

Cabinet DECISION RECORD

Wednesday, 29 October 2025

(PUBLICATION DATE – 31 October 2025)



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Part A – Items considered in public

A5	Status: Recommendations Approved Call-in to apply: No Open	Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) Update	RESOLVED that Cabinet: - (a) acknowledged the ongoing progress being made to address the funding gap for 2026/27; (b) endorsed the latest position regarding the developing 2026/27 Budget and MTFP position; (c) noted the update on the conversation with government around the impact that the DSG deficit is having on the financial sustainability of the council; and (d) continue to express concern to government at the existential challenge to the Councils ability to set a legally balanced budget for 2026/27 posed by having the lack of cash to fund the special educational needs and disability service (SEND); (e) Request the Leader and CEO to write to the Ministers for Education and Local Government to demand a meeting to resolve how BCP finances the DSG deficit in such a way as the Councils general fund is not affected (f) Ask BCPs local MP's to write in support of the above at 'e'. Voting: Unanimous Portfolio Holder: Finance
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			<u>Reason</u> To comply with accounting codes of practice and best practice which requires councils to have a rolling multi-year medium term financial plan. To provide Cabinet with the latest high-level overview of the 2026/27 Budget and 3-year medium-term financial plan. To provide an update on the letters submitted to MHCLG in July 2025 regarding the difficulties presented by the accumulating DSG deficit. The reason for the additional recommendations at 'e' and 'f', was the serious concerns of the Cabinet regarding the DSG deficit and ongoing cashflow issues to fund the deficit position interest which had now reached £6million.
A7	Status: Recommendations Approved (subject to call-in) Call-in to apply: Yes Open	Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership (DLEP) Closure	RESOLVED that Cabinet: - (a) In its capacity as a Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership (CIC) company member, to ratify the decision to transfer and accept the following funds to BCP Council, subject to approval of the 24-25 DLEP accounts by the DLEP board. (Please note, that interest continues to be applied until the payment is made to BCP upon agreement. The figures below include interest up to 31st March 2025.) £866,951.68 revenue £2,498,208.50 capital £1,275,000 capital loan repayments due (b) Agrees to ringfence funds for the benefit of the community and to delegate authority to the Chief Operating Officer, the Chief Financial Officer in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Portfolio Holder for Destination, Leisure and Commercial Operations to allocate funding in

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			consultation with the BCP Growth Board. (c) Notes the resignation of the Leader of the Council from the DLEP Board on successful transfer of the above funds. (d) Notes that Dorset Council will formally close the DLEP following successful transfer of the above funds. (e) Delegates authority to the Director of Law and Governance to finalise any legal documentation required Voting: Unanimous Portfolio Holder: Destination, Leisure and Commercial Operations <u>Reason</u> The acceptance of the revenue and capital funding for community benefits in the BCP Council area will help deliver the Council's Corporate Strategy and wider economic and social objectives: • Our inclusive, vibrant and sustainable economy supports our communities to thrive • Revitalised high streets and regenerated key sites create new opportunities Employment is available for everyone and helps create value in our communities • Skills are continually developed, and people can access lifelong learning
A8	Status: Recommendations Approved	BCP Council Libraries – Draft Library Strategy	RESOLVED that Cabinet: - (a) endorse the draft Library Strategy as an ambitious plan to ensure our libraries remain at the heart of our communities and open to all;

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	Call-in to apply: No Open		(b) supports the implementation of Open Access technology in 4 libraries to aid the ability for them to be in use when otherwise they would be closed; (c) support the clustering of libraries within 4 geographical areas; (d) endorse the approach to work up plans for the remodelling of Hamworthy, Rossmore, Southbourne and Charminster libraries as community hubs to enable wider use and understand the options for Winton Library; (e) endorse the development of options appraisals in relation to Creekmoor and Parkstone libraries, in time, as required; (f) support the continued creation of Friends' Groups and volunteer roles in supporting the library offer; (g) endorse the high-level action plan which will be developed to support strategy delivery; (h) support consultation needs on a project-by-project basis over the life of the strategy; (i) delegate authority to the Director of Customer and Property in conjunction with the Portfolio Holders for Culture and Communities, in relation to decisions arising from the strategy and action plan; and (j) recognise the key role that arts, culture, creative health and public health can play in the future flourishing of our libraries and support ongoing work with Arts Council England to explore NPO status over the lifetime of the Strategy.
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			Voting: Unanimous Portfolio Holder: Customer, Communications and Culture <u>Reason</u> To ensure that the Library Strategy for BCP over the next five years is implemented.
A9	Status: Recommendations Approved (subject to call-in) Call-in to apply: Yes Open	Poole Bay, Poole Harbour & Wareham FCERM Strategy Review	RESOLVED that Cabinet gives approval to: - (a) proceed with the recommended option of undertaking a review and update of the 2014 Poole Bay, Poole Harbour & Wareham Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) Strategy in partnership with Dorset Council and the Environment Agency, using funding from FCERM-GiA (£650,000 has been secured); (b) proceed with procuring a consultant to produce the FCERM Strategy update via the South Coast FCERM Framework administered by Havant Borough Council on behalf of the Southern Coastal Group area, which includes BCP Council; and (c) delegate authority to the Director for Commercial Operations, in consultation with the Director of Finance, to agree the terms of any funding, progression of the technical case and associated future submission. Voting: Unanimous Portfolio Holder: Climate Response, Environment and Energy <u>Reason</u> To review and update the existing strategy for mitigating flood and erosion risk over the next 100 years taking into account the effects of climate change (such

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			as sea level rise and increased storminess) and changes to national funding rules and other guidance that have changed since the existing Strategy was completed in 2014. This supports achievement of the BCP vision for where people, nature, coast and towns come together in sustainable, safe and healthy communities, by contributing the delivery of the following objectives: • Climate change is tackled through sustainable policies and practice • Our green spaces flourish and support the wellbeing of both people and nature.
A10	Status: Recommendations Approved Call-in to apply: No Open	BCP Homes Annual Complaints Performance and Service Improvement Report	RESOLVED that: - (a) the content of the Annual Complaints Performance and Service Improvement Report be noted and that a response be provided for publication on the Council's website; and (b) The self-assessment against the Complaint Handling Code at Appendix 1 be approved for submission to the Housing Ombudsman and for publication on the Council's website. Voting: Unanimous Portfolio Holder: Housing and Regulatory Services <u>Reason</u> To ensure compliance with the Housing Ombudsman's Complaint Handling Code.

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A11	Status: Recommendations Approved Call-in to apply: No Open	BCP Homes Performance Update	RESOLVED that Cabinet: - (a) noted the content of this report and raises any issues for consideration by officers; and (b) agreed that future performance reporting on BCP Homes will be integrated into the council's corporate performance framework and the Corporate Strategy Group. Voting: Unanimous Portfolio Holder: Housing and Regulatory Services <u>Reason</u> To support councillors in ensuring that council services provided to tenants are managed effectively.
A12	Status: Recommendations Approved Call-in to apply: No Open	BCP Homes Governance review, Resident Engagement and Communications Strategy and Resident Engagement for High-Rise Buildings Strategy	RESOLVED that Cabinet: - (a) approved the Governance Review Implementation Action Plan at appendix 2; (b) approved the Resident Engagement and Communications Strategy at appendix 3 and associated delivery plan at appendix 4; and (c) approved the Resident Engagement for High Rise Buildings Strategy at appendix 5. Voting: Unanimous Portfolio Holder: Housing and Regulatory Services

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			<u>Reason</u> The recommendations for Cabinet approval are based on the findings and action plans outlined in the BCP Homes Governance Review. These recommendations are crucial for enhancing governance, transparency, and accountability within BCP Homes, ensuring regulatory standards are met and residents' needs are effectively addressed. (i) Governance Review Implementation Action Plan (Appendix 2): This plan addresses key recommendations from the Governance Review, aiming to strengthen governance by enhancing the Advisory Board's role, developing a formalised assurance framework, and improving communication and feedback mechanisms. Implementing this plan will ensure greater transparency and accountability within BCP Homes. (ii) Resident Engagement and Communications Strategy (Appendix 3) and Delivery Plan (Appendix 4): This strategy and its delivery plan are central to empowering residents and improving communication. They outline measures to enhance resident participation, provide transparent communication, and establish formal feedback processes. Successful implementation will foster a culture of transparency, accountability, and active resident participation. (iii) Resident Engagement for High Rise Buildings Strategy (Appendix 5): This strategy is tailored to meet the specific needs of residents in high-rise buildings, ensuring they are informed and involved in building safety decisions. It includes measures to protect residents from safety risks and aligns with the requirements set by the Building Safety Regulator. Approving these recommendations will demonstrate the Cabinet's commitment
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			to enhancing governance, transparency, and accountability within BCP.
A13	Status: Recommendations Approved (subject to call-in) Call-in to apply: Yes Open	Vehicles and Plant Replacement- Building Maintenance and Construction Works Teams	It is RECOMMENDED that Cabinet recommends that Audit and Governance Committee: (a) Approves the use of prudential borrowing not exceeding £525,000 for 21 vehicles to be purchased by fleet management to support the work of the Building Maintenance and Construction Works Team service. These vehicles to then be managed within the council's fleet management strategy. It is RECOMMENDED that Cabinet and Audit and Governance Committee: (b) Note that CWT plant purchases with up to £46,000 prudential borrowing requirement have been progressed under urgency powers due to health & safety considerations. Voting: Unanimous Portfolio Holder: Finance <u>Reason</u> To ensure the vehicle and plant requirements of the council's maintenance and construction teams is provided in a cost effective and safe way, allowing the services to contribute to the council's wider aims, whilst being self-funded.
A14	Status: Recommendations Approved (subject to call-in)	Adult Social Care Prevention Strategy	RESOLVED that Cabinet: - (a) approved the Adult Social Care Prevention Strategy, contained in Appendix 1 to this Report; (b) approved an investment of £203,000 on-going funding for the ASC

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	Call-in to apply: Yes Open		Prevention Strategy, to counteract the effect of temporary funding not being available from April 2026 and protect the current level of service delivery; and (c) approved an investment of a further £441,000 over a 3-year period (£147,000 per year in 2026/27, 2027/28 and 2028/29) to be drawn down via flexible use of capital receipts in order to increase the total ASC Prevention Strategy envelope to the required level Voting: Unanimous Portfolio Holder: Health and Wellbeing <u>Reason</u> The Strategy: i) Delivers a sustainable, preventative approach to delaying, reducing, or preventing the need for long-term care and support services. It contributes to improved outcomes for people while generating financial benefits for adult social care through more effective demand management ii) Meets the requirements of the Care Act (2014) iii) Supports the priorities of the Corporate Strategy and Adult Social Care Strategy; and iv) Supports the Fulfilled Lives transformation programme
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