

Notice of Cabinet

Date: Wednesday, 5 February 2025 at 10.15 am

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



Membership:

Chairman:

Cllr M Earl

Vice Chairman:

Cllr M Cox

Cllr D Brown
Cllr R Burton
Cllr A Hadley

Cllr J Hanna
Cllr R Herrett
Cllr A Martin

Cllr S Moore
Cllr K Wilson

All Members of the Cabinet 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=6058>

If you would like any further information on the items to be considered at the meeting please contact: Sarah Culwick (01202 817615) on 01202 096660 or email democratic.services@bcpCouncil.gov.uk

Press enquiries should be directed to the Press Office: Tel: 01202 118686 or email press.office@bcpCouncil.gov.uk

This notice and all the papers mentioned within it are available at democracy.bcpCouncil.gov.uk

GRAHAM FARRANT
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

28 January 2025

**DEBATE
NOT HATE**



Available online and
on the Mod.gov app



Maintaining and promoting high standards of conduct

Declaring interests at meetings

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

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



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

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

Bias Test

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

Predetermination Test

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

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

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

Selflessness

Councillors should act solely in terms of the public interest

Integrity

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

Objectivity

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

Accountability

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

Openness

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

Honesty & Integrity

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

Leadership

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

AGENDA

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

1. Apologies

To receive any apologies for absence from Councillors.

2. 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.

3. Confirmation of Minutes

To confirm and sign as a correct record the minutes of the Meeting held on 15 January 2024.

7 - 12

4. 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 mid-day on Thursday 30 January 2025 [mid-day 3 clear working days before the meeting].

The deadline for the submission of a statement is mid-day on Tuesday 4 February 2025 [mid-day the working day before the meeting].

The deadline for the submission of a petition is Tuesday 21 January 2025 [10 working days before the meeting].

5. Recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committees

To consider recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny committees on items not otherwise included on the Cabinet Agenda.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

6. Budget 2025/26 and Medium-Term Financial Plan

13 - 274

To set out for Cabinet's consideration and recommendation to Council the proposed 2025/26 budget and council tax based on.

- Increasing council tax by 4.99% in 2025/26 in line with the government's annual referendum threshold which can be broken down into a 2.99% basic increase and a 2% uplift by way of the Adult Social Care (ASC) precept.
- Implementation of the approved financial strategy.
- Implementation of £7.8m of further savings, efficiencies, and additional income generation required to set a legally balanced budget and support

the basis of a more financially sustainable council moving forward.

- Borrowing to fund the Special Educational Needs and Disability services revenue expenditure above the level of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) High Needs grant. It will also be considered with government if it would be prudent to obtain a capitalisation direction associated with the 2024/25 and 2025/26 interest costs on the accumulated DSG deficit.
- Recognise that the government must come up with a permanent solution to return the SEND system both locally and nationally to financial sustainability.
- Recognition that the council is technically insolvent from the 1 April 2025 onwards as the accumulated deficit on the DSG will be greater than the total reserves held by the council, with a negative overall general fund position and is only protected by the statutory override.
- This report also provides the latest Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) covering the 3-year period to 31 March 2028.

7. Council Budget Monitoring 2024/25 at Quarter Three

275 - 312

This report provides the quarter three projected financial outturn information for the general fund, housing revenue account (HRA) and capital programme.

The quarter three overall revenue projected outturn is for a balanced position to be achieved based on the latest assumptions, including that the expenditure control mechanisms remain in place for the remainder of the year. A small contingency remains unused for any unexpected costs over the final quarter.

8. Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget Setting 2025/26

313 - 348

The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) is a separate account within the council's budgets that ring-fences the income and expenditure associated with council housing.

It sets out the proposals regarding increases to rents, service charges and other charges to tenants and leaseholders.

Arrangements for these increases are separate to arrangements for increasing fees elsewhere in the council and are set out in law and regulation. The report also sets out plans for expenditure on services to residents, repairs and improvements to homes and the provision of new homes taking into account new legal and regulatory requirements.

This report also demonstrates how council housing and spending within the HRA supports the council's corporate strategy and objectives.

9. Review of the approach to Waste Enforcement and Waste Offences Enforcement Policy

349 - 390

Waste offences such as littering and flytipping occur within the BCP Council area, with the Council and its contractor's undertaking education, engagement and enforcement through the use of fixed penalty notices and/or prosecution.

Following updated government guidance and changes to legislation prescribing fixed penalty amounts in 2023, the Council increased fixed penalty notice fines in May 2024. A 6-month review of the impact of this change including consideration of the number of reports of waste offences, public opinion on the new fine levels and compliance with the legislation, has been undertaken.

This review has highlighted the need for a more detailed published policy as well as consideration around a proportionate approach to smaller residential flytipping. The current Waste Enforcement Policy is due for renewal and is proposed as appended, to include changes following the review and to align to the updated guidance.

10. Phase 2 - Council Sustainable Fleet Management Strategy and Fleet Replacement Programme

391 - 414

The report provides an update on progress against Phase One of BCP Council's adopted Fleet Replacement Programme. Furthermore, the report seeks endorsement of Phase Two to continue to support the council wide Fleet Management De Carbonising and Replacement Programme for the next 3 years, 2025 – 2028.

Investment in vehicle replacements will ensure a pathway approach that will help to ensure that BCP Council has fit for purpose, safe, reliable, cost effective and carbon reduced vehicles, plant and associated equipment assets, in the right place at the right time and at the right cost to support the strategic, corporate and service objectives of the Council.

If approved this will continue to form the basis of an ambitious council wide Fleet Management De Carbonising Strategy that proposes to balance value for money investment in the necessary alternative fuel technology and infrastructure to support a continued increase in the number of Ultra Low Emissions Vehicles (ULEV) purchased and operated by the council and reduction in CO2 emissions of non ULEV's to support the council's 2030 carbon neutral declaration.

11. Early Years and Mainstream Schools Funding 2025/26

415 - 430

This paper outlines the proposed 2025/26 early years single funding formula (EYSFF) and local mainstream schools funding formula based on recommendations from the Schools Forum. The mainstream schools formula includes options dependent on final decisions from government.

The formulae are highly regulated by the Department for Education (DfE), with funding provided by the £54m early years block and £285m schools block of the ring-fenced dedicated schools grant (DSG).

The national increase in expenditure needed to support pupils with special education needs (SEND) and shortfall in DSG funding through the high needs block has been well-documented. It is generally agreed that for the system to improve outcomes for children and become more financially stable, mainstream schools must become more inclusive.

The proposed local mainstream formula options include transferring up to £2.8m (1%) of school block funding for new high needs expenditure on services to help mainstream schools provide more support for pupils with SEND.

12.	School Admission Arrangements 2026/27	431 - 458
<p>BCP Council administers admission arrangements for its community and voluntary controlled schools. There is a legal requirement to determine the arrangements annually as described in the School Admissions Code 2021 and associated legislation.</p> <p>There are no proposed changes to the admission arrangements for the 2026/27 academic year from those which were publicly consulted upon and determined by the Council for the 2023/24 academic year.</p> <p>The local authority must also formulate and publish a scheme to coordinate the admission arrangements for all publicly funded schools within their area for the 2026/27 academic year.</p>		
13.	Public health disaggregation: progress and overview of decisions	459 - 466
<p>The report provides an overview of the progress with disaggregating the shared public health service and establishment of two separate public health teams by 1 April 2025.</p>		
14.	Urgent Decisions taken by the Chief Executive in accordance with the Constitution	
<p>The Chief Executive to report on any decisions taken under urgency provisions in accordance with the Constitution.</p>		
15.	Cabinet Forward Plan	To Follow
<p>To consider the latest version of the Cabinet Forward Plan for approval.</p>		

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.