asked to consider the identify work priorities for its next meeting pending a wider review of its forward plan at a future meeting.

6. 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

7. Enhancement to Pay and Reward Offer

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Since the creation of BCP Council through the local government reorganisation of the four preceding councils in April 2019 we have been negotiating with the trade unions to introduce a new Pay and Reward package which aligns pay and conditions across all colleagues. This report sets out the progress made since Cabinet last considered the results of the November trade union ballot process and outlines next steps.

8. Scrutiny of Budget reports to Cabinet

To consider the following budget items prior to Cabinet:

a) Financial Outturn 2024/25

77 - 146

The report presents the revenue and capital budget outturn, reserves position, dedicated schools grant outturn, housing revenue account, and results of council company and partner organisations for the financial year 2024/25.

The financial revenue outturn is a £1.2m surplus, an improvement on the reported quarter three balanced position, with this delivered in a challenging budget environment.

In February 2024 Council set a balanced budget and medium-term financial plan over the 4-year period to 31 March 2028 based on conventional local government financial management process. This addressed the inherited £30m structural deficit from using reserves rather than savings to balance the 2023/24 budget.

The non-deliverability of previous year savings was addressed, particularly those expected from the transformation investment. New fully itemised savings of £38m were programmed for 2024/25 with 86% being achieved through service transformation, third party spend reduction, staff savings and raising additional income. Mitigations have been found in other areas to reduce the impact of those unable to be delivered.

The budget recognised the ongoing cost-of-living and service demand pressures that face all local authorities and this required council tax to be increased by the maximum amount permitted by government of 4.99%, with the same increase assumed for future years.

A revised approach was taken to the annual repayment of debt with voluntary contributions made above the statutory minimum to reduce the burden for future years.

b) Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) Update

147 - 170

This report:

- Aims to ensure the council presents a legally balanced 2026/27 budget.
- Presents an update on the 11 June 2025 Spending Review.
- Provides details of two consultation documents issued on 20 June

2025 namely the Local Government Fair Funding Review and Modernising and Improving the administration of council tax.

- Presents an update on the MTFP position of the council.

Acknowledges the action of the Leader of the Council and Director of Finance in writing to Government to seek assurance around the council's ability to continue to cashflow the significant and growing Dedicated Schools Grants deficit within the statutory framework.

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.