

Notice of Overview and Scrutiny Board



Date: Monday, 23 February 2026 at 6.00 pm

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

Membership:

Chairman:

Cllr K Salmon

Vice Chairman:

Cllr S Aitkenhead

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

Cllr S Mackrow
Cllr L Northover
Cllr Dr F Rice
Cllr T Trent

Cllr O Walters
Cllr C Weight
Cllr G Wright

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=5965>

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

AIDAN DUNN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

13 February 2026

**DEBATE
NOT HATE**



Available online and
on the Mod.gov app

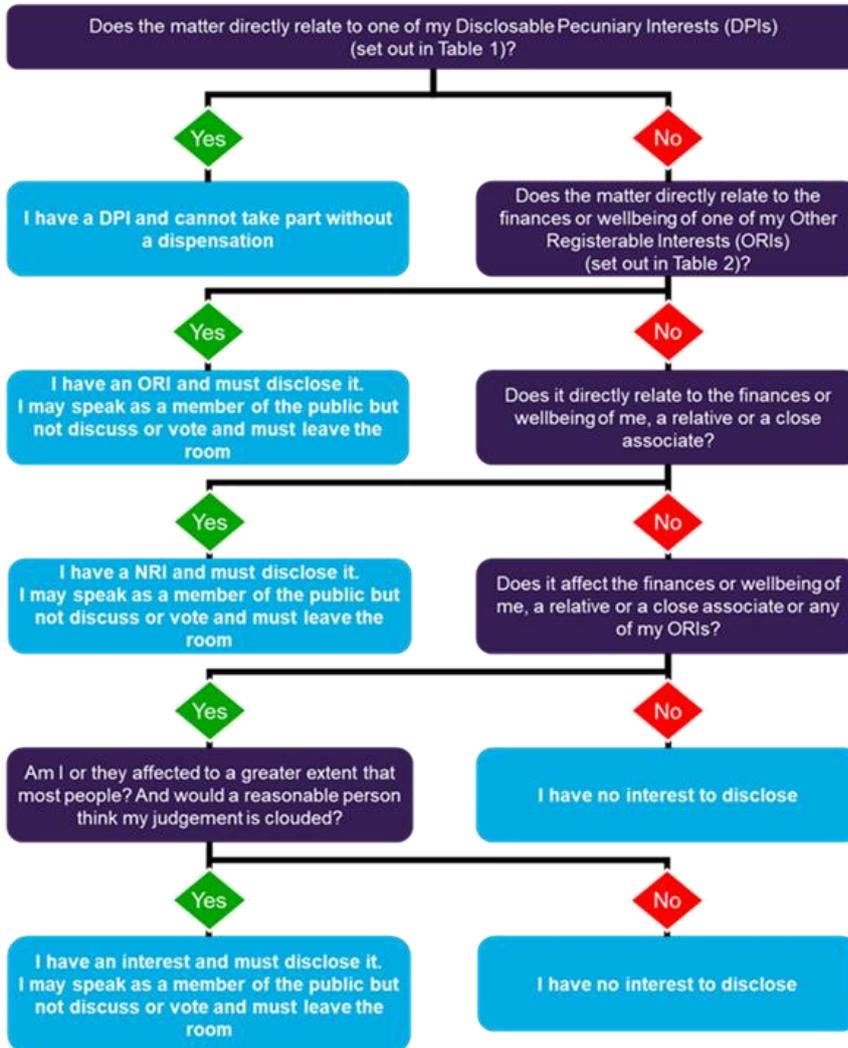


Maintaining and promoting high standards of conduct

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

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 9 February 2026.

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5. Recommendation Tracker

To receive and consider updates to the recommendation tracker.

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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.bcpCouncil.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. Consultation Framework Working Group Report

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At its meeting on 18 November 2024 the Overview and Scrutiny Board agreed to establish a working group to consider the BCP Council developing Consultation Framework in response to report brought to the Board on Consultation methods and responses. The group met three times during April and May 2025. Subsequently, the Board requested the working group to broaden its original remit to include an examination of recent consultations and examples of previous consultations, with a view to identifying any lessons that could be applied to future practice. The working group met a further 4 times from September to December to undertake this task and formulate recommendations to improve issues around consultations. The findings of the working group and detail explaining the rationale behind the recommendations which the Working Group have formulated are summarised in the appendix to this report.

8. BCP Community Safety Partnership Annual Report

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This paper sets out elements of development and delivery by 'Safer BCP', the BCP Community Safety Partnership (CSP), and its constituent agencies. It provides Members with an update since the last report to Overview and Scrutiny Panel in January 2025.

The Local Government Act 2000 includes crime and disorder scrutiny as one of the functions the council must ensure its scrutiny arrangements cover. Sections 19 and 20 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and related regulations require the Council to have a committee with the functions of reviewing and scrutinising decisions and actions in respect of the discharge of crime and disorder functions by "responsible authorities".

The specifics of the duty are set out in the Police and Justice Act 2006, which also allows members to refer any "local crime and disorder matter" raised with them by anyone living or working in their area, to the Crime and Disorder Committee. The Board designated as the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee must meet at least once every 12-month period to conduct the functions.

Guidance issued concerning how this role should be conducted include that:

- the role should be one of a critical friend, providing constructive challenge at a strategic level.
- the focus should be on the entire partnership and if issues arise that relate specifically to a particular partner agency, it may be more appropriate to refer such issues to the governing bodies of that organisation.
- the scrutiny of partners should be "in so far as their activities relate to the partnership itself."

In the BCP area, the Overview and Scrutiny Board undertakes this function each December/January.

9. Increased Penalty Charge Notice and Associated Charges Trial

To Follow

10. 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.

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BOURNEMOUTH, CHRISTCHURCH AND POOLE COUNCIL
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

Minutes of the Meeting held on 09 February 2026 at 6.00 pm

Present:-

Cllr K Salmon – Chairman

Cllr S Aitkenhead – Vice-Chairman

Present: Cllr J Beesley, Cllr P Canavan, Cllr L Dedman, Cllr C Goodall,
Cllr S Mackrow, Cllr L Northover, Cllr O Walters, Cllr C Weight and
Cllr G Wright

Present

Virtually: Cllr F Rice (part meeting)

Also in attendance: Cllr M Earl, Cllr A Martin, Cllr R Burton, Cllr D Brown and Cllr M Cox

89. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr T Trent

90. Substitute Members

Cllr M Tarling substituted for Cllr T Trent.

91. Declarations of Interests

There were no declarations of interest made on this occasion.

92. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 January were approved as a correct record.

93. Recommendation Tracker

The Board considered the existing recommendation tracker. Cabinet Members provided responses on two outstanding issues at clause 56 and clause 57.

The Cabinet Member for Finance responded to the Board's earlier recommendation that capital receipts be considered to support repairs and maintenance of publicly accessible assets. It was explained that due to severe financial pressures and competing demands, this recommendation had not been accepted. Limited resources meant priority had been given to statutory and unavoidable pressures.

In response to the recommendation the Cabinet Member for Customer, Communications and Culture confirmed that the technology was intended

to increase access hours, not to reduce staffed hours. Staffing reductions in libraries were described as unsustainable, and assurance was given that the technology would not be used to justify further reductions. A list of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) applications relating to library improvements was read out, including projects across multiple library branches (e.g., replacement equipment, children's area improvements, facility upgrades). The service was actively maintaining a rolling list of potential projects to support councillor awareness and future applications.

94. Public Issues

There were no public issues submitted for this meeting.

95. Scrutiny of the 2026/27 Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan

The Chair outlined the format for consideration of this item. The Board considered 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 Chair advised that the Board would be focussing on the budget with a resident impact lens and as such Directors had been invited to the meeting to address savings and budget pressures within their Directorate area.

Wellbeing Directorate – The Corporate Director for Wellbeing outlined the savings pressures within the directorate and potential impacts to services:

- **Public Health and Communities** - The budget was challenging but remained manageable and no direct reductions to current service provision were anticipated. Savings were expected to be achieved through the removal of the Ward Improvement Fund, increased fees and charges for services such as community centre use, and a higher Public Health Grant contribution to corporate overheads. These measures were not expected to result in any observable impact on residents.
- **Adult Social Care** - Adult Social Care continued to experience rising and increasingly complex demand. Significant transformation programmes, including *Fulfilled Lives*, *Future Care*, and the *Prevention Strategy*, would be critical in delivering budget savings and maintaining service levels. It was confirmed that statutory services would continue to be delivered, although the position remained extremely challenging.
- **Commissioning** - The Service continued to face pressures driven by inflation, workforce shortages and escalating demand. Efforts would focus on supporting sustainability and managing the wider care market. Although the financial position was difficult it was expected that the proposed budget could be delivered.
- **Housing and Public Protection** - significant pressures were reported, particularly in relation to homelessness, temporary accommodation and bed-and-breakfast use. Savings were expected from income generation and service efficiencies. It was noted that several were non-statutory but remained critical to community safety and wellbeing. Services were operating at capacity, and further savings would be extremely difficult to achieve without affecting service delivery.

Board Members asked whether any proposed savings carried a risk of noticeable impact on residents. Clarification was sought on the distinction between statutory and non-statutory responsibilities, particularly in Adult Social Care and Housing. Officers and Cabinet Members provided examples of non-statutory but preventative services, such as the handy-van initiative and community support work, which helped to reduce future statutory costs. Members also queried whether additional income from client contributions implied higher charges; the Director confirmed that increased income would arise from a greater number of eligible clients. It was clarified that fees would also rise inline with inflation.

Children's Services Directorate – An update on savings was provided by the Director of Education & Skills and Director of Children's Social Care:

- **Education and Skills** - The Director of Education and Skills explained that the High Needs Block remained under significant pressure despite the recent Government announcement. Savings were expected through the reallocation of posts into grant-funded streams and by strengthening early intervention in line with upcoming Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) reforms. The Director highlighted that developing more local SEND provision would reduce reliance on costly external placements and help manage home-to-school transport pressures.
- **Children's Social Care Pressures** - The Director of Children's Social Care reported sustained high levels of demand, which remained above national averages.
- **Savings proposals** – It was anticipated that these would be achieved through replacing agency social workers with alternatively qualified practitioners under the Families First model, improving commissioning practices, strengthening in-house foster care and kinship care arrangements, relocating the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub to reduce accommodation costs, and expanding the use of AI enabled translation services. Early intervention programmes, including Family Hubs and the reunification team, had already demonstrated significant cost avoidance.

Board Members requested clarification on several areas, including the reallocation of funding to supported internships, the restructuring of care-leaver services under a locality model, and the deliverability of agency staff reductions. Members also questioned whether the level of commissioning savings was ambitious enough, and whether AI-based translation tools were sufficiently accurate and appropriate for sensitive interactions. Further questions were raised regarding the scale and deliverability of home-to-school transport savings.

Operations - The Chief Operating Officer outlined the pressures and savings for the Operations Directorate:

- **Commercial Operations** - The Chief Operating Officer reported that commercial fees and charges had been aligned with market comparators and overall demand. Parking charges would increase by an

average of 4%, supported by efficiency improvements in enforcement. Cultural and leisure assets would continue to be protected.

- **Environment and Infrastructure** - The Directorate intended to maintain existing service levels despite significant pressures. The expansion of food waste collections would be delivered within current resources. The ongoing spending freeze had resulted in a growing backlog of non-safety-critical maintenance, although strategic initiatives such as the Plan for Play aimed to mitigate long-term deterioration.
- **Customer Services and Property** - Savings would be achieved through increased use of digital tools, streamlining of telephony operations, and more efficient facilities management arrangements. Work was continuing to review options for the future use of the Bournemouth Tourist Information Centre site.
- **Saving Measures** - Members requested clarification on “rebalancing” savings. Officers explained this meant restructuring teams, reallocating duties, and removing inefficiencies—not reducing frontline services.
- **Cultural Festival Funding** - Members asked whether festival support would continue. Officers confirmed Council cash funding had always been time-limited, but future events would proceed using Arts Council funding and officer time as match funding.
- **Pay-and-Display Machines** - Members expressed concern for residents without smartphones. Officers confirmed cash-based options would remain; machines would be removed only when broken or surplus.
- **Parking Operational Savings** - Members asked what drove the large savings. Officers explained savings came from tariff increases, improved enforcement efficiency, and better permit management.
- **Maintenance Backlogs** - Members raised concerns over growing maintenance backlogs. Officers stated that only non-safety-critical works were delayed, and strategic investment programmes would mitigate long-term deterioration.

Resources - The Chief Executive outlined the savings and pressures within the Resources Directorate, but it was noted that these would not have any impact on residents if delivered correctly. Savings totalling approx. £1m, mainly through staffing efficiencies, contract reviews, and system decommissioning were explained. A vacancy freeze and non-essential expenditure freeze were continuing to mitigate wider organisational pressures.

- **Self-Insurance** - Members questioned the increased self-insurance risk. Officers confirmed that modelling with brokers showed this approach was cost-effective, and essential repairs or replacements would remain funded.
- **Residents Card Scheme** - Members asked where the scheme sat within the budget. Officers stated it was funded through Operations and the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, with future funding dependent on evaluation of scheme outcomes.
- **Budget Consultation** - Members highlighted that consultation questions should reflect real financial choices. Officers agreed, and the Leader

accepted that future consultations could be improved within any legal limitations.

Whole-Budget Consideration

The Chair invited the Cabinet Member for Finance, Chief Finance Officer, and Leader to address the full Budget position. The Cabinet member for Finance advised that the Budget had been extremely challenging due to a significantly poorer-than-expected national settlement, rising demand, especially for SEND and Social Care and the projected SEND deficit which could have reached in excess of £400million by 2028. The Board was advised that the Council had applied for exceptional financial support including a Council Tax flexibility request and a capitalisation direction.

Government communications on the day of the meeting indicated that it would allow a 1.75 percent additional Council Tax rise above 4.99 percent. The Government also announced that it would be writing off 90 percent of the SEND deficit in 2026, this was conditional on producing an approved SEND Reform Plan. The statutory override for the deficit would be ending in 2028, leaving the Council responsible for approximately £38m of residual SEND deficit, which would necessitate significant reserve growth if it was to be addressed.

The Leader highlighted political choices made to protect community-valued services such as public toilets, lifeguards, and community safety officers. Points raised by the Board included:

- **Reserve Requirement Feasibility** - Members asked how the Council could build reserves to meet future SEND liabilities. Officers explained that a reserves strategy would be developed, potentially supported by a capitalisation direction.
- **Conditions of SEND Reform Plan** - Members sought clarity on the conditions attached to SEND deficit write-off. Officers confirmed an approved SEND Reform Plan would be required, with a collaborative focus across education, health and post-16 sectors, as this information had only just been received the details still needed to be looked at further.
- **National vs Local Funding Messaging** - Members queried the apparent inconsistency between public political statements and financial reality. Officers clarified that national statements referenced “core spending power”, which assumed year-on-year Council Tax increases; when removed, the settlement represented a real-terms reduction.
- **Use of Capital Receipts** – The Board questioned whether capital receipts could fund essential building repairs, particularly in light of the situation with Charminster Library roof. Officers confirmed receipts were currently earmarked for transformation and may be required for future SEND-related capitalisation, and that wider asset strategy work would be the appropriate forum for scrutiny.

RESOLVED that The Overview and Scrutiny Board recommend to Cabinet that the questions asked in the budget consultation be reviewed to ensure that they are relevant to the choices which need to be made in the 2027/28 budget setting.

Voting: Unanimous

The Board placed on record its thanks to Adam Richens, Chief Finance Officer noting that this was potentially his final appearance before the Board. The Board acknowledged his diligence, professionalism and resilience in guiding the authority through an exceptionally challenging financial environment.

96. 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 'B' to these Minutes in the Minute Book. The Board was asked to consider and identify work priorities for publication in a Work Plan. The items for the forthcoming meetings in February and March were confirmed. The Chair advised the Board that work was ongoing to consolidate and analyse the findings from the work planning workshop to place into a work plan for the Board. The Chair assured the Board, in response to a comment regarding the need to have a robust schedule for regeneration items to enable meaningful scrutiny in advance of the next election cycle, that regeneration would be a clear priority.

RESOLVED that the Work Plan be noted.

Voting: Nem. Con.

The meeting ended at 8.15 pm

CHAIRMAN

RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTIONS TRACKER – OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY FUNCTION

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

UPDATED: 14.01.2026

Minute number	Item	Recommendation made <small>*items remain for monitoring until implementation is complete or committee agree to remove.</small>	Recommended to <small>*name of receiving body/ Officer, and date received</small>	Outcome <small>*accepted/ partially accepted/ rejected/ unknown.</small>	Implementation updates
Recommendations from Board meeting – 13 May 2024					
9.	A shared vision for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole 2024-28 Strategy and Delivery Plan	<p>RESOLVED that the Board support the recommendations to Cabinet, subject to the suggested amendments from the Board:</p> <p>(a) The delivery plan be approved (b) The measures for monitoring progress and ensuring accountability for delivery be agreed.</p> <p>Note – minor amendments to the measures contained in the report were suggested by the O&S Board and captured in the full minutes of the meeting.</p>	Cabinet - 22 May 2024	Accepted	The Portfolio Holder confirmed that the amendments suggested at O&S Board had been incorporated into the revised version of the Strategy and Delivery Plan supplied for decision by Cabinet.
Recommendations from Board meeting – 16 July 2024 – No recommendations made at this meeting.					
Recommendations from Board meeting – 27 August 2024 – No recommendations made at this meeting.					
Recommendations from Board meeting – 23 September 2024 – No recommendations made at this meeting.					
Recommendations from Board meeting – 1 October 2024 – No recommendations made at this meeting.					
Recommendations from Board meeting – 21 October 2024					

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Agenda Item 5

60.	Blue Badge Service Update Report	<p>The Board resolved that:</p> <p>The Portfolio Holder/Leader and the Chief Executive be asked to write to the Department for Transport to raise the concerns outlined by the O&S Board and that the Portfolio Holder take the issue forward with local MPs and the Local Government Association to encourage local authorities to raise these issues with the Department for Transport and request that central government gives local authorities the freedom to set fees which cover the cost of administering the system and that the system should be simplified in terms of renewal processes.</p>	Portfolio Holder/ Leader/ Chief Executive	Partially accepted by the Portfolio Holder	<p>The Portfolio Holder confirmed that they had written to the Department for Transport and provided the response received to the O&S Board at its meeting on 12 May.</p> <p>It was unknown if this had been raised directly with the LGA and at the O&S Board meeting on 12 May the Portfolio Holder undertook to follow up on this.</p>
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Recommendations from Board meeting – [18 November 2024](#)

69.	O&S Budget Working Groups – findings and recommendations	<p>Recommended to Cabinet</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the principle of an inflationary increase across all parking charges be endorsed for the 2025/26 budget. 2. That it requests Officers to take into account the suggestion that an assessment be made on using a proportion of surplus income to accelerate the parking charging machine replacement programme prioritising the best value machines in order to reduce future costs (subject to the necessary procurement processes). 3. That Officers be requested to explore options to reduce costs for the Council and make the process easier for the public to pay for car parking, in particular an option to be able to pay in advance/on Council website. 	Cabinet – 10 December 2024	Partially accepted	<p>Responses provided to the Cabinet meeting on 5 February</p> <p>://ced-pri-cms-02.ced.local/documents/s55921/Appendix%203a%20-%20Portfolio%20Holder%20Responses%20to%20Budget%20Scrutiny.pdf</p>
		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That it requests that Officers evaluate the retention and recruitment of Civil Enforcement Officers to ensure a robust and resilient workforce to provide an appropriate level of resource and promote safe and appropriate parking. 2. That Officers be requested to ensure adequate resourcing of parking enforcement to reduce inappropriate parking around schools. 	Cabinet – 10 December 2024	Accepted	<p>Response from Portfolio Hodler received at the O&S Board meeting on 3 February 2025 :</p> <p>http://ced-pri-cms-02.ced.local/documents/s55808/responses%20from%20Cabinet.pdf</p>

		<p>The O&S Board recommend to Cabinet:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That any Resident Card offering is made fully accessible to all those who are not digitally enabled. 2. That there should be an application process for the card with a small financial contribution for the cost of processing and that the card should be a valuable offer that residents are willing to pay a small cost for, so that it can be sustainable in terms of administrative costs. 3. That any charge levied for the card should be the same regardless of the format and that consideration should be given to concessions for disadvantaged groups. 	Cabinet – 10 December 2024	Partially accepted	<p>Responses provided to the Cabinet meeting on 5 February</p> <p>://ced-pri-cms-02.ced.local/documents/s55921/Appendix%203a%20-%20Portfolio%20Holder%20Responses%20to%20Budget%20Scrutiny.pdf</p> <p>Response from Portfolio Hodler received at the O&S Board meeting on 3 February 2025 :</p> <p>http://ced-pri-cms-02.ced.local/documents/s55808/responses%20from%20Cabinet.pdf</p> <p>Note: the residents card offer did not progress as part of the budget</p>
Recommendations from Board meeting – 9 December 2024					
78	Pay and Reward Progress Update	RESOLVED that Cabinet be recommended to approve option 2 of the proposed process flowchart (Appendix 1 of the report) and the commencement of collective consultation under s188 of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992 ('TULRCA'), which is a statutory obligation where an employer is proposing to dismiss 20 or more employees.	Cabinet - 10 December 2024	Accepted	Negotiations with the pay and reward progress have continued and a new offer had been made to the unions. A ballot was now taking place with the recognised trade unions and an outcome was expected by the end of June 2025. This report was brought to O&S Board and Cabinet

79	Housing Delivery Council Newbuild Housing and Acquisition Strategy (CNHAS) update and Harbour Sail acquisition	RESOLVED that the Overview and Scrutiny Board recommend that Cabinet support the recommendations as set out in the Cabinet report: Housing Delivery Council Newbuild Housing and Acquisition Strategy CNHAS update and Harbour Sail a.pdf	Cabinet - 10 December 2024	Accepted	The recommendation from Cabinet has not been put before Council because the purchase of Harbour Sail has not proceeded. This was due to timing of the purchase which affected the ability to use the grant for the purchase (which without this grant the scheme was no longer financially viable) and that title restrictions could not be altered to allow flexibility of tenure that was required. The grant has been reallocated to other property acquisitions.
81	BCP Council Libraries – Update on Library Strategy Development	RESOLVED that the Overview and Scrutiny Board recommend that Cabinet support the recommendations as set out in the Cabinet report: BCP Council Libraries Update on Library Strategy Development.pdf	Cabinet - 10 December 2024	Accepted	The Library strategy is expected to be considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Board and Cabinet in August and September 2025
Recommendations from Board meeting – 6 January 2025					
90	Devolution	Recommended to the Leader that: a: The Leader arranges an emergency Full Council Meeting at the earliest opportunity to enable a vote of ALL of the available options b: An evidence-based piece of work be undertaken on the pros and cons of a devolution arrangement with both the Solent deal AND Wessex deal, including exploring a public referendum for BCP residents.	Leader of the Council	Partially accepted	Full Council meeting was arranged for 15 January 2025. The Council meeting considered the options of both the Solent deal and the Wessex deal, further information was brought to the Council meeting and Council voted to participate in the priority programme and to move forward with the Wessex proposal.
Recommendations from Board meeting – 13 January 2025 – No recommendations made at this meeting					
Recommendations from Board meeting – 3 February 2025					

106.	Council Budget Monitoring 2024/25 at Quarter 3	RESOLVED that the O&S Board recommend to the Audit and Governance Committee that it instigate an investigation on the Carters Quay development.	Audit and Governance Committee 27 February 2025	Accepted	Update provided to the A&G Committee at its meeting on 29 May. Chief Executive agreed that a report of the governance and process could be produced for the 24 July. It was also agreed to circulate by email the updated provided by the Director, Investment and Development together with the advice previously provided by the Monitoring Officer. Carters Quay - Update.pdf A further report will be take to Cabinet
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Recommendations from Board meeting – 4 March 2025

115.	Community Governance Review – Draft Recommendations	RESOLVED: that the O&S Board Recommend to Cabinet that the draft recommendations of the Task and Finish Group relating to proposals for Burton and Winkton (A), Hum (B), Highcliffe & Walkford (C) and Christchurch Town (D) be recommended to Council, for approval for publication and consultation, without amendment.	Cabinet date – 5 March 2025	Accepted	Consultation progressed with these proposals. The Consultation closed 22 June 2025. The Working group are processing the outcome of the consultation and a report will be brought back to the October Cabinet meeting.
		RESOLVED: That the O&S Board recommend to Cabinet that the draft recommendations of the Task and Finish Group relating to Broadstone (F) and Poole Town (J) be recommended to Council, for approval for publication and consultation, without amendment.		Accepted	
		RESOLVED that the Board recommend to Cabinet that that the recommendation for Bournemouth (K) not be forwarded to Council.		Rejected	Cabinet felt that it was important to consult on all areas including (k) Bournemouth Town and therefore supported the recommendations as set out by the task and finish group and did not support recommendation 3 as submitted by the Overview and Scrutiny Board.

		RESOLVED that the Board recommend to Cabinet that the draft recommendations of the Task and Finish Group relating to Southbourne (I) be recommended to Council, for approval for publication and consultation, without amendment.		Accepted	
		RESOLVED that the O&S Board recommend to Cabinet that the draft recommendations of the Task and Finish Group relating to Boscombe and Pokesdown (H) be recommended to Council, for approval for publication and consultation, without amendment.		Accepted	
		RESOVLED that the O&S Board recommend to Cabinet that the draft recommendations of the Task and Finish Group relating to Throop and Holdenhurst (E) be recommended to Council, for approval for publication and consultation, without amendment.		Accepted	
		RESOLVED that the O&S Board recommend to Cabinet that the draft recommendations of the Task and Finish Group relating to Redhill and Northbourne (G) be recommended to Council, for approval for publication and consultation, without amendment		Accepted	

116.	Bournemouth Development Company LLP Business Plan	RESOLVED that the O&S Board recommend to Cabinet that a decision to extend the Winter Gardens site 'Option Execution Date' is deferred by Cabinet until the new BDC Partnerships Business Plan has been approved by Cabinet.	Cabinet – 5 March 2025	Rejected	The Cabinet did amend a recommendation as follows: Agrees the principle of an extension of the Winter Gardens site "Option Execution Date", with details to be agreed to be delegated to the Chief Operations Officer acting in consultation with the Leader of the Council, or until Cabinet have had the opportunity to review a revised partnership business plan including the site development plan for the revised Winter Gardens scheme." It was not able to agree a deferment of this decision as this would stop progress on the Winter Gardens development.
117.	Strategic Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)	RESOLVED That the Board recommended to Cabinet: 1. That the spending priorities for Strategic CIL as set out in Option 2 of the paper over the period 2024/25 to 2029/30 be agreed provided CIL income is as forecast; and 2. That the report be updated annually for Cabinet and Council.	Cabinet – 5 March 2025	Accepted	Accepted by Cabinet and spending priorities agreed for 2024/25 to 2029/30 for CIL.
Recommendations from Board meeting – 12 May 2025					
11.	Blue Badge Update	The Chair requested that the matter also be raised with the Local Government Association particularly regarding the cost of administering the Blue Badge scheme and the limitations of the current data system	Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Customer, Communication and Culture	Unknown	Update on this issue awaited – no deadline date

12.	Arts and Culture Funding	<p>Recommended to Cabinet:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the O&S Board recognise the value of the NPOs funded by BCP to Health and well-being youth and the local economy and urge Cabinet to protect the funding BCP currently provides. 2. That Cabinet endorse the work that's been done with schools by the NPOs and recommends that Cabinet take action to encourage all schools to take part. 3. To explore whether it would be a benefit for a Councillor to be appointed as a member of the Board on any or all of the NPO organisations, and 4. That it ensures that the arts by sea festival goes ahead next year. 	Cabinet – 13 May 2025	Accepted	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1: The cultural funding remains in the MTFP so there is no change in that position as of the moment. 2: The Portfolio Holder is working with the Cultural Hub to encourage this. 3: The Portfolio Holder has spoken to the NPO and they respectfully suggested that this would not be helpful. The Portfolio Holder agreed with this especially as they would likely be a PH and the Portfolio Holder already had very close links with all of them. 4: We are planning for ABTS next year and awaiting funding news from ACE.
Recommendations from Board meeting – 9 June 2025					
22.	Bournemouth Air Festival	The Overview and Scrutiny Board agreed with the recommendation that Cabinet agrees to Option 4 as set out in the report, which acknowledges the ongoing process for new events to come forward and stops any further work on an Air Festival for 2026 onwards.	Cabinet – 18 June 2025	Accepted	Recommendation accepted and confirmed that further work on the Air Festival for 2026 had been discontinued.
23.	Bournemouth Development Company - Winter Gardens Project	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Overview and Scrutiny Board supported the following recommendations to Cabinet: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (c) Cabinet approves the BDC Partnership Business Plan for 2025 – 2030. (c) Cabinet confirms the extension of the Site Option Execution Date to September 2028, allowing Muse as the Private Sector Partner in the BDC to fund the first stage of work on the new Winter Gardens scheme, resulting in a new Site Development Plan. (c) Cabinet approves proceeding on the understanding that public parking will not be included in a new scheme design. 2. The Overview and Scrutiny Board welcomed the development of the Town Centre Vision for Bournemouth and requested to scrutinise the regeneration visions for the 3 Towns in the BCP Area as these are redeveloped. 	Cabinet – 18 June 2025	Accepted	The development plans are due to come forward for consideration in December 2025 and it was proposed by the Leader that these would go to full Council.

		<p>3. The Overview and Scrutiny Board welcomed the development of the Town Centre Vision for Bournemouth and requested to scrutinise the regeneration visions for the 3 Towns in the BCP Area as these are redeveloped.</p>		<p>Accepted – update provided</p>	<p>We are developing the narrative across the three towns identifying key strengths and uniqueness to build upon the vision set out in the Corporate Strategy : vibrant places, where healthy people and nature flourish, with a thriving economy in a healthy natural environment. To support this we've made good progress by the establishment of a Citizen's Panel and the Growth Board. The Citizen's Panel comprises of residents with a focus on the town centre which is helping to provide insight into how residents feel and engage within the space. The Growth Board is a newly established steering group which is comprised of representatives from key sectors within the BCP conurbation including Business Improvement District, education, manufacturing, Starts up and the volunteering sector. These perspectives are helping to shape our vision for BCP as a place which can thrive, for residents to feel civic pride and a destination for visitors to enjoy. The conversation at the O&S focussed on how Winter Gardens fits into the wider context of the Town Centre and committee members asked for that to form part of any proposals from BDC. There is an existing Town Centre Vision which forms part of the Local Plan, and the intention is for BDC to review this to support a future planning application, ensuring it reflects the nature of the development proposals in the absence of a formal planning policy framework.</p>
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24.	Leisure Services Presentation and Discussion	The Overview and Scrutiny Board recommended that Cabinet be urged to put in place an "Access to Leisure" scheme across the whole BCP area as soon as possible, recognising that people in Poole have lost this facility and with particular emphasis on ensuring accessibility for people with disabilities	Cabinet – 18 June 2025	Accepted – update from Portfolio Holder Provided	The Portfolio holder has asked that officers explore options around a renewed access to leisure facility and bring forward options, including but not limited to; how that would be managed, financial implications, and meeting the recommendation as requested by the Overview and scrutiny board.
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Recommendations from Board meeting – 15 July 2025

31.	Enhancement to Pay and Reward Offer	<p>The Overview and Scrutiny Board supported the following recommendations to Council within the Cabinet report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Agree the additional costs associated with enhancing the proposed Pay and Reward offer. b) Agree the additional savings proposals outlined in Appendix 1 to ensure the cost implications of the proposal remain consistent with the February 2025 endorsed Medium Term Financial Plan. c) Agrees the details of the enhanced offer shown in Appendix 4 and 5 that will form the basis of the signed collective agreement with our recognised trade unions. d) Approves the recommended implementation date of 1 December 2025. 	Cabinet – 16 July	Accepted	Agreed by Council on 22 July 2025. Work underway to achieve implementation for December 2025.
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32.	Scrutiny of Budget Related Cabinet reports – MTFP update report	<p>The Overview and Scrutiny Board endorsed the work of Members and Officers around SEND as set out in recommendation C of the report as follows:</p> <p>In respect of the SEND deficit, note the update and acknowledges the action taken by the Leader and the Director of Finance</p>	Cabinet - 16 July	Accepted	
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Recommendations from Board meeting - 22 September 2025

39.	Residents Card	RESOLVED that the Overview and Scrutiny Board do not support the recommendation as outlined in the report as the Board did not feel that the Cabinet report included sufficient financial details and details of the scheme offers to enable it to make an informed decision. The Board recommend to Cabinet that the report is deferred to allow details of	Cabinet – 1 October	Rejected	Updates were made to the report and the recommendation prior to consideration by Cabinet.
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		the financial modelling that has been done to be added, including a cost/benefit analysis and a sensitivity analysis. Once this additional information is included in the report, it should then be brought back to the O&S Board before being taken to Cabinet for decision.			
Recommendations from Board meeting – 30 September 2025					
47.	Community Governance Review – Final Recommendations	All Recommendations as set out within the Cabinet report were supported by the Board: (a) the Task and Finish Group community governance review final recommendations, as set out in paragraphs 49, 62, 74, 92, 104, 117, 128, 140, 152, 166 and 181 of this report be approved; (b) the Head of Democratic Services be authorised to make all necessary reorganisation of community governance orders to implement the changes agreed by Council; (c) the Task and Finish Group continue to consider the transfer of civic and ceremonial assets, statutory services and precept requirements for year 1, for each new parish, on the basis of minimal transfer and precept, and a report be presented to full Council in due course.	Cabinet – 1 October	Accepted	The recommendations of Cabinet were referred to Council on 14 October. The Recommendations of Cabinet were agreed by full Council
Recommendations from Board meeting - 20 October 2025					
56.	Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) update	The Overview and Scrutiny Board recommend to Cabinet that as part of the Budget setting process. consideration be given to utilising receipts from the existing surplus asset disposal programme for 2026/27 to address some of the repairs and maintenance of publicly facing assets.	Cabinet – 29 October	Partially Accepted but final determination was to reject	The Portfolio Holder advised that this was considered as part of the budget setting process but due to the significant pressures on the delivery of statutory services it was not agreed to include this within the proposed budget – 9 February 2026
57.	BCP Council Libraries Draft Library Strategy	1. The Overview and Scrutiny Board recommend to Cabinet that as part of the Library Strategy it looks to maintain staffed hours in libraries, especially in the afternoon period, as open access is rolled out further in the future. 2. The Overview and Scrutiny Board recommend to Cabinet that the Library Service put together a list of smaller neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Bids to put to Councillors and Neighbourhood Forums immediately upon the opening of future CIL rounds.	Cabinet - 29 October	Accepted	The Portfolio Holder reported that the staff hours in Libraries would be maintained and that a list of potential CIL bids had been created and these were outlined to the Board – 9 February 2026

		3. That the O&S Board support the recommendations as set out in the Cabinet report.			
Recommendations from Board – 17 November 2025 – No recommendations made at this meeting					
Recommendations from Board – 8 December 2025					
79.	Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) Update	RESOLVED that the O&S Board advise Cabinet of its support for all recommendations as outlined in the Cabinet report.	Cabinet – 17 December	Accepted	Cabinet noted the support for the recommendations within the report.
Recommendations from Board – 5 January 2026					
87.	Regeneration Progress Report	That the Overview and Scrutiny Board recommend to Cabinet that, to enable effective lobbying of Government in the future, the draft of the BCP Growth Plan be shared with O&S Board Members when available and that Overview and Scrutiny be embedded in the plan's development and approval process.	Cabinet – 14 January	Accepted	Extract from Cabinet minutes: The Leader thanked Councillor Salmon and the Board for bringing their recommendation to Cabinet and advised that she was minded to accept the recommendation and that a formal response would be provided to the Board.
Recommendations from Board – 9 February 2026					
95.	Budget 2026/27 and Medium-Term Financial Plan	The Overview and Scrutiny Board recommend to Cabinet that the questions asked in the budget consultation be reviewed to ensure that they are relevant to the choices which need to be made in the 2027/28 budget setting.	Cabinet – 11 February	Unknown - TBC	

OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

Minute number	Item	Action* *Items remain until action completed.	Benefit	Updates
Actions from Board meeting – 12 May 2025				
10.	BCP Complaints Policy	RESOLVED that the Board further examine the role of councillors in the complaints process, particularly in relation to ward issues and casework.	To ensure the effectiveness of both the Councils complaints process and work of Ward Councillors	Work underway - Cllr S Aitkenhead as rapporteur
Actions from Board meeting – 22 September 2025				
38.	Commercial Operations	Portfolio Holder to provide an update on the current situation in 6 months-time with a view to scheduling further scrutiny when appropriate.	To monitor and receive updates on this area of the Council	Update due to the Board in March.
Actions from Board meeting – 20 October 2025				
57.	BCP Council Library – Draft Library Strategy	A potential item be included on the O&S work programme on a review of income generation opportunities within the library service, including commercialisation options and partnership models.	TBC	
Actions from Board meeting – 5 January 2026				
87.	Regeneration Progress Report	That a small group be convened including Cllrs J Beesley, P Canavan and K Salmon to scope draft Key Lines of Enquiry on a number of the issues raised for future scrutiny in preparation of the O&S Work Programming process.	To ensure that the issues raised are given due consideration and ensure that the work planning process can continue.	

ENVIRONMENT AND PLACE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

UPDATED: 14.01.26

Minute number	Item	Recommendation made *items remain for monitoring until implementation is complete or committee agree to remove.	Recommended to *name of receiving body/ Officer, and date received	Outcome *accepted/ partially accepted/ rejected/ unknown.	Implementation updates
Recommendations from Committee – 15 May 2024					
26	Improvement of the environment in Poole Park through a trial closure of a park entrance to motor traffic	Cabinet refer the matter to Full Council for decision.	Cabinet, 22 May 2024	Rejected	<p>Extract from Cabinet minutes:</p> <p>'Cabinet members questioned the benefit of taking the report to full council for further debate and felt that the decision should be made.'</p> <p>Decision made: RESOLVED that Cabinet: - (a) Agrees that the current trial closure, of the Whitecliff entrance and exit point to motor vehicles, is made permanent in Poole Park. (b) Agrees that current arrangements are retained, and motor vehicles can still access Poole Park and its facilities.'</p>
Recommendations from Committee – 11 September 2024					
15	Plant-based and reduced meat and dairy diets: discussion paper	RESOLVED that a. the Environment & Place Overview & Scrutiny Committee considered the information presented in the discussion paper and gave their views on possible approaches Cabinet may wish to take in relation to the promotion of plant-based and reduced meat and dairy diets. These proposals will then be subject to further evidence-gathering and consultation. b. To support the treaty and do more work outside the committee on the position statement. c. The draft position statement be brought back to the Committee for further consideration with information	Portfolio Holder and Officers	Accepted	A revised position statement with measurable objectives was returned to the committee for further scrutiny in October 2025.

		about how it can be measured against SMART objectives in order for the Council to be more ambitious and positive on this issue			
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Recommendations from Committee – 20 November 2024 – No recommendations made at this meeting.

Recommendations from Committee – [26 February 2025](#)

38	Climate Action Annual Report 2023/24	RESOLVED that a) The Committee propose to the Portfolio Holder that on the front page of the BCP Greenhouse Gas Emissions Dashboard an additional box is added to highlight the context of any carbon reduction relevant to the annual carbon reduction target b) Embedded carbon cost to be included in the calculation and displayed on the dashboard where available.	Portfolio Holder	Unknown - seek update	
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39	Housing Strategy Review	RESOLVED that the Overview & Scrutiny Committee recommend to Cabinet that that the Housing Strategy Steering Group be comprised of one member from each political group and one unaligned member.	Cabinet, 2 April 2025	Accepted	<p>Extract from Cabinet minutes:</p> <p>‘The Portfolio Holder thanked the Environment and Place Overview & Scrutiny Committee for their thorough debate at the Committee and expressed support for their recommendation.’</p> <p>Decision made: RESOLVED that Cabinet: - (a) Approved the Revised Housing Strategy Delivery Plan at appendix B; (b) Approved the extension of the current Housing Strategy Period to 2027; (c) Approved the governance structure as set out in paragraphs 7-11 of the report; and (d) Approved that the steering group being formed be made up of 1 member of each Political group and 1 unaligned member.</p>
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Recommendations from Committee – [2 April 2025](#)

49	Recommendations from the Safer	Recommendations to Cabinet	Cabinet date, 26 November 25	Unknown	Awaiting response from Portfolio Holder
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	<p>Accommodation Strategy Working Group</p>	<p>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 significant barrier to survivors accessing support to end their abuse.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>6. That Cabinet, with the support of the council's Corporate Management Board, be requested to take a</p>			
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		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 from Committee – 14 May 2025 – No recommendations made at this meeting.					
Recommendations from Committee – 9 July 2025					
17	Local Area Energy Plan	It is RECOMMENDED that: 1) The recommendation as outlined in the report be approved by Cabinet. 2) Cabinet add as an external stakeholder, the community to be represented in all stakeholder engagement, including any panels, meetings or focus groups.	Cabinet	Partially accepted	Cabinet approved the recommendations in the report and so accepted recommendation 1 from O&S. Cabinet were silent on recommendation 2 from O&S – seek an update.
18	Email and Document Storage Retention – Impact Analysis on Costs and Environmental Factors & Recommendations	It is RECOMMENDED to cabinet that: as per Option (B), the Committee supports the continuation of activity already underway, as part of the Councils Data and Innovation Programme, to re-assess and profile Microsoft 365 end-user licensing requirements, moving colleagues to lower-costs licenses where appropriate.	Cabinet	Unknown	Cabinet did not address this recommendation at the meeting The committee may wish to seek an update on this recommendation response, although the recommendation itself shows support for continued work within the council and so would require noting by Cabinet and not consideration.
Recommendations from Committee – 8 October 2025					
26	Plant-based and reduced meat and dairy diets: draft position statement and action plan	RESOLVED that: a) All mentions of the word vegan be replaced with Plant-Based throughout the paper. b) Switching the target from 20% for plant-based concessions to 25%. c) That Council adopt the position statements and strategy for plant based diets in BCP Council with the amendments above.	Received by Cabinet, 29 October 2025. Then deferred by Cabinet for consideration at 26 November 2025 meeting	Unknown	Awaiting response from Portfolio Holder

Recommendations from Committee – 19 November 2025					
	Waste Strategy for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council 2026-2036	<p>RESOLVED that the committee supported the recommendations as set out in the report to Cabinet including Option 1 regarding the removal of current separate kerbside battery collections but requested an additional point be included in respect of this option to read:</p> <p>(ii) and to develop a convenient battery recycling scheme with local businesses to create more easily accessible drop off points</p> <p>and in addition, requested the strategy at appendix 1 be amended to include the following: -</p> <p>(a) Paragraph 5.1 of Appendix 1 'A Waste Strategy for BCP Council 2026-2028' be amended to include '<i>and incineration</i>' so that the paragraph reads '<i>5.1 Tendering waste disposal contracts that embed the waste hierarchy and minimise the use of landfill and incineration</i>'; and</p> <p>(b) Paragraph 5.3 of Appendix 1 'A Waste Strategy for BCP Council 2026-2028' be amended to include '<i>whilst also considering the carbon footprint of the type of disposal</i>' so that the paragraph reads '<i>5.3 Prioritising waste site proximity where possible, so waste travels only as far as it needs to and reduces the significant carbon impact of transporting waste whilst also considering the carbon footprint of the type of disposal</i>'.</p>	Cabinet 17 December 2025	Partially accepted	<p>Extract from Cabinet minutes:</p> <p>The Portfolio Holder thanked the Environment and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee for their consideration of the report and their recommendations. In relation to this the Portfolio Holder advised that he felt the additional recommendation of (ii) was not necessary as people would be signposted to available organisations, and that this would include those who offered a postal collection of batteries which would assist those unable to access those in shops. In addition, the Portfolio Holder advised that any shops selling batteries were required to provide a collection of used batteries.</p> <p>Further to this the Portfolio Holder advised that the recommendations raised in relation to paragraph 5.1 and 5.3 would be included within the tendering priorities and that he was happy to accept both of those recommendations.</p> <p>The seconder advised that they were also content with these.</p>
Recommendations from Committee – 25 February 2026					
Recommendations from Committee – 20 May 2026					
Recommendations from Committee – 15 July 2026					

Recommendations from Committee – 9 September 2026					
Recommendations from Committee – 18 November 2026					
Recommendations from Committee – 24 February 2026					

OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

Minute number	Item	Action* *Items remain until action completed.	Benefit	Updates
No current agreed actions				

CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

UPDATED: 14.01.26

Minute number	Item	Recommendation made <small>*items remain for monitoring until implementation is complete or committee agree to remove.</small>	Recommended to <small>*name of receiving body/ Officer, and date received</small>	Outcome <small>*accepted/ partially accepted/ rejected/ unknown.</small>	Implementation updates
Recommendations from Committee – 24 July 2024					
10	Child Exploitation Working Group Findings Report	<p>RESOLVED that the Committee RECOMMEND to Cabinet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> That partnership working be promoted to ensure increased communication around the issues highlighted with parents, schools, children and youth services. That earlier age-appropriate education be implemented within schools across BCP regarding the risks associated with exploitation, drugs and the dangers of carrying weapons. 	Cabinet, 2 October 2024	Partially accepted	<p>Extract from 2.10.24 Cabinet minutes:</p> <p>'The Portfolio Holder for Children, Young People, Education and Skills spoke in support of the recommendations whilst highlighting with regards to recommendation 2 as set out above that BCP couldn't dictate the curriculum but can certainly look at ways to support it.</p> <p>The Leader advised that the Cabinet would take the matter away and go back to the Chair of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee.'</p> <p>Update given by Portfolio Holder to O&S Committee at 26.11.24 meeting. Extract minute:</p> <p>'The Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People provided a verbal update which included:</p> <p>An update on the outstanding Cabinet recommendation from previous meetings related to knife crime and drug/alcohol use in schools. The Education Improvement Service collaborated with police and community groups to gather data on school programs addressing these issues, but challenges remained in obtaining detailed information.</p>

					<p>OFSTED had recommended that schools incorporate local safeguarding issues, such as knife crime, into their curriculum. There are current resources available for Personal, Social, Health, and Economic education, with additional materials being sourced from providers attending conferences. The Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People highlighted that he also found free resources online through organisations like the DfE.</p> <p>In response to the Cabinet recommendations around earlier age-appropriate education. There was a need to assess existing educational initiatives related to this at both primary and secondary levels regarding knife crime awareness.</p> <p>Advised of upcoming events including webinars and community events focused on knife crime and related issues.'</p>
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33 **Recommendations from Committee – 19 September 2024** – No recommendations made at this meeting.

Recommendations from Committee – [26 November 2024](#)

36	Linwood Special School SEND Post 16 Provision at Ted Webster	<p>It was RESOLVED that Cabinet be recommended to approve (a) in the report: Cabinet approves the scheme to develop a satellite of Linwood School hosted at the former Ted Webster Children’s Centre providing a total of 60 Post 16 places including the associated capital investment necessary to develop the scheme as contained in Appendix 1 (Exempt). The scheme is fully funded from the council’s grant allocation of High Needs Provision Capital and will progress in line with the project programme set out at paragraph 12</p>	Cabinet, 10 December 2024	Accepted	Cabinet agreed to the recommendations in the report, as endorsed by O&S.
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Recommendations from Committee –28 January 2025 – No recommendations made at this meeting.

Recommendations from Committee – [11 March 2025](#)

69	SEND Improvement Update	It was Proposed, Seconded and RECOMMENDED to better assess the impact on children, young people and families of any potential budget overspend in the SEND service budget, the Committee recommends that Cabinet requests a report be provided to Cabinet by June 2025 which outlines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the likely overspend in the budget which areas have been identified to overspend the options to ensure the budget limit is met an appraisal of the impact on children and families of these factors 	Cabinet, 2 April 2025	Accepted	Cabinet requested a report on 'SEND Budget Pressures' as recommended by the O&S committee. The report was considered by Cabinet at the 16 July 2025 meeting. Cabinet noted the report.
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Recommendations from Committee – [10 June 2025](#)

11	Youth Justice Service Plan 2025-26	RESOLVED that the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee endorse the Youth Justice Plan so that Cabinet can recommend its approval to the Full Council.	Cabinet, 26 November 2025	Accepted	Youth Justice Plan approved by Cabinet for recommendation to Council. Youth Justice Plan approved by Council.
12	Housing for Care Experienced Young People	It was Proposed, Seconded and RECOMMENDED that the Committee seeks assurance that the new Joint Housing protocol has been successfully agreed and is working effectively to ensure our Care Experienced Young People are seeing an improved service and are in receipt of timely advice and safe housing that suits their individual needs and hopes for the future.	Officers	Unknown, but Officers were in support of the recommendation in the meeting.	Seek update

Recommendations from Committee – [15 September 2025](#) - No recommendations made at this meeting.

Recommendations from Committee – 25 November 2025

9	Permanent Exclusions and Suspensions	Comment to Cabinet: The committee agreed to make Cabinet aware that the Committee appreciates the detrimental impact of school exclusions, which were highlighted in the report, and recognises the work that is underway to address this. The committee agreed that through this work the council's primary focus is improved outcomes for the children of BCP but that this work will also likely bring budgetary savings such as:	Cabinet, 26 November 2025	Not applicable	The Cabinet thanked the committee for its work on this. Note: the constitution requires no response from Cabinet to comments from O&S.
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A reduction in exclusions and associated costs (e.g. transport, AP placements, tribunal processes) • Improved outcomes for vulnerable pupils, reducing future demand on social care, youth justice, and post-16 support service • A reduction in the need for unregistered and costly AP as more needs are met by schools 			
10	Home to School Transport	<p>The Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed to endorse the recommendation within the report to Cabinet, this being that Cabinet:</p> <p>'Agree to tender an external provider to deliver a transformation project over three years with a total cost of £1.5 million funded by the flexible use of capital receipts to deliver service improvements and by the end of the project on-going savings in SEND school transport projected at £3 million (net of additional resource requirement)'</p>	Cabinet, 26 November 2025.	Accepted	<p>Report recommendations agreed by Cabinet for recommendation to Council.</p> <p>Report recommendations agreed by Council.</p>

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Recommendations from Committee – 27 January 2026					
Recommendations from Committee – 10 March 2026					
Recommendations from Committee – 26 March 2026					
Recommendations from Committee – 16 June 2026					
Recommendations from Committee – 14 September 2026					

Recommendations from Committee – 24 November 2026					
Recommendations from Committee – 26 January 2027					
Recommendations from Committee – 9 March 2027					

OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

Minute number	Item	Action* *Items remain until action completed.	Benefit	Updates
28 January 2025				
49	<p>Children in Care and Care Experienced Young People Sufficiency Report</p> <p>Children in Care and Care Experienced Young People Sufficiency Report.pdf</p>	<p>Decision Made: The officers agreed to share the final governance and quality assurance framework with the Committee once agreed and signed off as final.</p> <p>Action – Officers aware</p> <p>The Committee agreed to continue discussions outside the meeting regarding the best ways to address the barriers identified in the report and to reach an agreement on how the Committee will receive that information.</p> <p>Action – Officers aware</p>		To be discussed with CS and Chair in catch up meeting
11 March 2025				
67	<p>Children and Young People's Partnership Plan 2025-2030</p> <p>Children and Young Peoples Partnership Plan 2025-2030.pdf</p> <p>Partnership Plan 2025-2030.pdf</p>	<p>Decision Made: It was agreed that the KPIs for this would be shared with the Committee.</p> <p>Action – Officers aware</p>		CS Nov Update KPIs still to be signed off by the partnership. Will be shared once agreed.
69	<p>SEND Improvement Update</p> <p>SEND Improvement Update.pdf</p>	<p>Decision made: The officers agreed to share the full review of the DSG finances as well as the SEND improvement board's response to the review.</p> <p>Action – Officers aware</p> <p>The Committee requested an update on the ongoing work regarding education outside of school and home</p>		

Minute number	Item	Action* *Items remain until action completed.	Benefit	Updates
		education and asked that it be shared with the Committee. Action – Officers aware		
15 September 2025				
25	<u>Alternative Provision Improvement Plan</u> Alternative Provision Improvement Plan Final.pdf	Decision Made: The Committee discussed the routes into AP, including exclusions and EHCPs, and officers agreed to provide further data on this breakdown. Action – Officers aware		<u>CS Nov Update</u> New SEND & AP Plan in place.

HEALTH & ADULT SOCIAL CARE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

UPDATED: 14.01.26

Minute number	Item	Recommendation made *items remain for monitoring until implementation is complete or committee agree to remove.	Recommended to *name of receiving body/ Officer, and date received	Outcome *accepted/ partially accepted/ rejected/ unknown.	Implementation updates
Recommendations from Committee meeting – 20 May 2024					
11	Data Working Group Final Report	<p>The Committee recommend to the O&S Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> that a similar [data] toolkit be developed for all O&S committees to reflect the relevant data and policy landscape within the remit of these committees. This to be added to the O&S Action Plan. that the Data Use Toolkit be highlighted within the O&S annual report to Council. 	Overview and Scrutiny Board (16 July 2024).	Recommendations accepted.	<p>Toolkit development for all O&S committees has been added to the O&S Action Plan.</p> <p>Toolkit for the Children’s O&S Committee is near completion. All others are yet to start and will be developed when resources allow.</p> <p>The Data Use Toolkit was highlighted within the 2023/24 O&S annual report to Council. (Update by O&S Specialist, 24/4/25)</p>
Recommendations from Committee meeting – 15 July 2024					
21	Adult Social Care Business Transformation Case	<p>The Committee recommend that Cabinet recommends that Council:</p> <p>a) Approves the business case for a new adult social care transformation delivery model to improve outcomes for residents and to achieve financial efficiencies and savings enabled by investment.</p> <p>b) Agrees to the establishment of a formal transformation programme; ‘Fulfilled Lives’.</p> <p>c) Agrees to the proposed investment of £2.9M, with Corporate Management Board being provided 6-monthly stage reviews on</p>	Cabinet (17 July 24) and Council (23 July 24)	Recommendations partially accepted at both Cabinet and Council	<p>The final decision of Council was different from the committee recommendation as follows:</p> <p>Resolved that Council:</p> <p>(a) Approves in principle the business case for a new adult social care transformation delivery model to improve outcomes for residents and to achieve financial efficiencies and savings enabled by investment of up to 2.9M;</p> <p>(b) Agrees to the establishment of a formal transformation programme; ‘Fulfilled Lives’;</p> <p>(c) Agrees to an initial 12-month investment of 1.79M, with an interim report to Cabinet on progress of the design phase in January</p>

		<p>the progress of the transformation programme.</p> <p>d) Invites the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee to provide regular scrutiny of progress towards benefits and sustainable change. In particular, the Committee be invited to review the progress against the four priority areas of the Fulfilled Lives programme and the risks and opportunities of data with ASC transformation</p>			<p>2025 and a full report by July 2025, with recommendations for further investment; and</p> <p>(d) Invites the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee to provide regular scrutiny of progress towards benefits and sustainable change. In particular the Committee be invited to review the progress against the four priority areas of the Fulfilled Lives programme and the risks and opportunities of data with ASC transformation.</p> <p>Implementation update required on a)-c) above.</p> <p>Implementation update on d) above:</p> <p>The Health & ASC O&S Committee now receives regular reports on the Fulfilled Lives programme to provide opportunity for ongoing scrutiny of the transformation delivery. (Update by O&S Specialist, 24/4/25)</p>
<p>Recommendations from Committee meeting – 24 September 2024 – No recommendations made at this meeting.</p>					
<p>Recommendations from Committee meeting – 2 December 2024</p>					
46	Health and Social Care for the Homeless	<p>The Committee recommend that Cabinet:</p> <p>Discuss the issues caused by a lack of funding for rough sleepers with no local connection and those without an identified priority need with a view to developing solutions in partnership with other local authorities and key stakeholders such as the Integrated Care Board and relevant ministers to create a robust system that does not fail our most vulnerable or unfairly place the responsibility for caring for these people on local particular local authorities, with a view to getting something in place before the new strategy.</p>	Cabinet (10 December 2024)	<p>Response unknown – recommendation received by Cabinet with advice that it would be considered at a future meeting of the Cabinet.</p>	<p>Update required. Committee may wish to seek a response from relevant Portfolio Holder back into committee.</p>

47	Transforming Urgent and Emergency Care Services	<p>The Committee recommend that Cabinet recommends to Council:</p> <p>a) Notes the summary of the diagnostic review, including improved outcomes for residents and financial benefits for the Council.</p> <p>b) Notes that under the draft Partnership Agreement with Dorset health and care partners, anticipated benefits are significantly in excess of costs to the Council.</p> <p>c) Delegates to the Corporate Director for Wellbeing, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing, the Director of Law and Governance and the Director of Finance, authority to enter into the Partnership Agreement to undertake the proposed transformation programme.</p>	Cabinet (10 December 2024) and Council (10 December 2024)	Recommendations accepted at both Cabinet and Council	
Recommendations from Committee meeting – 3 March 2025					
61	Adult Social Care Strategy 2025-28	<p>The Committee recommend to Cabinet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the inclusion of some clear targets ideally linked to the Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework (ASCOF) within the Adult Social Care Strategy; and the inclusion of an overview of how to better integrate performance and activity data with finance data in the Adult Social Care Strategy. 	Cabinet (2 April 2025)	Response unknown – recommendations 'welcomed' by Cabinet but no clear response given.	<p>The final decision of Cabinet did not reflect the recommendations made by the committee, and was as follows:</p> <p>'Resolved that the new ASC Strategy 2025-28 is linked to the Corporate Vision and supports corporate priorities under 'Our People and Communities.'</p> <p>Update required. Committee may wish to seek a response from relevant Portfolio Holder back into committee.</p>
Recommendations from Committee meeting – 19 May 2025 No recommendations made at this meeting.					
Recommendations from Committee meeting – 14 July 2025					

20	Adult Social Care Fulfilled Lives Transformation Programme	The HASC O&S Committee: 1. Supports the recommendation to Cabinet that Council approves the request for the release of the remaining £1.11m funding that was previously agreed to allow the Fulfilled Lives Programme to reach completion and realisation of the benefits; and 2. Continues to monitor this four-year programme in particular around self-directed support and support at home that will enable people to stay independent.	Cabinet 26 July 2025	Accepted	Cabinet and Council approved the release of the remaining £1.1m as outlined at part 1 of the recommendation.
Recommendations from Committee meeting – 23 September 2025					
30	Get Dorset & BCP Working Plan - GD&BCPWP	The Committee RECOMMENDS that: 1) The recommendations as outlined in the report be approved by Cabinet. 2) That Cabinet agree for the Get Dorset & BCP Working Plan to return to an Overview and Scrutiny Committee at an appropriate stage for further scrutiny, to enable Members to review its delivery, assess its impact in supporting individuals to return to work, and consider whether intended outcomes are being achieved.	Cabinet 1 October 2025	Accepted	Report recommendations agreed by Council.
Recommendations from Committee meeting – 1 December 2025					
44	FutureCare Programme – Mid Programme Review	RESOLVED that the Committee requests the programme return to its next meeting on 2 March 2026 with detailed financial and impact data to scrutinise.	Officers	Accepted	Coming back to Committee on 2 March with further information requested.
Recommendations from Committee meeting – 2 March 2026					

Recommendations from Committee meeting – 19 May 2026

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Recommendations from Committee meeting – 20 July 2026

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Recommendations from Committee meeting – 22 September 2026

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Recommendations from Committee meeting – 30 November 2026

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Recommendations from Committee meeting – 1 March 2027

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OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

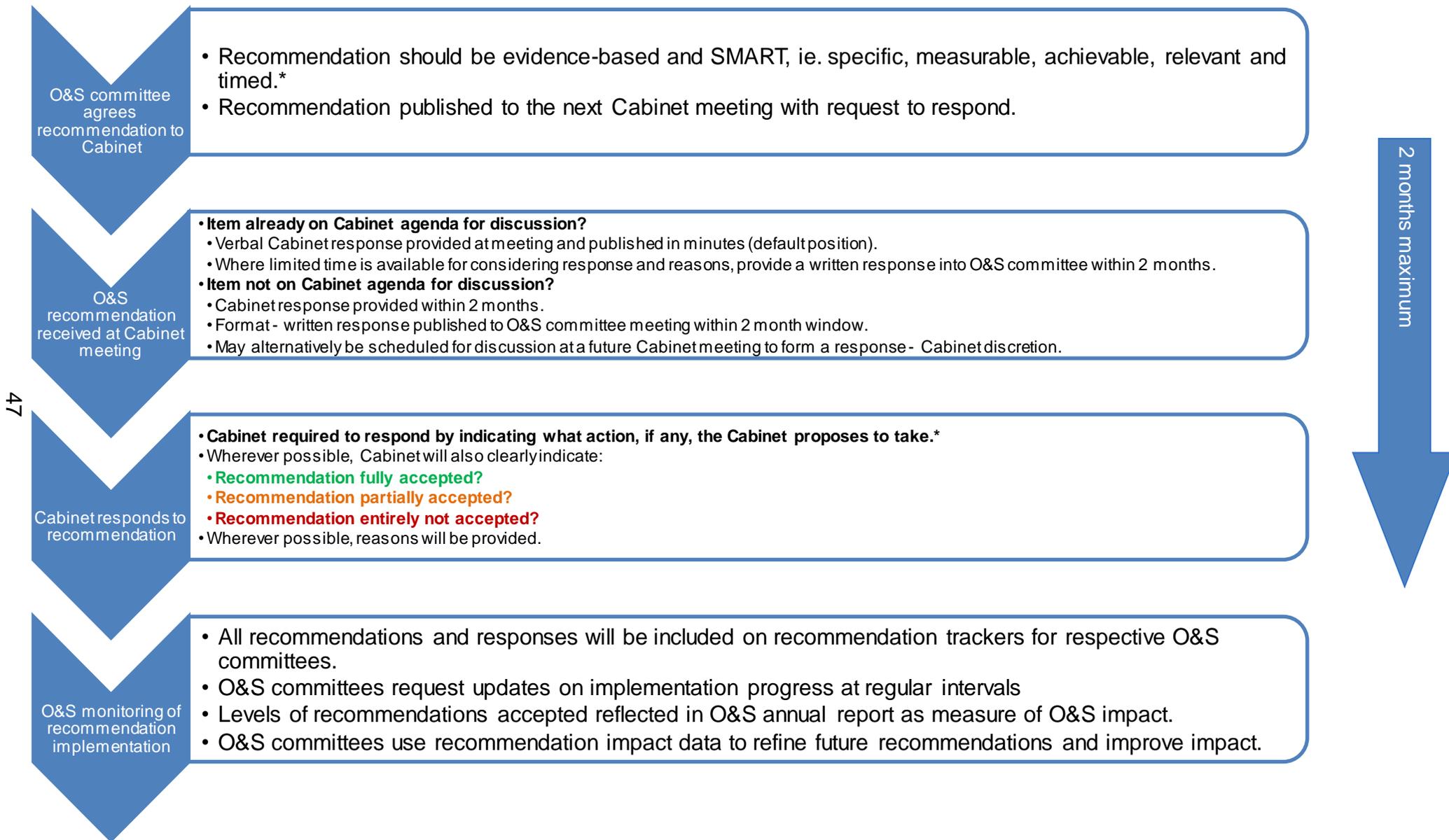
Minute number	Item	Action* *Items remain until action completed.	Benefit	Updates
Actions arising from Committee meeting – 25 September 2023				
20	National Suicide Prevention Strategy	Decision Made: The Board was advised that Public Health was unsure of the amount which would be allocated to the BCP area, as the closing dates for bids had not yet happened, however bids were being worked on and once any funding was known, the Committee could be informed. Action – Public Health aware		
Actions arising from Committee meeting – 15 July 24				
44	Adult Social Care Transformation Business Case	Decision Made: That key risks and Key Performance Indicators be included in future reports regarding the Transformation Programme Action – Officers aware	To enable the Committee to have this information when scrutinising	
Actions arising from Committee meeting – 24 September 24				
34.	Adult Social Care Budget Presentation	Decision made: In response to a query regarding the activities and outcomes of the Live Well Dorset programme, the Committee was advised that it had managed to reach those living in the most deprived areas of BCP and that access could potentially be provided to the dashboard for the Committee to see the output. Action: to be considered further		
Actions arising from Committee meeting – 3 March 25				

Minute number	Item	Action* *Items remain until action completed.	Benefit	Updates
59.	The Transformation of UHD Hospitals	Decision Made: That the Director of Adult Social Care be the contact for any Cllrs wishing to visit the new facilities ACTION – Director and Cllrs aware.		
64.	Work Plan	Decision Made: As requested by the Overview and Scrutiny Board, the Committee will monitor the proposed increase of block booked beds for long-term care and that an update on progress against this be provided at an appropriate time. ACTION – added to the work plan with no date yet identified.		An update requested under budget presentation in September 2025
Actions arising from Committee meeting – 19 May 25				
11	FutureCare Programme Update	Decision Made: That the Committee receive data regarding bed capacity and workforce numbers at an appropriate time. Action – Officers aware Decision Made: That the Committee receive data around benefits tracking and monitoring to be reported to a meeting at a future date. Action – Officers aware and added to the work plan Decision Made: That the Committee receive further information regarding capacity within secondary care to fulfil the future need. Action – Officers aware		
Actions arising from Committee meeting – 14 July 25				
20.	Adult Social Care Fulfilled Lives Transformation Programme	Decision Made: That the Committee receive quantitative data about the impact in future reports.		

Minute number	Item	Action* *Items remain until action completed.	Benefit	Updates
		Action – Officers aware		
Actions arising from Committee meeting – 23 September 25				
31.	Tricuro: Business Plan Review and Objectives 2025-26	<p>Decision Made: The Committee requested data on service capacity, particularly at the Moordown centre. Officers confirmed that capacity data is available via dashboards and would be circulated to the Committee.</p> <p>Action – Officers aware</p> <p>Decision made: The Committee was advised of the officer's commitment to ongoing engagement and agreed that progress updates should be provided between formal planning cycles to support continued collaboration and oversight</p> <p>Action – Officers aware</p>		
Actions arising from Committee meeting – 1 December 2025				
44.	FutureCare Programme – Mid Programme Review	<p>Decision Made: The importance of tracking savings through to tangible outcomes, such as reduced home care hours and improved reablement was highlighted, and the Chair requested detailed data analysis at a future meeting.</p> <p>Action – added to work plan for 2 March 2026</p>	To enable the Committee to fully scrutinise the impact of the programme in terms of tangible outcomes and savings	Coming back to Committee on 2 March 2026.
45.	Integrated Neighbourhood Teams (INTs) Update	<p>Decision Made: The Committee requested the programme DiS dashboard be shared with them to consider further.</p> <p>Action – Officers aware.</p>		

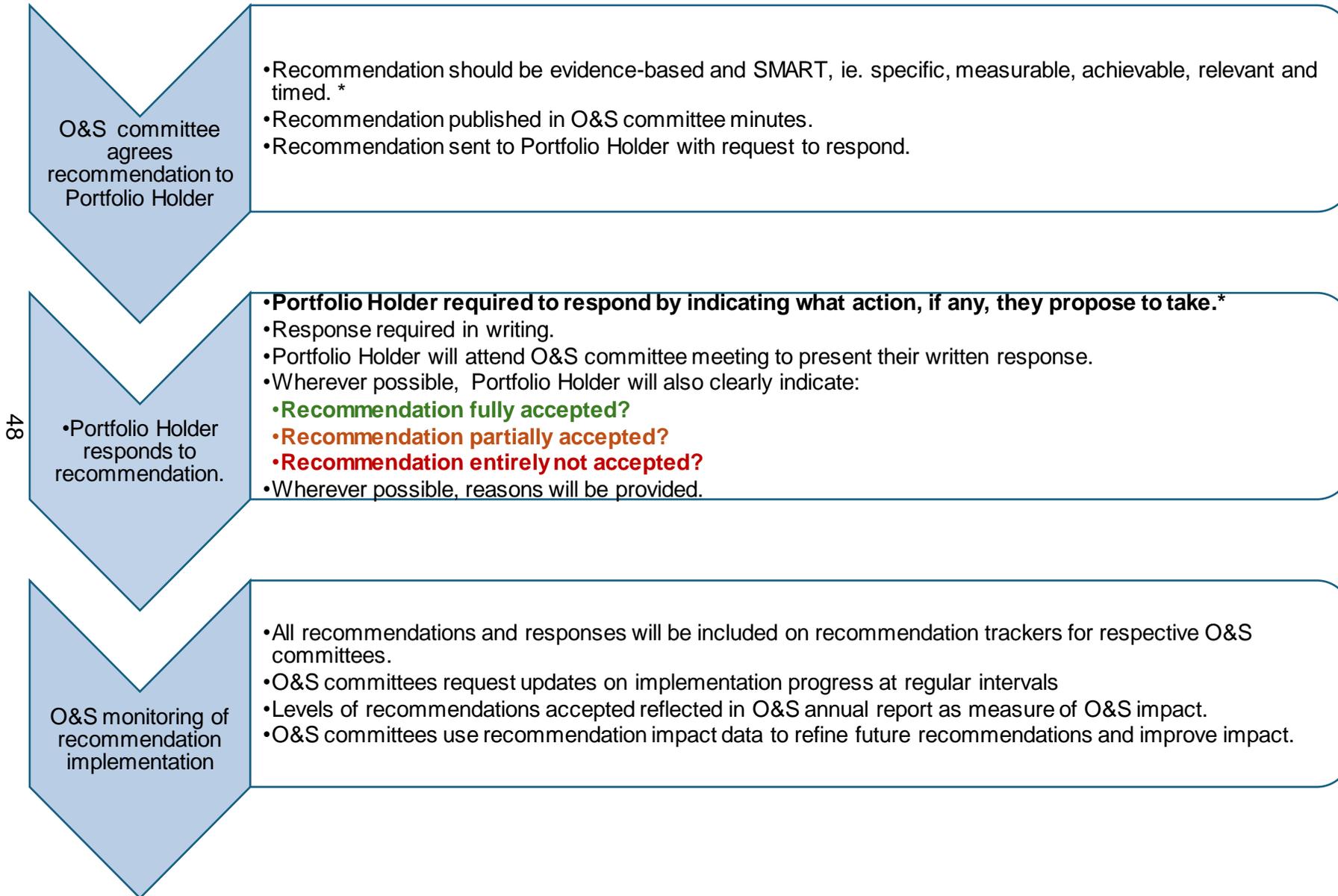
O&S Recommendations / Executive response process

Cabinet process:



* [Overview and scrutiny: statutory guidance for councils, combined authorities and combined county authorities - GOV.UK](#)

Portfolio Holder process



2 months maximum

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD



RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CONSULTATION FRAMEWORK WORKING GROUP	
Meeting date	23 February 2026
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	<p>At its meeting on 18 November 2024 the Overview and Scrutiny Board agreed to establish a working group to consider the BCP Council developing Consultation Framework in response to report brought to the Board on Consultation methods and responses The group met three times during April and May 2025. Subsequently, the Board requested the working group to broaden its original remit to include an examination of recent consultations and examples of previous consultations, with a view to identifying any lessons that could be applied to future practice. The working group met a further 4 times from September to December to undertake this task and formulate recommendations to improve issues around consultations. The findings of the working group and detail explaining the rationale behind the recommendations which the Working Group have formulated are summarised in the appendix to this report.</p>
Recommendations	<p>The Working Group RECOMMENDED that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The Overview and Scrutiny Board consider and note the appendix which outlines the areas of consideration and findings of the working group. b. The Overview and Scrutiny Board recommend to Cabinet the recommendations outlined by the working group contained within the appendix and outlined below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. That the Overview and Scrutiny Board recommend to Cabinet that it adopts the Code of Good Practice (Attached at Appendix 2) ii. That the Overview and Scrutiny Board recommend that the Chief Executive bring the Consultation Forward Plan to Group Leaders Meetings on a quarterly basis in order to raise awareness with members. As well as informing of forthcoming consultations the update should provide guidance on confidentiality and expectations for member engagement.

	<p>iii. That the Overview and Scrutiny Board recommend to Cabinet that all members should be notified of consultations at least 1 week in advance of going live, providing summary detail of the topic for consultation.</p> <p>iv. That the Overview and Scrutiny Board endorse the ongoing work to produce an internal consultation toolkit, which should provide clear guidance on confidentiality.</p> <p>v. That the Overview and Scrutiny Board recommend to officers that greater clarity be provided around why particular consultation methods were chosen and also clarity on the reason why a consultation is taking place and how the results of the consultation will be used.</p> <p>vi. That the Overview and Scrutiny Board recommend to Cabinet that it endorses an approach to every consultation which clearly outlines that it is not a referendum.</p> <p>vii. That the Overview and Scrutiny Board recommend to Cabinet that funding for the establishment of a citizens panel is built into future budgets for Consultations.</p> <p>viii. That the Overview and Scrutiny Board recommend that officers give consideration to the most robust consultation process available, recognising that sample surveys tend to be more robust and consider the additional costs involved with this.</p>
Reason for recommendations	To ensure that the recommendations and views of the working group are taken into consideration in the approval of the Consultation Code of Best Practice and to ensure that the consultation process provides valuable and useful information for BCP Council. Further information on the reasons for the recommendations is contained within the appendix to the report.
Portfolio Holder(s):	Cabinet Member for Customer, Communications and Culture - Cllr A Martin
Corporate Director	Chief Executive
Report Authors	Claire Johnston, Senior Democratic and Overview & Scrutiny Officer
Wards	Council-wide
Classification	For Recommendation/Decision

Background

1. The Overview and Scrutiny Board considered a report at its meeting in November 2024 which provided an overview of the consultation methods and approach used by BCP Council to consult on various decisions and issues.
2. It was noted at this meeting that the consultation framework was due to be refreshed, and that this provided an opportunity to receive feedback from the Board ahead of that work
3. At this meeting the Board agreed that a working group be established to contribute to the development of the consultation framework within the appropriate timescales.
4. Nominations for the group were sought from across O&S Board Members and an invite extended to all non-executive members. Final membership was agreed by the Chair of the Board in consultation with the Vice-Chair.

The group members were:

- Cllr S Aitkenhead (Lead Member)
- Cllr F Rice
- Cllr K Salmon
- Cllr G Wright

5. The Working Group made data requests based on lines of enquiry established by the O&S committee. These data requests are set out in the background paper to this report 'Key Lines of Enquiry (KLOE) – Consultation Framework.' The Group focused on the first enquiry lines outlined at its initial meeting. There were a number of pieces of information which were considered by the Group both in advance of and during its first meeting. These are set out in the appendix to this report.
6. At its second meeting the Group focused on a review of the draft consultation 'Code of Practice' which had been developed following the framework and key points suggested by the group at its first meeting. The Group also considered the proposed timeline for the approval of the framework/code. It was agreed that the final draft framework and Code would be circulated for review to both the Overview and Scrutiny Board and Cabinet.
7. Following this, the Board directed the working group to broaden its original remit to incorporate review of a number of recent consultations which had attracted public interest. The group reviewed these consultations along with other previous consultations to determine what improvements, if any, could be implemented to strengthen the transparency, effectiveness, and integrity of BCP Council's consultation processes, focussing on how the draft code would have impacted the processes. It was acknowledged that several issues arising from recent consultations had already been addressed through the development of the Code of Best Practice. However, in line with the group's commitment to continuous improvement, the code was subsequently reviewed and updated to reflect the findings from this additional consideration.
8. This report brings to the Board the recommendations of the working group alongside the Consultation Code of Best Practice. The Board is asked to consider and discuss the findings of the working group and make recommendations as it considers appropriate.

Options Appraisal

9. Findings have been set out by the Working Group. The Board is asked to consider these and agree whether to forward these to Cabinet. The Board may choose to make any further recommendations if required.

Summary of financial implications

10. There are no direct financial implications associated with this report. The financial costs of developing the Consultation Code of Good Practice were contained within existing budgets. There may be financial implications arising from some of the recommendations from the working group, particularly the proposed expansion of representative sample surveys and the establishment of a Citizens' Panel. If the recommendation were accepted restoring or increasing consultation-related budgets may be necessary to ensure that more robust methods can be undertaken without impacting other service areas.

Summary of legal implications

11. The recommendations aim to strengthen compliance with established consultation standards and the Gunning Principles by promoting early engagement, clearer information, and more transparent processes. If the Board choose not to make these recommendations, there may be subsequent impacts and potential risk of challenge. Adoption of the Code of Good Practice will support more robust decision-making and reduce the likelihood of procedural unfairness.

Summary of human resources implications

12. There are no human resources implications associated with this report.

Summary of sustainability impact

13. There are no sustainability impact implications associated with this report.

Summary of public health implications

There are no public health implications associated with this report.

Summary of equality implications

14. Should the Board recommend adoption of the Code of Good Practice and other recommendations which are put forward to support more inclusive engagement by promoting clearer language, better-structured surveys, and more accessible information for residents. A more consistent and transparent approach is likely to improve participation across diverse groups, particularly when alternative methods, such as representative sampling or targeted engagement, are used to reach communities that may be under-represented in open surveys.

Summary of risk assessment

15. Should the Board choose not to put forward the recommendations there may be an increased risk in future consultation and reputational harm arising from processes that do not adequately reflect best practice or the Gunning Principles. Recommendations may require additional resources which would need to be identified if accepted.

Background papers

- Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Board – 18 November 2024
- Key Lines of Enquiry (KLOE) – Consultation Framework.
- Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Board – 15 July 2025

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Consultation Framework Working Group Findings

Appendix 2 – Draft Code of Good Practice

Overview & Scrutiny Board Working Group – BCP Public Consultation Framework

Key Lines of Enquiry

The Working Group undertook a deep dive into the development of the BCP Consultation Framework Strategy, based on three key lines of enquiry (KLOE) established by the Overview and Scrutiny Board and set out below. In addition, the group raised detailed data and information requests to support these KLOE. These are detailed in the Key Lines of Enquiry (KLOE) background document available upon request. In addition to this the Group looked at several different recent consultations and explored a number of areas of enquiry which arose from these to form the Group’s findings and Recommendations

Portfolio Holder: Andy Martin, Cabinet Member for Customer, Communications and Culture

<p>Working Group Findings and Recommendations</p>
<p>Key Lines of Enquiry</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How do we regain residents trust in our consultation process. 2. Thinking specifically about building trust in our process: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do we consult at a good time in the decision process • Do we consult the most relevant people • Do we frame our questions in the best way • Do we use and communicate the results in the best way • Are there any other methods of engagement 3. What other consultation frameworks are in use by other Local Authorities and which elements of these would be suitable for a BCP framework. 4. What are the key elements which should be included in a consultation how these would contribute to building public confidence and trust in BCP consultations

Meetings and Frequency

The Working Group met formally 6 times across 8 months. The key officer contacts for the group were Lisa Stuchberry, Senior Research and Consultations Manager and Isla Reynolds, Director of Marketing, Communications and Policy. The group met with other officers internally as required.

The group investigated the Key Lines of Enquiry as detailed above which led to the development of the code of Good Practice for Consultations and a number of additional recommendations which were formed when looking into the conduct of past consultations

1. The BCP Code of Good Practice for Consultations (Framework)

The findings of the group which contributed to the development of the framework were:

Scope and Flexibility

- The framework to apply broadly but allow for exemptions, in certain cases where this isn't possible the reasons for this will be explained.
- The framework must be adaptable to different contexts while maintaining a consistent ethical foundation and clear communication with the public.

Principles and Best Practice

- The group discussed the importance of establishing a Code of Good Practice, to serve as a public-facing commitment to stakeholders.
- The Bristol Consultation Framework was cited as an ambitious and audience-conscious model, written in accessible language and framed as a "commitment to you".
- The framework should be based on best practice principles (aligned with the Gunning Principles), including:
 - Providing clear and timely information.
 - Consulting at a formative stage, in line with legal requirements.
 - Ensuring sufficient time for responses.
 - Taking responses conscientiously into account.
 - Avoiding politicisation or restrictive language in consultation design.

- Clarifying that consultations are not referenda, but tools for informed decision-making.

Feedback, Validity, and Expectations

- The framework should include mechanisms for feedback, especially when participants feel that principles have not been upheld.
- It should also address the validity of responses, ensuring that the process reflected best practice in data security and integrity.
- Managing expectations is crucial, particularly in cases of divided opinion, where some participants may be dissatisfied with the outcome.
- The group emphasized the importance of follow-up engagement, especially when decisions directly affect individuals or communities.

Broader Engagement Considerations

- A distinction was made between consultation and other forms of engagement, such as co-production and participatory frameworks.
- It was suggested that a separate code may be needed for these broader engagement approaches but that this was outside of the scope for the group.
- The group also discussed the importance of active engagement, rather than passive information gathering, and the need to respect differing opinions while encouraging participants to explain their views.

RECOMMENDATION 1 – That the Overview and Scrutiny Board Recommend to Cabinet that it adopts the Code of Good Practice (Attached at Appendix 2 to the Report)

2. Improving Oversight and Consultation Planning and ensuring member engagement:

The Group had a constructive discussion on when to engage members on consultation on both proposals being put forward and the consultation methods used. Members emphasised the importance of informing Ward Councillors and other Members at the earliest possible stage so that they could help shape proposals and remain fully informed about matters affecting their wards. However, they also acknowledged that, given the political context within any council, certain proposals, particularly those that could prove contentious, may not be suitable for early engagement due to the potential for using for a political agenda. The Group recognised that balancing these considerations is challenging but asked officers to remain mindful of the impact on Ward Councillors when information is shared late in the process. Officers welcomed this feedback and agreed to reflect on how best to incorporate it when developing future proposals. The group supported the production of an Internal Consultation Process Document, including consultation with Ward Councillors at the earliest possible stage and a consultation Forward Plan which should be regularly reviewed by Cabinet and CMB.

RECOMMENDATION 2 – That the Overview and Scrutiny Board recommend that the Chief Executive bring the Consultation Forward Plan to Group Leaders Meetings on a quarterly basis in order to raise awareness with members. As well as informing of forthcoming consultations the update should provide guidance on confidentiality and expectations for member engagement.

RECOMMENDATION 3 – That the Overview and Scrutiny Board recommend to Cabinet that all members should be notified of consultations at least 1 week in advance of going live, providing summary detail of the topic for consultation.

RECOMMENDATION 4 - That the Overview and Scrutiny Board endorse the ongoing work to produce an internal consultation toolkit, which should provide clear guidance on confidentiality.

3. Greater use of alternative methods to ‘open’ consultations

The Group agreed that open consultations, by their nature, attract responses from people who have an opinion (sometimes strong opinion) and who are often more informed, and the response isn't representative of the wider population (e.g. If everyone living in an area was asked the same survey) and is difficult for councillors and officers to interpret. Representative

sample surveys provide better insight into what all residents would think about a proposal. The group found that sample surveying is preferable as a more robust form of consultation but acknowledged that this comes with greater initial cost to undertake the consultation. However, the impacts arising from less statistically robust consultations could potentially lead to greater costs to the Council, as decisions may be based on opinions that are not fully representative. Therefore, this risk should be balanced against the higher cost associated with representative sample surveying. The group suggested a number of alternative methods of public engagement which included, sample surveys, participatory budgeting and citizen assemblies. In conversations which the group had with the Transport Team there was support given if sample surveying was advised to be the preferred method and the benefits of this approach were acknowledged

RECOMMENDATION 5 – That the Overview and Scrutiny Board recommend to officers that greater clarity be provided around why particular consultation methods were chosen and also clarity on the reason why a consultation is taking place and how the results of the consultation will be used.

The group found that there may be value in comparing the results of open surveys and sample surveys. Where more than one form of consultation is undertaken both sets of results should be available for comparison.

Throughout its work the group explored in detail the difference between referendum and consultation and the need for the Council to help the public understand this difference. Whilst the group is pleased that this is addressed through the Code of Good Practice it felt that this was one of the key issues which was undermining public confidence in BCP Council consultations but acknowledged the difficulty in addressing this issue

RECOMMENDATION 6 – That the Overview and Scrutiny Board recommend to Cabinet that it endorses an approach to every consultation which clearly outlines that it is not a referendum.

Areas suggested were more sample surveys, participatory budgeting and citizen assemblies. The group considered the financial and resource implications of alternatives to open consultations. It was noted that it had been hoped that a citizens panel could be established which could provide the opportunity for alternative methods of public engagement and convene randomly selected focus groups. However, it was found that this would not be possible within the current consultation budget. The budget for consultation had been reduced previously. It was suggested that this should be reinstated to allow for sample

surveys to be undertaken. The group considered opportunities to help provide the necessary funding for more diverse forms of member engagement, including that larger projects and those in receipt of specific grants should be required to identify funding from within the project budget to support consultations and an ongoing citizen panel.

RECOMMENDATION 7 – That the Overview and Scrutiny Board recommend to Cabinet that funding for the establishment of a citizens panel is built into future budgets for Consultations.

RECOMMENDATION 8 – That the Overview and Scrutiny Board recommend that officers give consideration to the most robust consultation process available, recognising that sample surveys tend to be more robust and consider the additional costs involved with this.

4. Impact of Social Media on Consultations

The working group acknowledged that social media has altered the context in which public consultations occur, generating rapid commentary, misinformation, and political debate that can influence perceptions before a consultation formally opens. Members agreed that while councillors cannot be prevented from engaging online, all councillors - particularly those in senior roles - should be mindful of how their posts may affect public trust in both individual consultations and the Council more broadly. The group highlighted the different roles of the consultation and communications teams in responding to social media activity in the case of inaccurate or premature information circulating. They emphasised that communications responses should remain factual and signpost the public to the formal consultation process. The group also observed that open consultations are especially vulnerable to mobilisation and amplification via social media activity.

5. Use of plain English and ensuring that surveys are relevant/relatable to people using examples

The group found that it was critical that respondents had all of the relevant information that they needed to respond to a survey, some of the issues identified included: clearer factual content – evidence examples, accessible language and better structured comment boxes. It was acknowledged that different nuances in language may be appropriate for different

consultations or even different questions within a consultation. It was suggested that there was a need for clearer instructions for those completing surveys. However, the group also acknowledged that the new Go Vocal platform may address some of the issues including providing more clarity around comment boxes. The group was also satisfied that the issue of the use of plain English was partially addressed within the code of good practice.

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BCP Council code of good practice for consultation

Whenever BCP Council proposes to improve or change its services, we want to understand people's views before making any final decisions. In our [Shared Vision for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole](#) we make a commitment to use engagement, consultation, co-production and lived experience to help inform the decisions we make.

In developing this code, we have considered feedback from various consultations and suggestions on how we can improve public consultation in the future.

While we understand that not everyone will always agree with every proposal or policy change, this code is designed to enhance the way we conduct public consultations, involve people in decision-making, and respond to their views.

It is also an opportunity for us to be clear about what consultation is and what it is not.

Aim of this code

The aim of this code is to:

- set out what you can expect from a BCP Council consultation; this could include if you are a resident, business, visitor, partner or other interested party
- set out the consultation principles that the council will follow
- improve residents' trust in council consultations

Definition of consultation

For the purpose of this code of practice we will define consultation as follows:

Consultation is a two-way process where we ask for people's views on an idea(s) the council is considering. Consultation has a defined start and end date. The views we receive from consultation are not the only thing we consider when making a decision. We will also consider other information such as data on performance, research, equality, legal advice, financial and sustainability.

Ongoing engagement work carried out by the council, such as service user forums, co-production groups, and ongoing community engagement, is not covered by this code.

Consultation and the democratic process

Councillors and council officers must always balance the views expressed through consultation with a variety of other factors, such as legislation and government guidance, performance and other data, financial costs, and environmental impacts. Councillors and officers need to apply their professional judgement when considering the relative significance of different views expressed through consultation. They must also carefully consider whether the aspirations and needs of future generations, who may be most affected by any changes but may not take part in the consultation, might differ significantly from those of today's population.

In essence, the results of consultation are not a substitute for the democratic process and do not replace the role of elected representatives in decision-making. However, effective and consistent consultation can inform responsible decision-making and ensure that, as far as possible, councillors and officers have an accurate understanding of residents' views and potential impacts before they make any final decisions.

How we will consult

We use a variety of methods for council consultations. For each consultation we discuss which methods are best to use and consider the following:

- who is affected by the proposal
- the complexities of the proposal
- the budget available for the consultation

We regularly use the following:

- Online open survey – where people can log in to any consultation and take part
- Paper surveys (available in libraries and other places depending on the consultation) – where anyone with a view / interest can take part
- Email responses – we accept emails from respondents who would rather use this method than complete a survey
- Sample surveys – a representative sample of residents are randomly selected and asked their views
- Digital maps – using our engagement platform, we can display ‘place’ information on a map that residents can comment on
- Idea walls – we can ask residents for ideas both online and offline
- Drop in events / exhibitions – we may run events so residents can come and speak to council officers face to face about proposals
- In person / online meetings – we may hold formal consultation meetings these can be done in person or online

There are other methods we use on a less regular basis and others we may want to choose to use in the future depending on the type of consultation and budget available. This includes but is not limited to:

- Focus groups – a small group of residents are asked to discuss a proposal or topic
- Qualitative interviews – a person takes part in an interview and asked open questions about their views and experiences
- Citizens’ assemblies – a group of people are randomly selected to discuss and make recommendations on a specific policy issue
- Citizens’ panels – a large demographically representative group of residents is regularly consulted on various issues, participants are usually selected through random sampling and engage in surveys, focus groups and workshops
- Participatory budgeting – the council lets community members influence how to allocate part of the council’s budget.

Our consultation principles

As a public body we will always follow the legal principles of consultation known as the Gunning Principles. These are:

1. Consultations must occur while proposals are still at a formative stage
2. Sufficient information needs to be provided for the public to give the consultation ‘intelligent consideration’
3. There needs to be an adequate time for consultees to consider the proposal and respond
4. Conscientious consideration must be given to the consultation responses before decisions are made

We want to expand on these and our commitment to our residents and stakeholders is that our consultations will be:

- 1.) **Fair:** Consultation activity will be undertaken with honest intention
- 2.) **Timely:** Consultations will allow a reasonable amount of time for people to take part and results will be available in a timely manner
- 3.) **Accessible:** Information will be presented clearly and accessibly and encourage people to take part
- 4.) **Visible:** We will publicise consultations widely to make sure people know it's happening and how to get involved
- 5.) **Targeted:** Consultations will be targeted ensuring those most affected by a proposal can share their views
- 6.) **Thorough:** We will provide enough information for people to give their opinions, ask for feedback on proposals and impacts and allow space for alternative ideas and comments.

We will aim to use these principles whenever we run public consultations:

1.) Fair: Consultation activity will be undertaken with honest intention

- Consultations will be timed to allow the results to be taken into consideration during policy / proposal development
- We will be honest about what can be influenced as well as what can't be
- We will be open about what decision the consultation is going to influence
- We will ask people to sign in to take part in digital consultation and continue to explore options for online and offline engagement to make sure our processes are robust

2.) Timely: Consultations will allow a reasonable amount of time for people to take part and results will be available in a timely manner

- Consultation timeframes will vary depending on the proposal and those impacted, but all consultations will run for a minimum of four weeks, and reasonable notice (minimum two weeks) will be given for relevant events
- We will try to avoid key holiday periods or offer a longer consultation period if a consultation falls around the holiday period (e.g. Christmas, Easter)
- We will keep respondents informed of the next steps after a consultation, such as an estimate of when the consultation analysis will be available and following decision-making process.
- We will make sure results will be available in a timely manner; this will vary depending on the complexities of the consultation analysis.

3.) Accessible: Information will be presented clearly, accessibly and encourage people to take part

- The consultation information will clearly state our proposal, why we are consulting and how the findings will be used
- Consultation will include enough information to help residents give an informed opinion
- The information will be written in plain language
- We will offer alternative formats for those who need them
- All consultations will be available in our libraries in printed format or support will be given if the consultation is suited to a digital format

4.) Visible: We will publicise consultations widely to make sure people know they are happening and how to get involved.

- Consultations will be listed on our consultation website
- Major consultations that affect the whole area or a large number of people will be publicised by press release, as well as on the council's website, social media channels and newsletters
- We will post consultation analysis on our consultation website
- Once a decision has been made, we will update the consultation web page, explaining what decision has been made and provide feedback on the consultation
- We will communicate the results and outcome of all consultations directly with those people we have contact details for and will promote the outcome of consultations on the 'have your say' boards in libraries.

5.) Targeted: Consultations will be targeted ensuring those most affected by a proposal can share their views.

- The views of those people / areas most affected by the proposal will be sought using the most effective methods available to us
- We recognise that some people find it harder to take part in consultations than others for a variety of reasons (e.g. English not as a first language, lack of free time to get involved, digital inclusion etc) and we will take this into account when planning our consultations and try to ensure everyone who is affected by a proposal has a way of giving their views that's appropriate for them

6.) Thorough: We will provide enough information for people to give their opinions, ask for feedback on proposals and impacts and allow space for alternative ideas and comments.

- There will be enough information about the proposal so that people are able to respond
- We will choose the most appropriate consultation methods
- Surveys and questions will be written in an objective way allowing people to express their views
- There will always be at least one open text box to allow consultees to make comments and suggestions
- We will use data collection methods that are designed to only capture information that is relevant to the consultation including equalities data
- We will ensure personal information is kept confidential and stored securely in line with the Data Protection Act 2018 and our [Privacy Policy](#)
- We will analyse responses to consultation in a professional manner,
- We may use AI technology to assist with analysing our results, this will always be verified by a council officer
- We will report the findings of the consultation in an objective and transparent manner that accurately represents respondents' views

How we use this code

We hope this code shows our commitment to delivering open, fair and robust BCP Council consultations and provides transparency of our consultation process.

While we will always aim to follow the code, there may be unavoidable exceptions. For example, if the council needs to complete a project within a specific timeframe due to a government grant, the consultation period may be shortened. In these instances, the council will explain the deviation from the code and provide a realistic response time. This code is not legally binding and cannot override statutory or mandatory requirements.

Feedback

If you would like to give us feedback on the way we are running our consultations or if you think we have run a consultation and haven't followed one of our own principles, please email researchandconsultation@bcpcouncil.gov.uk and let us know your suggestions and/or state the consultation and which principle you feel has not been followed.

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OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD



Report subject	BCP Community Safety Partnership Annual Report
Meeting date	23 February 2026
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	<p>This paper sets out elements of development and delivery by 'Safer BCP', the BCP Community Safety Partnership (CSP), and its constituent agencies. It provides Members with an update since the last report to Overview and Scrutiny Panel in January 2025.</p> <p>The Local Government Act 2000 includes crime and disorder scrutiny as one of the functions the council must ensure its scrutiny arrangements cover. Sections 19 and 20 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and related regulations require the Council to have a committee with the functions of reviewing and scrutinising decisions and actions in respect of the discharge of crime and disorder functions by "responsible authorities".</p> <p>The specifics of the duty are set out in the Police and Justice Act 2006, which also allows members to refer any "local crime and disorder matter" raised with them by anyone living or working in their area, to the Crime and Disorder Committee. The Board designated as the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee must meet at least once every 12-month period to conduct the functions.</p> <p>Guidance issued concerning how this role should be conducted include that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the role should be one of a critical friend, providing constructive challenge at a strategic level. • the focus should be on the entire partnership and if issues arise that relate specifically to a particular partner agency, it may be more appropriate to refer such issues to the governing bodies of that organisation. • the scrutiny of partners should be "in so far as their activities relate to the partnership itself." <p>In the BCP area, the Overview and Scrutiny Board undertakes this function each December/January.</p>
Recommendations	<p>It is RECOMMENDED that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Members note the progress of the Community Safety

	<p>Partnership during 2025</p> <p>b. Members note the compliance of the BCP Community Safety Partnership as set out in the relevant legislation.</p>
Reason for recommendations	<p>a. Overview and Scrutiny Board are updated and made aware of the Safer BCP Community Safety Partnership's activities and achievements during 2025.</p> <p>b. The requirement for annual scrutiny is met.</p>

Portfolio Holder(s):	Cllr Kieron Wilson, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Regulation with responsibility for Community Safety
Corporate Director	Laura Ambler, Corporate Director for Wellbeing
Report Authors	Cat McMillan, Head of Communities, Partnerships and Community Safety; Tina Symington, Community Safety Manager; Chief Superintendent Heather Dixey.
Wards	Council-wide
Classification	For update or information

Background

1. Safer BCP, the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) for the BCP Council area undertakes its role through the development and implementation of an annual Strategic Assessment to ensure that we continue to focus on working in partnership on the issues that matter most to the BCP area, using an evidence-based approach.
2. This report details the findings of the current Strategic Needs Assessments which inform the work of the CSP, the progress that has taken place since the last update to Overview and Scrutiny Board and details the future planned activity.
3. Since the CSP reported to the Overview and Scrutiny Panel in January 2025, the CSP has completed the Strategic Assessment of Crime and Disorder, compiling and reviewing data for the financial year for 2024/25, the key findings of which are detailed in sections 63-71 and form the basis for the work of the CSP in 2025.
4. The strategic priorities for the CSP between January 2025 and October 2025 were:
 - a. Tackle violent crime in all its forms
 - b. Keep young people and adults-at-risk safe from exploitation, including online risks
 - c. Work with communities to deal with antisocial behaviour (ASB) and crime hotspots, including ASB linked to substance misuse
 - d. Tackle issues relating to Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)

It was agreed at the October CSP Executive Board, following a review of the annual Strategic Needs Assessment for BCP that the priorities going forward would be:

- a. To reduce serious violence
- b. To reduce VAWG
- c. To reduce ASB, drug related ASB and crime hotspots

Work is now taking place to develop a new set of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to monitor our work programme and impact.

5. Board Members will be aware that CSP's are statutory partnerships that comprise local authorities, the police, fire and rescue authorities, probation, and health. They have a reciprocal duty to cooperate with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, with responsibilities set out in legislation, to develop strategies and plans to reduce

crime, anti-social behaviour, substance misuse, and reoffending as required by Sections 5 and 6 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (as amended).

6. Specifically, the current statutory obligations of CSP's may be summarised as follows:

- To establish a strategic group to direct the CSP's work
- To set up protocols and systems for sharing information
- To identify priorities via an annual strategic assessment
- To produce a Partnership Plan and monitor progress against it
- To develop strategies to reduce re-offending, substance misuse and domestic abuse
- To commission Domestic Homicide Reviews

7. The CSP also has oversight of the work to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism, although the statutory Prevent Duty is on individual organisations rather than the CSP itself.

8. The CSP Chair is Chief Superintendent Heather Dixey, and the Vice-Chair is Cllr Kieron Wilson as Portfolio Holder for Housing and Regulation with responsibility for Community Safety.

9. A significant amount of activity has taken place through the CSP over the last 12 months and key elements are highlighted in this report.

10. This report sets out:

- a. The CSPs compliance with its statutory functions as set out at section 6
- b. Activity undertaken by the CSP against its priorities over the last 12 months
- c. The key findings from the refreshed Strategic Needs Assessment using the 2024-5 data
- d. The recommendations for targeted work in response to the findings of the Needs Assessments
- e. Other forthcoming work and areas of focus for the CSP

Overview and Scrutiny Board review of the CSP's functions

11. The following sections details the CSP's compliance and progress against the key functions of CSP's under the Crime and Disorder Act as set out in sections 5 and 6 of this report.

12. **Strategic Group to Direct the work of the CSP**- The BCP Community Safety Partnership was formed in 2019 following Local Government Review. The work is led by the Executive Board which consists of representations from the specified authorities under the Act:

- a. Dorset Police
- b. Dorset & Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service
- c. Dorset Probation Service and Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service
- d. Health

e. BCP Council (representation from Portfolio Holder for Housing and Regulation, Adults Services, Children's Services, Public Health & Communities and Housing & Public Protection)

f. Representation from the Office for the Police & Crime Commissioner for Dorset (non-voting capacity)

13. The CSP Executive Board currently meets bi-monthly in order ensure that we are able to incorporate the statutory responsibilities of the Serious Violence Duty alongside the core function of the CSP. In 2026, the Board will move to quarterly meetings due to the reduced serious violence funding and staff capacity. Meetings are recorded and minute'd and displayed on the Safer BCP website for openness and transparency. A risk register is maintained for the CSP highlighting any key risks to the work of the partnership, current risks remain the uncertainty around grant funding for domestic abuse and serious violence beyond the end of the current financial year.

14. **(CSPs should) set up protocols and systems for sharing information-** to enable the effective and timely operation of the CSP, appropriate information sharing protocols should be in place for the proportionate sharing of data to:

- facilitate the secure sharing of information between CSPs and partner agencies;
- govern the secure use and management of information by CSPs;
- enable the responsible authorities in a CSP to meet their legislative obligations effectively, e.g. Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (as amended by the Police and Justice Act 2006 and the Policing and Crime Act 2009); and
- ensure that clear processes are in place for the partnership to respond to Freedom of Information requests, including those occasions when a request is made for information from one agency which originated from another partner agency.

15. Data is shared between the specified authorities of the CSP in order to disclose information to help to prevent or detect crime, or to help to catch, or prosecute offenders. Data may also be used to safeguard and support an individual from harm and/or exploitation. For example, the Council works in partnership with Dorset Police, Dorset Fire & Rescue Services and other local agencies to assist in Community Safety under the Crime & Disorder Act. This Act allows information to be shared in certain circumstances.

16. Both personalised and de-personalised data may be shared based upon the issues being addressed. For example, the CSP Analysts use Police data to develop the quarterly KPI reports and annual strategic assessments which is then reported as depersonalised data. Reports are also compiled to inform the monthly Partnership Co-ordinating Group (PCG) about real time hotspot and trend data to enable targeted partnership activity. Personalised data may be shared between relevant agencies under appropriate legislation- for example to ensure that young people are safeguarded and protective measures can be applied to move them away from harm and criminality.

17. **To identify priorities via an annual strategic assessment-** CSP's are required to undertake an annual assessment of the type and nature of crime and disorder, including serious violent crime, that impacts their area. However, a higher prevalence of a crime

type under the CSP Annual Strategic Assessment may not make it a priority for the focus of partnership working. Priorities need to be considered alongside the proportionality/threat/harm/impact to the communities of BCP and where partnership working can bring the best outcomes. The findings of the strategic assessment using the 2024-5 data sets are detailed further in this report in section 63 to 71.

18. To produce a partnership plan and monitor progress against it- The BCP [Community Safety Partnership Strategy](#) and the [Serious Violence Strategy](#) provide the strategic plan for the partnership's priorities and areas of work. These are then broken down into detailed action plans which are reported back to and monitored by the CSP at their Executive Meetings to ensure that progress is being made and to help 'unblock' any areas where we are struggling to make progress. Areas of concerns are discussed and if appropriate added to the risk register for the CSP along with any mitigating actions which we can put in place. The CSP's Strategy is due for a refresh in 2025/6 once further guidance has been received from the Government around their review of the role and function of CSPs.

19. To develop strategies to reduce re-offending, substance misuse and domestic abuse- both the BCP and Dorset CSP's approved the Pan-Dorset Reducing Reoffending Strategy in 2024. Monitoring of the strategy is undertaken by the Pan-Dorset Reducing Reoffending Board which the CSPs have representation on. The Dorset and BCP Combatting Drugs Partnership Board was established in 2022 in response to the Government's 'Harm to Hope' 10 year's drug strategy. The Partnership Board is Chaired by the Office for the Police and Crime Commissioner for Dorset. The '[BCP Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy](#)' is currently being refreshed alongside a 'Safe Accommodation Strategy' and a 'Domestic Abuse Perpetrators Strategy'. These will help to inform our commissioning plans for new services to be tendered in 2026 and will cover the period 2026-30. The strategies have been shaped by our Lived Experience survey work, our Experts by Experience group, a cross party member working group and public consultation. It is anticipated that they will be presented to Cabinet in early 2026 (date to be confirmed). The delivery of the strategies is overseen by the Domestic Abuse Strategic Group which reports to the CSP Executive Board.

20. To commission Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) – since January 2025 we have been notified of four potential domestic homicide reviews for the CSP to commission and report back to the Home Office and appropriate safeguarding boards on the findings and recommendations. These recommendations are then incorporated into the CSP Action Plan. We are unable to provide details at this time of the individual cases as some are still subject to the court process. Once a DHR has been completed it is published [here](#).

In addition to the above, the specified authorities in the CSP also have statutory duties under the Domestic Abuse Duty and Serious Violent Crime Duty. As such, the CSP is the body responsible for coordinating and delivering the CSP's Serious Violence Strategy, which was adopted in January 2024.

Progress against our key priorities over the past 12 months:

21. The following section summarises activity that has taken place over the past 12 months in relation to our key priorities. Many of the initiatives undertaken cover more than one priority, for example domestic abuse and sexual assaults fit under the 'violent

crime' priority, but as the majority of victims are female they also fit under the 'Violence Against Women and Girls' priority. Therefore, where an intervention is 'Cross Cutting', it will have the initial (CC) next to it.

Priority 1- Tackle violent crime in all its forms, including Serious Violent Crime

22. Knife Crime- We have worked with an external video company, Dorset Police and Victim Support to plan and film a short knife crime educational video that can be used in schools as well as with adult and juvenile perpetrators of knife offences. This video was launched in the November Op Sceptre week 2025.

23. Sexual Violence Awareness Week (Feb 25) (CC) - This campaign started off with a webinar for professionals on Essential Insights into Honour Based Abuse and Forced Marriage delivered by Karma Nirvana. Circles Southwest provided a day of training on working with young people with harmful sexual behaviours and Progressive Masculinity ran two healthy masculinity sessions for professionals which upskilled attendees on the prevalent views of masculinity held by many young people, the socio-cultural influences shaping these views and some evidence-based strategies which promote a progressive understanding of masculinity. Further sessions during this week were delivered by ACTS FAST on sexual trauma, secondary trauma, family members of those arrested for online child sexual abuse and supporting colleagues impacted by lived experience of sexual abuse and sexual violence in the workplace. The week ended with a Domestic Abuse forum on exploring how the internet and online influencers fuel gender-based abuse. '

24. Domestic Abuse (DA) Forums (CC) – We provide a productive learning and sharing space about Domestic Abuse for professionals, focusing on local and national emerging themes. The forums run every other month and can accommodate 45 professionals per time and are usually at capacity. These cover a range of subjects including DA perpetrators, support for Male Victims of DA, DA and Suicidality, learning disabilities and DA and older victims of DA and carer stress.

25. Serious Violence Delivery Group (CC) – This group coordinates projects in response to the Serious Violence Needs Assessment, working with a wide range of partners. Examples of the work include training for seafront staff and other frontline staff on handling and responding to disclosures of sexual offences from the public, making it easier for victims to access support quickly and safely. Dedicated Task & Finish groups focus on specific activity such as the Young Person's Serious Violence group which aims to look at safeguarding vulnerable young people from harm and or exploitation.

26. DA Perpetrator work (CC) – We provide a DA perpetrator programme across BCP, which is a behaviour change programme working with both male and female perpetrators of domestic abuse. Each DA perpetrator programme is tailored to the individual following a thorough assessment and specific modules linked to the assessment are carried out with each individual. The victim is offered a specialist support worker whilst the perpetrator is on the programme to manage risk and offer support. 27 individuals completed the programme in 24/25 and desistance rates for individuals completing Up2U: CHR in BCP in 23/24 twelve months after completing the course was 79%.

27. Stalking- We have recently identified a behaviour change programme for individuals who use stalking as part of their offending profile and are piloting this in the coming months.

We are also working with partners across BCP to develop and implement the stalking clinic, this has been in place across Dorset for some years but is struggling to continue due to lack of resource. We are working to establish this in a more sustainable way.

28. Harmful Sexual Behaviour (HSB) in young people – We have worked collaboratively with colleagues in the Police, STARS (a Dorset charity providing support to survivors of sexual abuse), The Shores (Dorset Rape and Sexual Assault Referral Centre), schools and training providers to develop a framework to support schools to deal with sexualised behaviour amongst young people. ‘Do It Right’, addressing children and adolescent sexual relationship was launched to schools and organisations who work with young people on 21st November 2025 and is supported by training and resources packages and a single point of contact worker. This launch phase is initially focussed on 11–18-year-olds and further work is planned specifically around SEND pupil support, provider assistance and the younger ages.

29. Operation Soteria Bluestone - Dorset Police is part of Operation Soteria Bluestone, which aims to improve the response of the police service to victims of rape and sexual offences and their experience of the criminal justice process. Officers actively engaged with universities in the run up to and during fresher’s fortnight, promoting a range of safety initiatives including personal safety awareness and crime reporting options.

30. Domestic Abuse Health Advocates – We fund specialist domestic abuse health advocates who are based in both main hospitals in the BCP Council area. They work with patients in the hospital who are identified as suffering domestic abuse, providing support and safety advice, and referring on to relevant services if required. They also provide training and support to hospital staff, helping them identify domestic abuse more effectively. In 2024/25 the health advocates worked with over 400 survivors of domestic abuse and delivered training to 500 health colleagues.

31. Children and Young People Domestic Abuse Support – We have funded six specialist children and young people domestic abuse advocates across BCP. They provide support, advocacy and therapeutic intervention to children and young people who have experienced domestic abuse in their homes and/or in their intimate relationships. In 2024/25 they worked with over 200 children and young people across BCP who had experienced domestic abuse.

32. Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) (CC) - BCP Council is working toward DAHA accreditation which is the UK benchmark for how housing providers should respond to domestic abuse in the UK. It is the only scheme in the UK offering domestic abuse accreditation for the housing sector. Within DAHA’s eight priority areas, the following outcomes across Housing Services have so far been achieved:

- A Housing Services Domestic Abuse Policy is in place
- All frontline housing staff, including repairs teams and contractors receive role-appropriate domestic abuse training, with approximately 200 repair and maintenance operatives receiving annual toolbox talks, reinforcing safe, sensitive responses. 100% of staff in BCP Homes have completed the relevant training, the majority to Level 2 standard. The training plan ensures that staff across Housing Services are committed to a trauma-informed, survivor-focused response.

- We have embedded a team of Domestic Abuse Champions throughout our wider housing services; these are colleagues who have undertaken enhanced Dragonfly training to provide expert guidance and peer support. This specialist knowledge ensures consistency in how domestic abuse is identified, responded to and managed across our services.
- We now provide accessible information through tailored leaflets for older people, people from minority ethnic groups, LGBTQ+ people, and people with learning disabilities. These materials, along with tenant publications, and the internet site, help raise awareness and signpost residents to local and national, as well as By and For, support services.
- Exit buttons are utilised in all BCP domestic abuse-related web pages
- Alerts for victims and reported perpetrators of domestic abuse are used consistently on the case management systems
- A representative from both BCP Homes and BCP Strategic Housing Partnership attends the weekly Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)
- Domestic Abuse Lived Experience groups have contributed to and co-produced training, policy, procedures and all domestic abuse literature.

DAHA outcomes are woven through the forthcoming Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy, Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy and the Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Strategy.

33. Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) (CC) – we continue to operate the weekly multi-agency MARAC with 721 cases in 2024/25. The average number of cases per BCP MARAC (14) falls just below the nationally predicted range of 15 to 20 cases per week. During 2025/26 so far, we have seen a significant increase in cases, and it is currently averaging 21 cases per week. BCP MARAC has gained high praise for its comprehensive and trauma informed approach, from national organisations who have represented there including Jewish Women’s Aid and GALOP.

34. Domestic Abuse Strategic Lead (CC) –The DA Strategic Lead has completed the STADA Coordinated Community Response (CCR) Leaders course this year, CCR is the best practice model to ensure local systems truly keep survivors safe, hold abusers to account and prevent domestic abuse.

Priority 2- Keep young people and adults-at-risk safe from exploitation, including online risks

35. Safe Places – a Safe Place Scheme has run in BCP for the last 5 years for people with Learning Difficulties, offering a place of safety in local spaces including shops and cafes if an individual is feeling at risk or needing support. BCP Council and People First Forum have been working over the last two years towards making those Safe Places available to anyone who would need a safe place – including but not exclusively to young people, women and girls. As of October 2025, there are 170 Safe Places across BCP who have signed up to the Safe Place scheme, (102 in Bournemouth, 57 in Poole and 11 in Christchurch). These places have received training on how to support individuals needing sanctuary and future work will look at how we can link this initiative to the Unity Promise.

36. Prevent Week of Action 6th – 10th October 2025- Building on the success of last year’s Prevent Week of Action, activities aimed at promoting and raising awareness of

Prevent across the partnership, education sector, and local community. The key focus was to increase the number and quality of the referrals coming in for Prevent and subsequently increase our conversion rate from referral through to Channel Panel. This year's Week of Action was carried out with high attendance to all events across the week and we opened up access to the activities to the whole Southwest region which proved a huge success. The week covered sessions on prevent referrals, prevent awareness for Governors, an introduction to incels, signs and symbols, safeguarding awareness (exploitation, MDS and prevent), online safety for parents and 'what is Channel'. We also had sessions on autism and radicalisation delivered by Austin Dorrity from the National Autistic Society which saw 120 attendees as well as a session on Misogyny delivered by Dr Sajjan Gohel which also saw 120 attendees.

37. The Pan-Dorset PREVENT Partnership- we have updated the pan-Dorset Prevent Partnership Plan informed by the SW Counter Terrorism Local Plan. The Prevent 'Education and Training' Task and Finish group has created the pan Dorset Training framework and has launched Home Office accredited face to face Prevent Awareness training delivered by BCP Council staff.

38. Channel Panel- led by the local authority, Channel is a multi-agency forum to support individuals who are susceptible to being drawn into terrorism. Individuals who have been referred in to PREVENT are assessed by Counter Terrorism police and if appropriate referred into Channel for support, with their consent. Information on the numbers in the Channel process is restricted, but there have been active cases in BCP over the last 12 months. Compliance with PREVENT and Channel is monitored by the Home Office and BCP is currently assessed as 'meeting' or 'exceeding' all the requirements under the CONTEST strategy.

39. Safer Internet Day February 2025- We organised two webinars for members of the public and professionals. The first was on fraud, scams and online security facilitated by two Dorset Police officer and the second was a session on healthy masculinity and online influences for parents, carers and guardians facilitated by Progressive Masculinity.

40. Cuckooing Support Programme - In May 2025, BCP Council commenced a pilot cuckooing project aimed at assisting people who have been identified at being at risk of cuckooing but also working with people who are being cuckooed in their own homes. Funding was sourced from a government grant (DATRIG – Drug and Alcohol Treatment and Recovery Interventions Grant – Housing Support) for a one-year period. The project has been based on two projects which commenced in Surrey and Peterborough in 2024. The project is a multi-agency partnership with Safer BCP, Dorset Police, BCP Housing, BCP With You, and Adult Social Care working together. The scheme had received just over 60 referrals by October.

The biggest cohort of people being referred to the scheme were aged 50-59 and work is planned to extend the scheme to social landlords, housing associations and to conduct training for council staff and others to raise awareness about cuckooing and the scheme. Work is also planned over the next year to secure further funding and to work with older age groups to make them more aware and safer in relation to the risks of cuckooing.

41. Missing, Exploited and Trafficked (MET) Panel and Youth Cafe– Since 2023 any professional who has a concern that a child or group of children are at risk of exploitation within the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole area can refer to the MET Panel. The MET panel, run by Childrens Social Care, consists of multi-agency partners which meet fortnightly to consider concerns about all forms of child exploitation, particularly focussing on identifying the links between young people, places they go to and the people who exploit them.

A MET referral does not replace established processes for all agencies to follow if they have a concern for a child that requires a referral to the Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). Professionals completing a referral to MASH where there are concerns regarding child exploitation should also consider making a referral to the MET Panel.

Safer BCP is working with the MET panel and is funding a pilot for a focussed deterrent worker to provide targeted work with a cohort of young people at risk of carrying knives, to try to reduce their risk. This work commenced in October 2025 and is in early stages of development, but the worker has already completed two short pieces of targeted work with identified young people.

In March 2025, the Early Help and Targeted Intervention Service launched a diversionary initiative to improve outcomes for vulnerable young people. Initially funded by the National Citizenship Service and the Community Safety Partnership Board, the project is now embedded within the Youth Cafés at Muscliff and No 18 Young People's Hubs. These cafés offer:

- Work experience and volunteering opportunities
- Accredited Barista and Food Hygiene training
- Tailored advice, guidance, and support
- A safe, inclusive space to build confidence and community connections

To date, 30 young people—including young carers, those at risk of NEET, and those with additional needs—have successfully completed training and gained valuable employability skills.

Priority 3- Work with communities to deal with antisocial behaviour (ASB) and crime hotspots, including ASB linked to substance misuse

42. CCTV (CC) – We have installed additional CCTV through the ‘Safer Streets’ fund for additional cameras in both Westcliff and Horseshoe Common in Bournemouth as a direct response to concerns around ASB, sexual assaults and other crimes. Our team works around the clock to consistently improve safety measures with nearly 1,300 permanent CCTV cameras monitored 24 hours a day, seven days a week; and have already installed more than 150 new CCTV cameras at bus shelters and stations.

43. ASB hotspot mapping- Our analysts map ASB data to identify any hotspot locations or emerging areas of concern. Where hotspots are identified, multiagency Task & Finish (T&F) groups are established to work together to address ASB with the local community. An example of this over the last 12 months is a T&F group for the Lansdown area of Bournemouth in response to concerns about ASB.

44. Multi-agency working- The ASB team have officers working across BCP and work closely with both internal and external and external partners, such as Licensing and Trading Standards teams; Community Safety (CSAS) Officers; Dorset Police; Bournemouth Town Centre BID (Business Improvement District) Rangers; WISE Litter Enforcement Officers and BCP With You Drug & Alcohol Services for early intervention, engagement, education and enforcement focus to tackle anti-social behaviour.

45. Youth ASB prevention- The ASB team holds a youth specific role, focusing on joint working with Dorset Police and Children's Social Care to prevent anti-social behaviour and encourage suitable support. This positively shows that early intervention has been a benefit in reducing ASB cases from escalating through our scheme. The team undertake early intervention home visits to identify needs early for our families and work with our partners to offer support.

46. The Community Safety Accreditation Scheme (CSAS)- CSAS provides uniformed patrol officers across key locations. The officers undertake visible uniformed patrols to tackle street related anti-social behaviour, using targeted police powers. The teams co-locate with Dorset Police colleagues to ensure robust information sharing and relevant escalation of issues. The team are deployed on a data led approach, where incidents of anti-social behaviour are most prevalent. The team take an engagement and enforcement focus, with support referrals made to relevant charities and commissioned providers to engage clients who are homeless or have additional needs. Throughout our three towns we have seen a year-on-year reduction in anti-social behaviour and violent crimes - thanks, in part, to more than 13,000 hours of visible foot patrols per year.

47. Purple Flag accreditation- this year we supported Bournemouth BID and partners in gaining our purple flag accreditation once again for Bournemouth Town Centre. Community Safety analysts supported with data on nighttime related Serious Violence and ASB related to the town centre and supported the visit and assessment with the Purple Flag assessors.

48. Safer Businesses Action Week 10th – 14th November – ASB and CSAS officers are visiting all business in our towns to ensure they know how to report and encourage the use of Sentrysis.

49. BCP Homes inspection- The Regulator of Social Housing has reported no weaknesses in BCP Homes ASB delivery. This was a key focus for the last 12 months where an improvement plan was put in place along with the development of a new ASB Policy and a Good Neighbourhood Policy.

50. ASB Forum- A new ASB forum has been launched to create the ASB Strategy and to formulate our responses to the new legislative changes coming through the Crime and Policing Bill which will introduce new criminal sanctions, expand powers for law enforcement, and change how ASB is addressed, including new legislation related to begging and vaping.

51. Shoplifting- the ASB team work jointly work with the BID, introducing a new procedure for issuing Exclusion Notices for repeat shoplifting. CSAS officers support with serving notices and gathering evidence in the event of breaches.

52. Enforcement activity- In recent months, enforcement activity has resulted in the closure of multiple business premises found to be selling illegal vapes and cigarettes. This demonstrates the ongoing commitment to tackling unlawful practices and safeguarding community wellbeing.

Daytime and evening enforcement actions have been carried out across the BCP area as part of a coordinated approach to tackling anti-social behaviour and associated criminality. These operations have involved joint working between the ASB team, Dorset Police, and other key partners, focusing on hotspot locations and priority concerns. Activities have included high-visibility patrols, engagement with local businesses, and targeted interventions to address issues such as street drinking, begging, and the sale of illegal goods.

Priority 4- Tackle issues relating to Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)

53. White Ribbon Day and United Nations 16 Days of Activism (Nov-Dec 25)- We have a full programme of events throughout this period. Working with more than 10 local and national partners the events include an art and community support exhibition, healthy masculinity workshops for schools and professionals, community engagement events and online webinars.

54. Unity Promise (CC) – We launched the Unity Promise which is practical steps for venues, services, operators and businesses to take to help make Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole a great and safe, place for women and girls to live and visit. It looks at removing the responsibility from women and girls to keep themselves safe and instead looks at how we can support venues to best respond to disclosures and identify risk areas and predatory behaviour. So far, 30 businesses have successfully received training and are now pledged and fully qualified members of the Unity Promise, helping to create a safer environment for all women and girls.

55. Women Only drop-in service (CC) – We run a drop-in one evening a week in Bournemouth for women at risk of abuse or homelessness in partnership with St Mungo's. This is staffed by BCP Council staff, volunteers and other partnership agencies. We aim to provide a safe space for women and practical help as well as providing other support services such as a clothes swap, mindfulness, health and fitness.

56. Street Workers Risk Assessment Conference (SWRAC) (CC) – We hold a multiagency risk assessment meeting, chaired by BCP Council staff, each month to assess risk and coordinate a response for all known street sex workers. Working closely with the Dorset Working Women's Project, outreach workers and accommodation providers, work is carried out to ensure that we work together to reduce the likelihood of violence and other offences against these women.

57. Support and programmes for domestic abuse (CC) – We have a domestic abuse outreach service and offer two programmes for female victims/survivors on a weekly basis- these are Power to Change and the Freedom Programme. An example of the work undertaken is where The Shores and BCP staff visit local traveller sites to offer support and advice to female travellers and make them aware of services available to them in the local area.

We have designed and delivered the new domestic abuse level 1 and 2 professionals training, across 16 sessions to date, which are always at capacity and three standalone MARAC training sessions. We run domestic abuse professionals training twice per month.

We have designed and printed new domestic abuse leaflets for the BCP community, producing a generic leaflet and more specialised leaflets to reach into communities which have protected characteristics.

58. Town Watch (CC)- Both BCP Council and Dorset Police are active members of Town Watch where members recently worked with officers to promote a sense of security in licensed venues. Local policing teams actively work with partners on a range of initiatives to ensure the safety of women and girls in Dorset including Operation Vigilant to identify potential perpetrators.

59. Experts by Experience (CC) - We have established an Experts by Experience Board, who are a group of female survivors of domestic abuse who meet monthly to assist BCP Council in responding to the local domestic abuse need. They have reviewed strategies, policies, training and other materials, as well as being involved in the future commissioning of domestic abuse services for BCP by taking part in a service specification exercise with the commissioning team.

60. White Ribbon Accreditation (CC) - BCP Council has gained White Ribbon Accreditation which provides organisations with a structured approach to creating positive cultural change. Becoming accredited shows our commitment to preventing harassment, abuse and violence against women and girls through promoting gender equality, raising awareness and ensuring that men as well as women are part of the solution. We have had the White Ribbon three-year action plan approved and are working to complete these actions.

61. Love Grace Handbag Appeal- In 2025 the Love Grace campaign has continued, with three donation points in the BCP area. Since January, 264 handbags filled with toiletries, makeup, and other small items have been donated to domestic abuse survivors, street sex workers, and homeless women. These donations were distributed via BCHA (refuge and pattern changing courses), BCP Homes (temporary accommodation and respite rooms), Dorset Working Women's Project, CSAS, Waterlily Project, and St Mungo's. Longer-term storage for donations has been sourced, and some initial work has started around corporate volunteering partnerships with JP Morgan and DWP.

62. #JustDont Campaign- In June 2025 the BCP CSP launched the [#JustDont](#) campaign which is a behaviour change campaign aiming to educate and empower men and boys to call out incidents of street harassment towards women and girls. So far, we have run a bespoke bystander awareness session for BCP professionals and residents as part of the campaign launch and ran a focus group with Bournemouth and Poole college students where they were filmed talking about the #JD campaign and what they would say to their friends to call them out. We have also attended numerous engagement events to promote the campaign including a session for foodbank volunteers, Lifeline engagement day, RSE day, family fun days, Turlin Moor Family hub day, Bournemouth and Poole college welcome fair and BU Freshers Fair as well as an input to Dorset Probation development day. Over the summer, we supported STARS in their beach campaign where they promoted #JD and spoke to members of the public about consent and staying safe whilst out during the summer months. More recently, we have been delivering the '16 days of action against

gender-based abuse' campaign and have worked with our BCP owned leisure centres to set up #JD displays and suggestion boxes to engage their customers.

The CSP were awarded the winning Gold award in the national leSE Public Sector Transformation Awards in March 2025 under the Customer & Community Focus category for its outstanding partnership working.

Summary of Crime and Disorder in 2024/5

63. The following is a summary of the findings of the BCP CSP Strategic Needs Assessment which looks at all recorded crime across the BCP area between the 2024-25 financial year. Monitoring and scrutiny of Key Performance Indicators take place at the CSP Executive Board on both a quarterly and annual basis.

64. Using the CSP's definition of Serious Violence, the most common types of serious violence offending in BCP in financial year 2024/25 were sexual assault on a female, rape of a female aged 16 or over, personal robbery and GBH Section 18. It is worth noting that some of this data will include historical offences, so may not be a true reflection of actual offences committed during each year.

Figure 1 of the report uses data from April 2022-March 2025 for six key serious violent crimes.

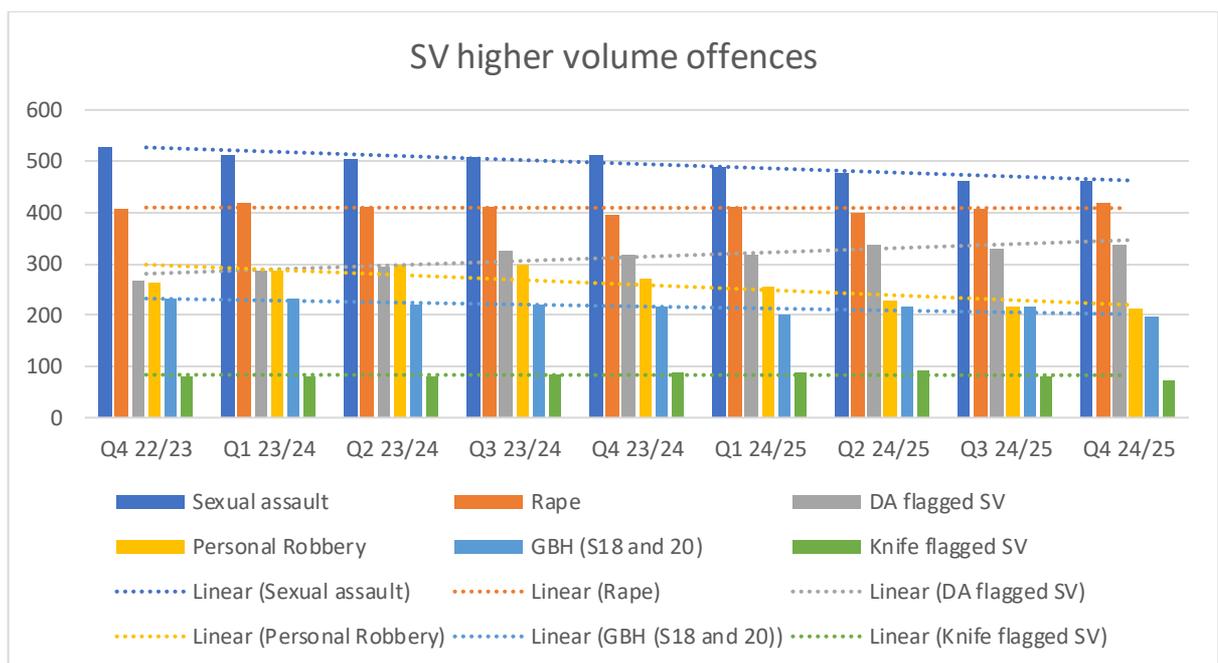


Figure 1- Serious Violence higher volume offences showing a rolling 12 quarterly data – each quarter is reflective of a 12-month period. For example, Q4 22/23 contains data from Q1 22/23- – Q4 22/23. Data period 1st April 2022- 31st March 2025.

65. Figure 1 shows that the most common types of serious violence in BCP are sexual offences (sexual assault followed by rape), domestic abuse and personal robbery. There has been a statistically significant decrease in knife crime in Q4 2024-25, despite an increase in knife flagged occurrences in Q2 last year. Knife flagged occurrences are on an overall slight downward trend. Personal robbery has seen a consistent decrease, albeit not

statistically significant. Business robbery has also increased. Numbers of sexual assault offences have seen a consistent but slow decline, with little change over the last 5 months.

66. The trend for rape offences has shown no notable improvement, and attempt murder occurrences have consistently increased. Domestic abuse occurrences have also increased, with a large proportion of this being attributed to an increase in reported domestic abuse flagged rape occurrences. More positively, domestic abuse flagged GBH occurrences (both section 18 and 20) have shown a steady decline.

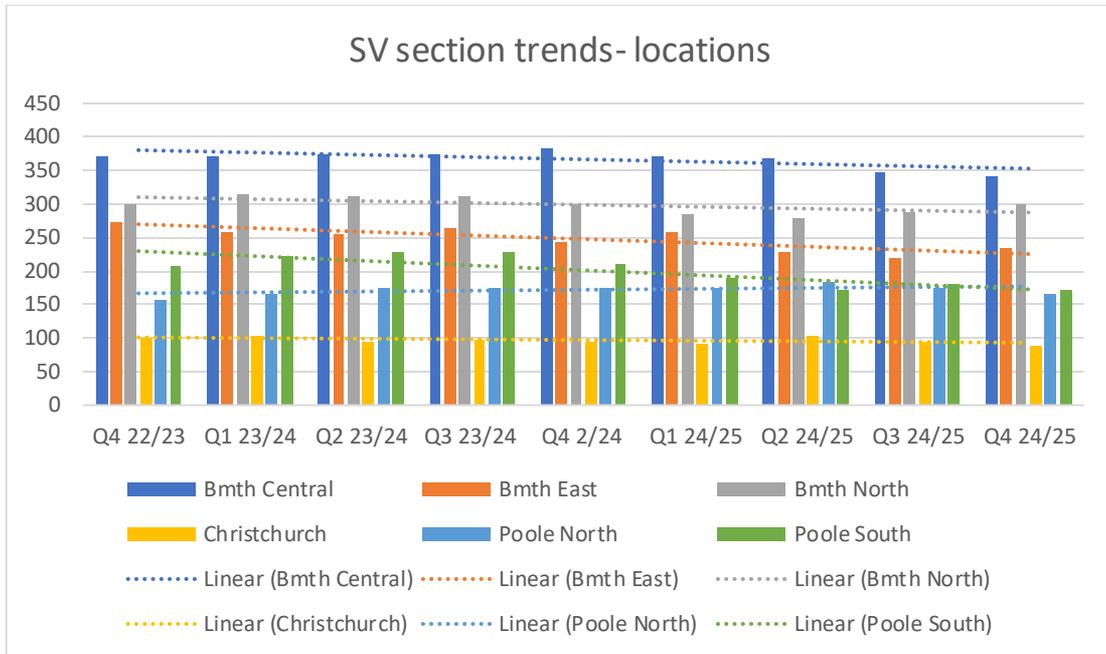


Figure 2 - Quarterly serious violence section trends using rolling 12-month quarterly data. Data period Q4 2022/3- 2024/5

67. Figure 2 shows that serious violence occurrences in BCP are most common in Central Bournemouth, followed by Bournemouth North. Central Bournemouth, Bournemouth North, Bournemouth East and Poole South are all on decreasing trends, whilst Poole North is on a slight upward trend and Christchurch is stable.

68. Domestic Abuse

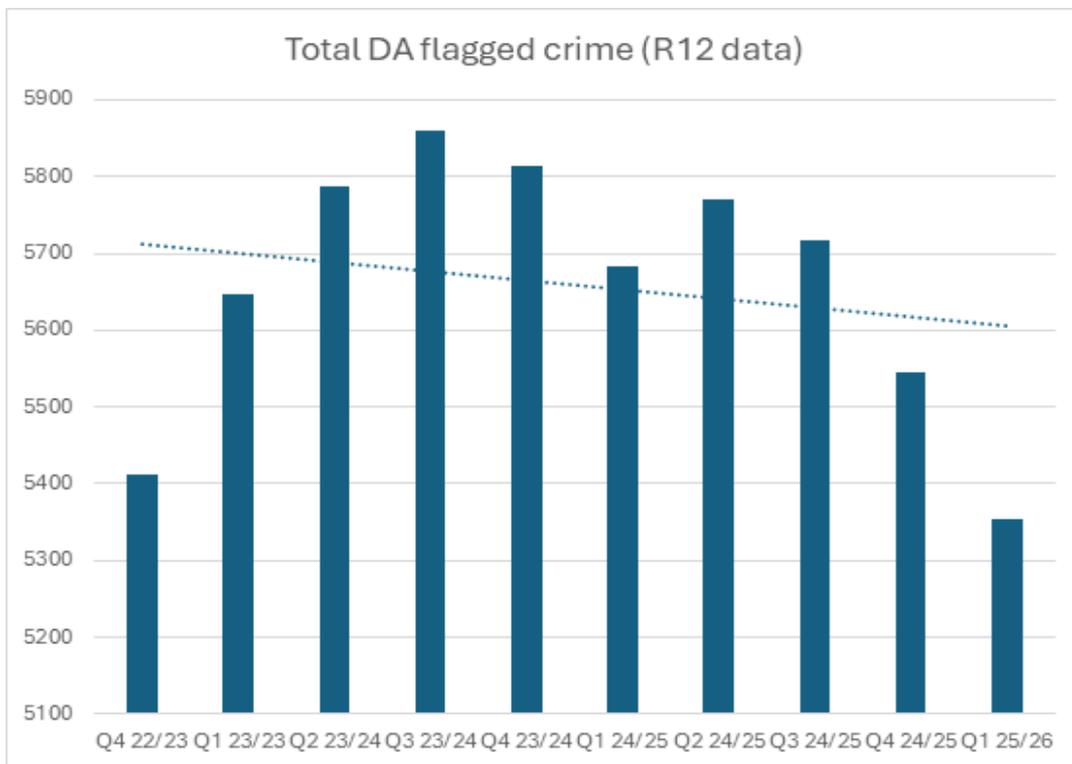


Figure 3- DA flagged crime reported to Dorset Police between Q4 2022- Q4 2025 grouped in to rolling quarterly data.

69. Figure 3 shows that the number of domestic abuse flagged crimes are on a downward trend and have been decreasing since quarter 3 2024/5. Quarter 1 2024/5 has shown a noticeable decrease in numbers, however these numbers may increase slightly as historic records are reported to the police.

70. Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)

BCP’s Weekly MARAC is a multi-agency meeting to discuss and take action on cases of domestic abuse where there is a ‘high risk’ of death or serious injury. There were **52 conferences** for the financial year 2024/25. There has been a decrease of 13 in the total number of cases from 2023/24-2024/25. In the financial year 2023/24 there were 734 cases, in comparison to 721 cases in 2024/25. The repeat case rate (116) for the financial year 2024/25 is 16%. This was a significant decrease comparing to the previous financial year – 160 cases (22%).

71. Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

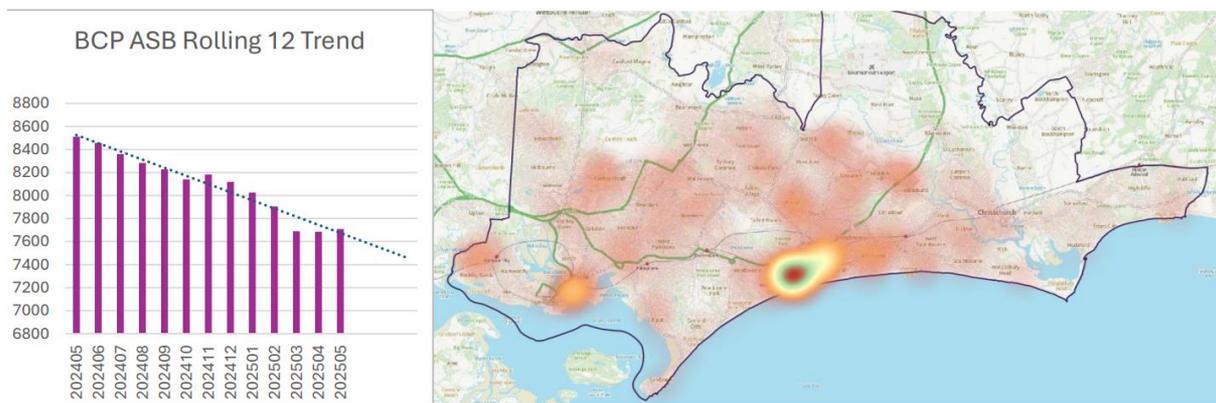


Figure 3- all police recorded ASB between June 2024 and May 2025.

Figure 3 shows levels of police recorded ASB in a 12 month Rolling Period to mitigate seasonal spikes. The graph shows a consistent overall decline in ASB over a Two-year period. Overall rates of reported ASB have declined by 6% from 2023/24 to 2024/25. The same decline in numbers is seen in Bournemouth Town Centre as well, which is positive as this is often perceived as an area of high ASB due to its high footfall and night time economy. Higher levels of ASB are seen in the summer months, coinciding with increased visitor numbers and increased footfall in public spaces.

72. Future work for the Community Safety Partnership

Key areas of work for the CSP in 2026 are heavily reliant upon the Local Government Financial Settlement, which is usually announced in December. The commissioning of Domestic Abuse services as part of our statutory duty under the Domestic Abuse Act is reliant upon funding from Central Government. The settlement going forward will be ringfenced along with other dedicated housing funding rather than a standalone item. We will therefore need to work closely regarding the delivery of these grants to ensure that the level of funding for specialist commissioned domestic abuse services meets the requirement and levels of aspiration attached to the duty.

The second area of concern relates to the unconfirmed status of the Serious Violence Funding which is currently only committed until the 31st March 2026. The funding has been provided to help the delivery of interventions which tackle serious violence in each police authority area. Without additional funding to continue to deliver interventions it will be harder for us to deliver against the duty which sits with the specified authorities.

We are awaiting further guidance from the Government regarding the role of Community Safety Partnerships following a national consultation in 2024. There may be changes to the CSP as a result and therefore the development of a new Strategy for the CSP will need to follow on from the new guidance.

The Victims and Prisoners Act 2024 is also anticipated to provide additional work for the CSP and we are awaiting further guidance. The Crime and Policing Bill which is currently progressing through Parliament contains a commitment to halving levels of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG), including stalking, in a decade.

Many of our current programmes of work will continue and we will look to expand and develop new areas of work including Modern Day Slavery, community cohesion, enhanced domestic abuse services. Dorset Policing Authority area is the eighth safest

policing authority area in England when comparing all police reported crimes per 100,000 population.

Finally, we will welcome a new Chair for the CSP in 2026, Chief Superintendent Julie Howe. We would like to express our thanks to our current Chair, Chief Superintendent Heather Dixey, for all her work and support over the past two years.

73. Summary of financial implications

Where additional activity is taking place across the system, it is being funded through the relevant duty and associated funding, including the Domestic Abuse grant and Serious Violent Crime grant. Future grant funding models are currently unknown.

74. Summary of legal implications

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (as amended) 2011, established partnerships between police, local authorities, fire and rescue authorities, probation, and health. The purpose of these partnerships is to ensure that all these agencies work together to tackle local crime and disorder. The 1998 Act placed a central duty on these 'responsible authorities' to produce audits of the area's local crime problems and implement strategies to tackle them.

Section 115 of the Crime and Disorder Act (1998) gave a power to any person or body to share information with partners for the purposes of reducing crime and disorder. This was strengthened by paragraph 5 of Schedule 9 to the Police and Justice Act that introduces a new section 17A of the 1998 Act which is a duty to share certain sets of depersonalised information,

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 Serious Violence Act 2023 and the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 gives greater focus on violence, both within and outside the home, and on our collective ability to effectively safeguard and protect those within our communities who are vulnerable to these and other forms of harm. From harm to hope: a 10-year drugs plan to cut crime and save lives is an ambitious and action-focused 10-year strategy to enable real and sustained change.

75. Summary of human resources implications

The work of the CSP requires coordination and administration. This is largely met by council and police staff, utilising grant funding where eligible and appropriate. Measures are being pursued to involve staff from other partners, especially in providing data and analytical support.

76. Summary of sustainability impact

The Partnership is developing a strength-based approach which will include residents in developing local solutions to local problems. This, coupled with the Public Health approach, will improve sustainability through early intervention and building on the strengths in communities.

77. Summary of public health implications

Public health and wellbeing are important by-products of a safer community. The work of the Partnership is to improve public health and community wellbeing by preventing crime

and disorder, effectively tackling them when they occur, improving safety in the community, and reducing victimisation.

78. Summary of equality implications

Crime and disorder are unevenly distributed across the conurbation, and generally in inverse proportion to income levels. The overwhelming majority of victims of domestic abuse are women and children. Minority groups, including people from minority ethnic groups, people with disabilities and people from LGBTQ+ groups can suffer from hate crimes and incidents. Young people are disproportionately represented among both victims of crime and offenders, and elderly people often suffer from exaggerated fear of crime. The work of the partnership looks to identify cohorts most at risk and put in place interventions to address this.

79. Summary of risk assessment

Resources and the unconfirmed nature of future funding pose the greatest risk to the effective functioning of the Partnership. The circulation of misinformation and disinformation on social media can perpetuate a sense of fear which can influence people's perceptions of BCP.

Background papers

None.

Appendices

There are no appendices to this report.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD



Report subject	Work Plan
Meeting date	23 February 2026
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	The Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) Board is asked to consider and identify work priorities for publication in a Work Plan.
Recommendations	It is RECOMMENDED that: the Overview and Scrutiny Board review, update and confirm the 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	Aidan Dunn, 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, subject to any updates agreed at the meeting.
3. 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

4. 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

5. 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.
6. [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.
7. 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.
8. 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

9. 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.
10. 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

11. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Summary of legal implications

12. 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

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

Summary of sustainability impact

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

Summary of public health implications

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

Summary of equality implications

16. 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

17. 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

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BCP Council Overview and Scrutiny Board – Work Plan. Updated 29.01.2026

Guidance notes:

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

	Subject and purpose	How will the scrutiny be done?	Lead Officer/Portfolio Holder	Additional Information
Meeting Date: 23 February 2026				
	<p>Increased Penalty Charge Notice and Associated Charges Trial</p> <p>To share the DFT report on the outcome of the trial from Summer 2025.</p>	Pre-decision scrutiny of a Cabinet report	Director of Commercial Operations / PH – Destination, Culture and Commercial Operations	Item identified from the Cabinet FP – Jan 2026
	<p>Report from the Consultation Framework Working Group</p> <p>To receive the report and recommendations from the Working Group.</p>	Committee Report from Working Group	PH – Customer, Communications and Culture	See item below on the working group
	<p>Crime and Disorder Scrutiny of Community Safety Partnership</p> <p>The Overview and Scrutiny Board is the statutory body for crime and disorder scrutiny and will consider the annual report of the community safety partnership.</p>	Annual Report	PH – Housing and Regulatory Director of Housing and Communities	Note: this report was originally scheduled for January 2026 – moved to ensure availability of partners - Date TBC

Key: Pre-Decision Scrutiny Pro-active Scrutiny

	Subject and purpose	How will the scrutiny be done?	Lead Officer/Portfolio Holder	Additional Information
Meeting Date: 23 March 2026				
	Parking Strategy To consider a number of areas identified by the board including, park and ride, overnight parking vacant land for parking, seasonal parking pressures and restrictions	Committee Report	Director of Commercial Operations / PH – Destination, Culture and Commercial Operations	This was added to the work plan for the Board in November following a request as part of a Council motion. Date agreed Jan 2026
	Parking Enforcement Around Schools For the O&S Board to consider how illegal parking can be addressed around schools. To potentially include input from schools and parking enforcement team.	Enquiry session	PH – Destination, Leisure and Commercial Operations PH – Children, Young People, Education and Skills	Initial enquiries will be made through a scrutiny rapporteur to lead to an enquiry session with different parties.
Items for scrutiny (Meeting dates and/or methods to be determined)				
	Carters Quay To scrutinise the Cabinet report which provides an update to Councillors on the current situation	Pre-Decision Scrutiny of a Cabinet Report	PH – Housing and Regulatory Services	Item added to the Cabinet FP - June 2025. Originally scheduled for October - moved to new date to be confirmed (TBC)
	Bournemouth Development Company: Winter Gardens Site Development Plan To consider a report which presents a new site development plan for Cabinet approval.	Pre-Decision Scrutiny of a Cabinet Report	PH – Leader Chief Operations Officer / Director of Investment and Development	Item agreed to be added from the Cabinet Forward Plan by the Board at its September meeting – Item moved to February Cabinet date TBC

Key: Pre-Decision Scrutiny Pro-active Scrutiny

	Subject and purpose	How will the scrutiny be done?	Lead Officer/Portfolio Holder	Additional Information
	Carter's Quay Development Impact To consider the impact of the Carter's Quay Development on residents living in the locality of the site.	As part of the Cabinet report	PH – Housing and Regulatory Services	Item agreed by the Board at its September 2025 meeting – following referral from the Audit and Governance Committee
	Accounting for Social Value in decision making	Committee Report	TBC	Item requires further scoping - KLOE document
	Working more collectively across BCP geographical areas / Locality Governance – This item is interdependent with the progressing Community Governance Review and will be revisited once this is completed.	TBC	TBC	This requires further scoping – KLOE document
	Culture of the Council To consider a number of different elements regarding the culture of the Council including member/officer relations, accountability and record keeping and recognition of different geographic localities.	TBC	TBC	Scrutiny Request received and agreed by the Board - June 2025
	Business Improvement Districts To consider issues raised by the business improvement districts operating within BCP.	Report/presentation to the O&S Board (TBC)	Leader of the Council	This was requested June 2025 as there was an existing item for issues arising from the preceding briefing from the BIDs which hadn't been progressed

Key: Pre-Decision Scrutiny Pro-active Scrutiny

	Subject and purpose	How will the scrutiny be done?	Lead Officer/Portfolio Holder	Additional Information
	Domestic Abuse Strategies To consider prior to Cabinet the Prevention of Domestic Abuse Strategy, and the Perpetrator Strategy including delivery plans	TBC – Pre-Cabinet decision Scrutiny	PH – Housing and Regulatory Services	Item added to the Cabinet Forward Plan with a date TBC. The Board agreed to add to the Work Plan - October 2025
Working Groups and items addressed through alternative scrutiny methods				
	Public Consultations Framework Development – This group has completed its work into the consultation framework and will report its findings back to the Board inline with the timetabling of the draft framework.	Working Group	Director of Marketing, Communications and Policy PH – Customer, Communications and Culture	The Board established this working group at its meeting on 18 November The Group is continuing its work to look into recent consultations.
	Member involvement in the Complaints Process To investigate how this links with members ward work in specific issues.	Scrutiny Rapporteur – Cllr S Aitkenhead	PH - Customer, Communications and Culture	
Briefing Sessions				
	Dates for O&S Board Briefing Sessions for 2025/26:		Potential Topics for Briefing Sessions	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monday 9 March 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Performance monitoring 	

Key: Pre-Decision Scrutiny Pro-active Scrutiny