

# Notice of Council



Date: Tuesday, 3 June 2025 at 7.00 pm

Venue: Council Chamber, BCP Civic Centre, Bournemouth BH2 6DY

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**Chairman:**

Cllr L Dedman

Cllr C Adams  
Cllr S Aitkenhead  
Cllr H Allen  
Cllr M Andrews  
Cllr S Armstrong  
Cllr J Bagwell  
Cllr S Bartlett  
Cllr J Beesley  
Cllr P Broadhead  
Cllr D Brown  
Cllr O Brown  
Cllr R Burton  
Cllr J J Butt  
Cllr P Canavan  
Cllr S Carr-Brown  
Cllr J Challinor  
Cllr A Chapmanlaw  
Cllr B Chick  
Cllr J Clements  
Cllr E Connolly  
Cllr P Cooper  
Cllr M Cox  
Cllr D d'Orton-Gibson  
Cllr B Dove  
Cllr M Dower

**Vice Chairman:**

Cllr S Bull

Cllr M Earl  
Cllr J Edwards  
Cllr G Farquhar  
Cllr D Farr  
Cllr A Filer  
Cllr D A Flagg  
Cllr M Gillett  
Cllr C Goodall  
Cllr A Hadley  
Cllr J Hanna  
Cllr E Harman  
Cllr R Herrett  
Cllr P Hilliard  
Cllr B Hitchcock  
Cllr M Howell  
Cllr A Keddie  
Cllr M Le Poidevin  
Cllr S Mackrow  
Cllr A Martin  
Cllr D Martin  
Cllr G Martin  
Cllr J Martin  
Cllr C Matthews  
Cllr S McCormack  
Cllr P Miles

Cllr S Moore  
Cllr A-M Moriarty  
Cllr B Nanovo  
Cllr L Northover  
Cllr R Pattinson-West  
Cllr M Phipps  
Cllr K Rampton  
Cllr Dr F Rice  
Cllr J Richardson  
Cllr V Ricketts  
Cllr C Rigby  
Cllr K Salmon  
Cllr J Salmon  
Cllr P Sidaway  
Cllr P Slade  
Cllr T Slade  
Cllr V Slade  
Cllr M Tarling  
Cllr T Trent  
Cllr O Walters  
Cllr C Weight  
Cllr L Williams  
Cllr K Wilson  
Cllr G Wright

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All Members of the Council 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 attend or view the live stream of this meeting at the following link: <https://democracy.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Mid=6077>

If you would like any further information on the items to be considered at the meeting please contact: Democratic Services on 01202 096660 or [democratic.services@bcpCouncil.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@bcpCouncil.gov.uk)

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

This notice and all the papers mentioned within it are available at [democracy.bcpCouncil.gov.uk](https://democracy.bcpCouncil.gov.uk)

GRAHAM FARRANT  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

23 May 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](mailto: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 25 March 2025 and the Annual Council Meeting held on 6 May 2025.

## 4. Announcements and Introductions from the Chairman

To receive any announcements from the Chairman.

## 5. Public Issues

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

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

The deadline for the submission of public questions is mid-day Wednesday 28 May 2025 (mid-day, 3 clear working days before the meeting).

The deadline for the submission of a statement is mid-day Monday 2 June 2025 (mid-day the working day before the meeting).

The deadline for the submission of a petition is Monday 19 May 2025 (10 working days before the meeting).

## 6. Petition: 'BCP Council must reconsider their current local transport and infrastructure policies'

Council is advised that a petition with 2000+ valid signatures has been received, requesting that:

'BCP Council must reconsider their current local transport and infrastructure policies'.

### The Issue

"As local residents and motorists we are both very concerned and apprehensive about the current transport and infrastructure policies being implemented by BCP council. This petition is to highlight our lack of confidence in the management of our local roads by BCP Council. We call on BCP Council to review their current local transport strategy and ensure in future that it is proportionate for all residents and not just those that

support Active Travel.

Currently, local residents and businesses are suffering excessive delay, disruption and inconvenience caused by the poor planning and management of our local roads by BCP Council. The construction of extremely expensive and obviously under-utilised cycle paths, along with a huge numbers of local Roadworks , all being carried out at the same time with minimal co-ordination by BCP Council are real and major issues. As a result the quality of local residents lives are being severely and adversely impacted. Accessibility for the less mobile and elderly , who for them the car is their only option. is also significantly reduced. The repercussions of these BCP policies fail to deliver the expectations and needs of our local community. It's not just about congested streets and increased drive times, It's not just about more carbon emissions rather than less, it's about how these BCP policies are impacting the safety, environment and overall quality of life in our region. As stated by the UK Department for Transport, each year we are seeing an increase in road traffic in Bournemouth, Christchurch, and Poole (BCP) area compared to the national average. This indicates that the existing policies are not mitigating transport issues and need to be reevaluated. Moreover, critical decisions affecting thousands of motorists and residents appear to lack the inclusivity and transparency that's required. We feel our voices and concerns are ignored. Therefore, we call for the BCP council to reevaluate current transport policies and provide a transparent, inclusive decision-making process and develop a partnership with all local road users not just those of Active Travel. Help us champion the cause of improved infrastructural planning and strategies by signing this petition."

## **ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

### **Recommendations from Cabinet and Committees**

- |    |  |           |
|----|--|-----------|
| 7. | <b>Cabinet 2 April 2025 - Minute No. 142 - Poole Bridge to Hunger Hill Flood Defence Scheme – CIL Funding Proposal</b><br><b>RECOMMENDED that Cabinet recommend to Council: -</b><br><b>Approval of the allocation of £7.3m to the Poole Bridge to Hunger Hill Flood Defence Scheme from Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) for the Financial Year 2025/26.</b> | 39 - 46   |
| 8. | <b>Cabinet 2 April 2025 - Minute No. 145 - Children and Young People's Partnership Plan 2025-2030</b><br><b>RECOMMENDED that: -</b><br><b>Members approve the final content and design of the plan.</b>  | 47 - 100  |
| 9. | <b>Cabinet 13 May 2025 - Minute No. 6 - BCP Local Plan next steps, updated Local Development Scheme (LDS) and Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)</b><br><b>RECOMMENDED that Cabinet: -</b><br><b>(a) recommends to Council that the draft BCP Local Plan be</b>  | 101 - 148 |



	<p>withdrawn from examination;</p> <p>(b) recommends to Council that the draft BCP CIL Charging Schedule be withdrawn from examination;</p> <p>(c) agrees to the publication of a new Local Development Scheme at Appendix 1 and submission to Government, subject to Council agreement to withdraw the draft BCP Local Plan under recommendation a.</p> <p>(d) agrees the updated Statement of Community Involvement at Appendix 2.</p>	
10.	<p><b>Cabinet 13 May 2025 - Minute No. 7 - Our Place and Environment: Consolidated Active Travel Fund 2025/26</b></p> <p><b>RECOMMENDED that Cabinet: -</b></p> <p>(a) recommends to Council delegation of the investment of the £1.459m of Consolidated Active Travel Fund 2025/26 to the Service Director for Planning &amp; Transport in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Climate Response, Environment and Energy</p>	149 - 158
11.	<p><b>Cabinet 13 May 2025 - Minute No. 8 - Russell-Cotes Art Gallery and Museum Arts Council England (ACE) Museum Estate and Development (MEND) Grant</b></p> <p><b>RECOMMENDED that Cabinet: -</b></p> <p>(a) recommends Council to accept the £1,500,817 from Arts Council England MEND Round 4 and delegates authority to the Director of Customer &amp; Property to complete the formal acceptance process on behalf of the Council</p> <p>Note – resolutions (b) and (c) were resolved matters by the Cabinet</p>	159 - 162
12.	<p><b>Response from an Overview and Scrutiny Committee on a Council recommendation</b></p> <p>The Council's constitution provides that Overview and Scrutiny (O&amp;S) Committees must consider any requests for scrutiny made to it by Council and respond to Council if the response is rejected, with reasons. This report sets out such a response.</p>	163 - 166
13.	<p><b>Recruitment of Chief Executive</b></p> <p>Panel interviews are being held on Tuesday 27 and Wednesday 28 May and a report will follow with the panel's recommendation. It is anticipated that the report, including the Panel's recommendation, will be published on Friday 30 May to inform the Council's decision.</p>	To Follow

#### **14. Notices of Motions in accordance with Procedure Rule 10**

##### **Motion to Full Council: Protecting and Revitalising Library Services**

###### **This Council notes that**

- Staffing levels and reduced opening hours across BCP libraries have affected accessibility, especially for families, vulnerable residents, and older people.
- Hamworthy Library serves as a case study highlighting the wider consequences of underfunding library services.
- BCP Council is currently undergoing a community governance review in relation to the development of Town and Parish Councils across the conurbation.

###### **This Council further notes that:**

- The closure of the community café in Hamworthy Library, as part of recent budget cuts, has had a deep and disproportionate impact on the local community, despite limited fiscal savings.
- This closure led to the redundancy of valued staff.
- Footfall has significantly declined, and the library has lost its function as a vibrant social and democratic hub. Councillor surgeries, for example, are now less accessible and welcoming, with no option for a friendly cuppa and conversation.
- The café infrastructure remains in place, offering an opportunity for revitalisation with the right support.

###### **This Council believes that:**

- Libraries are vital to the social infrastructure of our communities — offering education, connectivity, wellbeing support, and civic engagement.
- Staffing and consistent opening hours should be protected and prioritised in future budget planning.
- Offering Café and community spaces within the same space as a library adds significant social value and should be supported,
- The potential for Town and Parish Councils to take on some responsibility for local library provision should be explored carefully, with attention to the short-, medium and long-term impacts on sustainability including the implications for staff, service quality, and community access.

###### **This Council therefore resolves that in developing the Library Strategy the relevant Portfolio Holders be asked to consider the following:**

1. Prioritise staffing and opening hours in future Library Strategy, to maintain and strengthen access to these vital public services across BCP.
2. Conduct a detailed review into the closure of the café at Hamworthy

Library, including its social and economic impact, and explore options for reinstatement as well as exploring the provision of similar facilities elsewhere.

3. Ensure that the Library Strategy includes an assessment of the condition, usage, and community role of library services across the conurbation, with a focus on restoring or enhancing social space where needed.
4. Include an options appraisal outlining the impacts of devolving library assets or responsibilities to Town and Parish Councils, including potential risks, benefits, and support requirements ensuring that library services align with the ongoing community governance review.
5. That the final report should specifically reference the actions taken in response to these points.

#### **15. Questions from Councillors**

The deadline for questions to be submitted to the Monitoring Officer is Friday 23 May 2025.

#### **16. Urgent Decisions taken by the Chief Executive in accordance with the Constitution**

To consider any urgent decisions taken by the Chief Executive in accordance with the Constitution.

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**  
**COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Meeting held on 25 March 2025 at 7.00 pm

Present:-

Cllr S Bull – Vice-Chairman (In the Chair)

Present: Cllr C Adams, Cllr S Aitkenhead, Cllr M Andrews, Cllr S Armstrong, Cllr S Bartlett, Cllr J Beesley, Cllr D Brown, Cllr O Brown, Cllr R Burton, Cllr P Canavan, Cllr S Carr-Brown, Cllr A Chapmanlaw, Cllr B Chick, Cllr E Connolly, Cllr P Cooper, Cllr M Cox, Cllr D d'Orton-Gibson, Cllr M Dower, Cllr M Earl, Cllr J Edwards, Cllr G Farquhar, Cllr D A Flagg, Cllr M Gillett, Cllr C Goodall, Cllr A Hadley, Cllr E Harman, Cllr R Herrett, Cllr P Hilliard, Cllr B Hitchcock, Cllr M Howell, Cllr A Keddie, Cllr M Le Poidevin, Cllr S Mackrow, Cllr A Martin, Cllr D Martin, Cllr G Martin, Cllr J Martin, Cllr C Matthews, Cllr S McCormack, Cllr P Miles, Cllr S Moore, Cllr B Nanovo, Cllr L Northover, Cllr R Pattinson-West, Cllr M Phipps, Cllr K Rampton, Cllr Dr F Rice, Cllr J Richardson, Cllr V Ricketts, Cllr C Rigby, Cllr K Salmon, Cllr J Salmon, Cllr P Sidaway, Cllr P Slade, Cllr T Slade, Cllr V Slade, Cllr M Tarling, Cllr T Trent, Cllr O Walters, Cllr C Weight, Cllr L Williams, Cllr K Wilson and Cllr G Wright

85. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors H Allen, J Bagwell, P Broadhead, J Butt, J Challinor, J Clements, L Dedman (Chairman), B Dove, D Farr, A Filer, J Hanna and A Moriarty

86. Declarations of Interests

Council was advised that the Monitoring Officer had granted all BCP Councillors a dispensation to enable all to participate in the debate and vote on the Community Governance Review.

Further to this Council were informed that the granting of this dispensation would be reported to the next meeting of the Standards Committee.

Councillor Vanessa Ricketts declared an interest in Minute No. 90 (Petition: Protect Christchurch Harbour) as Secretary to the Christchurch Harbour & Marine Society and following the presentation of the petition left the room for the discussion and voting thereon.

87. Confirmation of Minutes

The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 25 February 2025 were confirmed as a correct record.

88. Announcements and Introductions from the Chairman

The Vice-Chair advised Council that it was the last Council meeting prior to Jillian Kay, Director for Wellbeing leaving to take up her new role as Chief Executive of Southampton City Council and in relation to this wished Jillian all the best in her new role.

The Vice-Chair advised that since the last Council meeting he had attended an event at the Arts University for the opening ceremony of their air source heat pumps.

89. Public Issues

**Public Questions**

**Public Question from Joanne Keeling**

"Given that Sir Keir Starmer advocates scrapping NHS England for its unnecessary bureaucracy, why is BCP Council considering establishing parish councils, another tier of administration? Shouldn't we streamline local governance instead of adding layers that increase costs and complicate decision making? If current services are struggling, wouldn't strengthening the existing council be more efficient than forming new parish councils? There would be no need for extra layers if BCP operated more efficiently. While we call for reduced bureaucracy nationally, locally we propose expanding it. How do these contradictory policies align with an alleged cost conscious government? Please clarify."

**Response by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Millie Earl**

Following a commitment by the Three Town's Alliance administration to empower our communities to make decisions on the issues that matter most in their areas and the lack of consultation on community governance throughout the Local Government Reorganisation process for Bournemouth and Poole residents, Council approved the commencement of a community governance review in October 2024.

Council this evening will be asked to consider the draft recommendations of the Task and Finish Group following the invitation of initial submissions and if approved, these will be subject to a 12-week consultation.

The responses will be considered in accordance with the agreed timetable and Council will be asked to consider any final recommendations in October 2025.

Parish and Town Councils are a legitimate tier of local government with over 10,000 councils in England. They can play a pivotal role in the provision of services at a local level reflecting the priorities in the area, as evidenced by the existing parish and town councils in Christchurch and in Bournemouth.

**Public Question from Soo Chapman**

Agenda Items 12 and 13 concern the well-being of children and young people. Young people should not have to fight for a habitable future nor should our children's life chances on a Grenfelling planet be ignored.

The single page illustrated document I wrote, East Dorset Friends of the Earth endorsed & Bournemouth Borough Council printed, was distributed by myself and my late husband on our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary 24.7.2006 to all 12 Bournemouth libraries. Since then, no such document has appeared in libraries, doctors' surgeries nor anywhere to inform the public just what is happening to their world. Denialism is allowed to flourish and with it our chances of survival.

An escalating, dangerous 429 parts per million CO2 when Earth's safe level is 350ppm, shows the failure of all authorities to respect, warn and prepare subsequent generations for the Anthropocene.

How does BCP plan to redress this?

**Response by the Portfolio Holder for Climate Response, Environment and Energy, Councillor Andy Hadley**

Soo, thank you for your clear warnings.

The Council are actively working on awareness for children and young people. Our Educational Improvement Team is assisting schools in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole to address the Department for Education's '**sustainability leadership and climate action plans**' initiative, which involves all education settings nominating a sustainability lead and putting in place a climate action plan. This compliments the Council's Environmental Schools Award, an established scheme that helps schools improve their environmental performance across many areas, including energy, waste, biodiversity and travel. I have been asked into a local school to hear of the work of their Eco Leaders, and I would welcome more such visits.

The Council has also been taking practical measures to reduce emissions and raise awareness at schools with the 'School Streets' scheme aimed at restricting traffic and parking, initially outside four local schools during peak times. This resulted in an 11.5 per cent rise in parents and carers opting to leave their cars at home and either walk, cycle or scoot, and 92 per cent of respondents requesting the scheme be made permanent. Other schools are coming on-board.

To raise awareness more widely, I presented the Climate Action Annual report to Cabinet earlier this month, and at the same time launched the Council's Emissions Dashboard that can be accessed by anyone from the Climate pages of the Council's website. This makes available our emissions data and shows our progress towards becoming carbon neutral, displaying roadmaps illustrating how this can be achieved, and case studies.

I agree that we need to do far more to counter the false narratives and apathy. The links that you frequently share are always valuable, most recently

- Predictions from the Medical Journal "The Lancet" about massive population health impacts of climate change,

<https://lancetcountdown.org/2024-report/>

- from the Society of Actuaries and Exeter University about the Global risks to food production, millions of deaths, and Trillions of annual GDP losses across the planet.

<https://actuaries.org.uk/document-library/thought-leadership/thought-leadership-campaigns/climate-papers/planetary-solvency-finding-our-balance-with-nature/>

- from Oxford University Press, which highlights the huge shift in human emissions needed to undo the damage of the last century of human activity, but which includes a glimmer of hope in that changes from the International Maritime Organisation to regulations on sulphur content in fuels used by global shipping have resulted in measurable impacts being recorded.  
<https://academic.oup.com/oocc/article/3/1/kgad008/7335889>

In recent weeks, The Climate Team has been strengthened by two new officers, part of whose role will be to carry out community engagement on sustainability issues, including climate change awareness.

#### **Public Question from Judith Adda**

"As a long-time BCP taxpayer, I want to know about Bournemouth Live, the shadowy, outsourced, closed company running the massive, underutilised BIC.

Who's the CEO? How much does this immense Bournemouth asset contribute to our town and BCP's coffers? Time to reveal this now with BCP's contracting budgets.

This information appears nowhere in my latest Council Tax demand, nor is it public information on BCP's or BH Live websites.

It surely cost BCP £millions to build and BIC's far from paying its way today as expected, with the pitifully limited number of events it now hosts.

Unimpressed with many rebuffs I received when I offered my organisational business development skills, I can help develop significantly more revenue from this major Bournemouth asset, I believe is now *a white elephant-on-sea!*

I offer proven business leadership skills, knowledge, 'savvy', drive, determination to help improve this situation and respectfully ask for some answers".

#### **Response by the Portfolio Holder for Destination, Leisure and Commercial Operations, Councillor Richard Herrett**

Thankyou for your question,

BH Live are a separate organisation to BCP Council and run as a registered charity.

They currently hold the lease for the BIC, Pavilion and 3 of our BCP owned Bournemouth based leisure centres.

BH Live pay the council a service fee on an annual basis as part of this lease agreement which is within the Council's overall budget. Council officers have regular partnership meetings with BH Live in line with the



contractual arrangement which covers their service plan, budgets and performance.

BH Live have a board of trustees and submit their accounts to Companies house and the charity commission, along with a full report on an annual basis as with all registered charities.

The Trustees names, which include two BCP Councillors are publicly available on the charity commission website, along with annual reports, in which the senior management names including the Chief Executive are listed.

The Council do not appoint staff to, or recruit for BH Live , this is done through their own process, being an independent charity.

### **Public Statements**

#### **Public Statement from Susan Stockwell**

I applaud this administration's foresight in providing residents and businesses with 20mph limits. Whatever the motivation, be it safer roads for everyone, healthier conditions for travelling actively, or something else I am grateful. I also applaud our opposition on BCP council, for contributing to alternatives to private vehicles, introducing Beryl Bikes and Scooters, manifesto commitments to public transport and a general offering of towns which are kinder to the environment. Each has had a part to play.

Frustration over traffic jams is a great leveller. We may disagree, often passionately, over how to tackle this. But better to care and disagree than nobody caring.

Recently, health evidence from ULEZ and Clean Air Zones, and accident figures for 20mph have become available. I urge you as decision makers to use this wisely.

#### **Public Statement from Mark Elkins**

The East Cliff and Springbourne Neighbourhood Forum application (ECSNF) in stark contrast to the East Cliff Neighbourhood Forum application (ECNF) is the only one that does not seek to split up East Cliff by including all the buildings and green space within East Cliff. It also includes all the beaches and cliffs whereas the ECNF fails to include these at all. In addition (ECSNF) includes the whole of Springbourne thus aiming to have a considerably greater impact on preserving heritage, designing out Crime, local employment opportunities, levelling up, enhancing tourism, business opportunities, retail trade, and avoidance of housing development cramming.

#### **Public Statement from Paul Spector**

This is a statement to express my support for the Twinning arrangement between Bournemouth and Netanya and my concern at the negative and divisive campaign to de-twin.

Twinning with Netanya helps connect people from one seaside town, with a strong tourist background, to another. It was initiated in 1995 and, since

then, through visits and exchanges, friendships have been forged, honest opinions exchanged, and best practices shared.

The ordinary citizens of Bournemouth and of Netanya share common aspirations - for peace and prosperity, for a quiet life. That is why we should support and encourage the twinning of the two towns.

The concept of “Love thy neighbour” is central to all three major monotheistic religions, and it’s time we started to work together, as a community, for the good of all our neighbours.

### **Public Statement from Alexander McKinstry**

Last week's Audit and Governance Committee debate, regarding FuturePlaces, was deeply dissatisfying. I see nothing in the Constitution that requires a business case, or budget, to be submitted before appointing external investigators; the Standards Committee never does this. I was disappointed too at the failure to define the scope for an investigation, despite four public statements setting out key issues at the start of the meeting. As the investigation and its parameters have now been delegated to the monitoring officer and head of internal audit, I've emailed both officers details of principal concerns surrounding FuturePlaces: its accommodation, the streamlined recruitment process, who authorised the bonuses and on what grounds, and how the final settlement (£2,691,704) was determined. Lastly, I deplore the remarks about "needing to move on", uttered by one councillor mid-meeting: this belittles public concerns, and ignores the fact that audit is a retrospective exercise.

### **Public Statement from Philip Gatrell**

## **COUNCIL’S PERFORMANCE INDICATORS IN 150 PERMITTED WORDS**

### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT OMBUDSMAN**

- ***Complaints Processed:***

2019-20	<b>43</b>
‘20-21	<b>40</b>
‘21-22	<b>73</b>
‘22-23	<b>77</b>
‘23-24	<b>90</b>
‘24-25 to 28.1.25.	<b>85</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>408</u></b>

- ***Complaints Upheld after 137 Cases Fully Investigated:***

2019-20	<b>5</b>	<b>(42%)</b>
‘20-21	<b>9</b>	<b>(69%)</b>
‘21-22	<b>22</b>	<b>(65%)</b>
‘22-23	<b>26</b>	<b>(68%)</b>
‘23-24	<b>32</b>	<b>(81%)</b>
‘24-25 to 28.1.25.	<b>17</b>	<b>(74%)</b>
<b>Total Upheld</b>	<b><u>111</u></b>	

**INFORMATION COMMISSIONER**

- ***Information Time Limit Compliance Response Rates compared with Commissioner's Target 90%:***

2022-23	88%
'23-24	82%

- ***Further Information Release Rates following Internal Reviews and Complaints to Commissioner:***

2022-23	48%
'23-24	54%

- ***Information Requester Tribunal Appeals to date:***

1 - Concluded at hearing **22nd January 2025**. Published judgment imminent.

**LOCAL AUDIT AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT 2014**

- ***Local Government Elector's Section 27 Objection accepted concerning 2023-24 Section 28 "Unlawful Item of Account":***

Senior Officer's "Compensation for Loss of Office" **£37,500**. Detailed by public issue at Audit and Governance meeting **27th January 2025**. External Auditor's 2014 Act remediation to follow.

90. **Petition: Protect Christchurch Harbour**

Consideration was given to a petition calling for BCP Council to produce and adopt a Christchurch Harbour Protection Policy.

The petition organiser, Vanessa Ricketts, Secretary to the Christchurch Harbour Marine Society provided background relating to the submitted petition.

The Portfolio Holder for Climate Response, Environment and Energy spoke on the petition highlighting the work which has taken place and emphasising the pressures on the harbour.

Members spoke in support of the petition, thanking the petition organiser for bringing the petition to Council and Councillor Michael Tarling moved the following recommendation:

*That the petition be referred to the next available Environment and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting for consideration.*

This motion was seconded by Councillor Andy Hadley.

Members spoke in support of recommendation.

**RESOLVED** that the petition be referred to the next available Environment and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting for consideration.

Voting: Agreed with no dissent

Councillor Vanessa Ricketts left the meeting for the duration of the discussion and voting on the item after presenting the petition as a member of the public and in her role as Secretary to the Christchurch Harbour Marine Society.

91. Audit and Governance Committee 27 February 2025 - Minute No. 78 - Financial Regulations - Annual evolution for the financial year 2025/26

The Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee, Councillor Marcus Andrews presented the report on the Financial Regulations – Annual evolution for the financial year 2025/26 and outlined the recommendations as set out on the agenda.

**RESOLVED** that the Financial Regulations as shown in Appendix A with the minor amendments reported and approved by the Committee be adopted with an operational ‘go live’ date of 1 April 2025.

In agreeing the above recommendation, Council noted that it may be necessary, at the discretion of the Procurement and Contract Management Team (PCM), to operationally implement some of the changes from 24 February 2025, which was the date new legislative requirements ‘go live’.

Voting: Agreed with no dissent

92. Cabinet 5 March 2025 - Minute No. 125 - Community Governance Review - Draft Recommendations

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Millie Earl presented the report on the Community Governance Review – Draft Recommendations and outlined the recommendations as set out on the agenda.

Councillor Kate Salmon proposed the following amendment to the recommendation to read: -

***“The Community Governance Review Task and Finish Group draft recommendations, as set out in the schedules within the attached report excluding appendix K be approved for publication and consultation with interested parties.***

***That Appendix K be replaced with a new recommendation to leave those parts of Bournemouth not otherwise referred to within the report unparished.***

This amendment was seconded by Councillor Joe Salmon.

Comprehensive discussion took place on the amendment with a number of members expressing concern with regards to the removal of ‘K’ prior to the public consultation.

Voting: For:14, Against:47, Abstentions:2



The proposed amendment fell with the voting set out as above.

Councillor Patrick Canavan proposed an amendment to the motion with the following additions to read: -

***‘The Community Governance Review Task and Finish Group draft recommendations , as set out in the schedules within the attached report be approved for publication and consultation with interested parties subject to the amalgamation of Appendices G,H, I & K thus forming a single Town Council for Bournemouth and that the Head of Democratic Services be delegated to make any consequential adjustments to ward boundaries and electoral distribution.’***

This amendment was seconded by Councillor Eleanor Connolly.

Members discussed the amendment and a number expressed concern with regards to the size of town council that would potentially be created with the amalgamation of areas.

Voting: For:10, Against:44, Abstentions:8

The proposed amendment fell with voting set out as above.

Councillors Paul Slade and Vikki Slade left the meeting at 8.43pm prior to the vote on the above amendment.

With both amendments having fallen, discussion then took place on the original recommendations as set out on the agenda.

Members spoke both in support and against the recommendations and proposed consultation with some members highlighting the benefits of town and parish councils and other members expressing concern with regards to the potential additional tier of local government.

**RESOLVED that: -**

**the Community Governance Review Task and Finish Group draft recommendations, as set out in the schedules within the attached report be approved for publication and consultation with interested parties.**

Voting: For:42, Against:19, Abstentions:1

The meeting adjourned at 9.27pm and reconvened at 9.45pm

Councillors Brian Hitchcock, David Martin, Chris Matthews, Pete Miles, Bernadette Nanovo, Karen Rampton, and Vanessa Ricketts left the meeting at 9.27pm

93. Cabinet 5 March 2025 - Minute No. 128 - Our Place and Environment: Local Transport Plan (LTP) Capital Programme 2025/26

The Portfolio Holder for Climate Response, Environment and Energy, Councillor Andy Hadley presented the report on Our Place and Environment: Local Transport Plan (LTP) Capital Programme 2025/26 and outlined the recommendations as set out on the agenda.

**RESOLVED that Council: -**

- (a) approved the 2025/26 Local Transport Plan Capital Programme as set out in Appendix A and delegated the delivery to the Director of Planning and Transport in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Climate Response, Environment and Energy and Portfolio Holder for Destination, Leisure & Commercial Operations;**
- (b) delegated the delivery of the Active Travel Fund 5 grant to the Director of Planning and Transport in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Climate Response, Environment and Energy and Portfolio Holder for Destination, Leisure & Commercial Operations; and**
- (c) approved the indicative 2026/27 and 2027/28 Highways Maintenance Programmes as set out in Appendix B.**

Voting: For:44, Against:5, Abstentions:5

94. Cabinet 5 March 2025 - Minute No. 129 - Strategic Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Millie Earl presented the report on Strategic Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and outlined the recommendations as set out on the agenda.

**RESOLVED that: -**

- (a) Council agreed the spending priorities for Strategic CIL set out in Option 2 over the period 2024/25 to 2029/30 provided CIL income is as forecast; and**
- (b) An annual update on this report be brought to Cabinet and Council.**

Voting: For: 52, Against: 2, Abstentions: 0

95. Cabinet 5 March 2025 - Minute No. 130 - Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP)

The Portfolio Holder for Climate Response, Environment and Energy, Councillor Andy Hadley presented the report on Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) and outlined the recommendations as set out on the agenda.

The Vice Chair advised that there had been a request to take the recommendations separately and as such recommendations (a) and (b) would be taken together and (c) would be taken separately.

Some members expressed concern with regards to the review and potential withdrawal of the bus subsidy budget.

**RESOLVED that: -**

- (a) Council approved acceptance of the £5.722m Bus Service Improvement Plan funding for 2025/26 from the Department for Transport;**

- (b) Council delegated delivery of the BSIP programme, developed in conjunction with the Enhanced Partnership Board, to the Service Director for Planning and Transport in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Climate Mitigation, Energy and Environment; and
- (c) Council agreed a full review of all subsidised local bus service contracts ahead of the planned commencement of the withdrawal of the Bus Subsidy budget starting in 2026/27

Voting: (a) and (b) Agreed with no dissent  
(c) For:47, Against:2, Abstentions:5

Councillor Clare Weight left the meeting at 22.36pm

96. Cabinet 5 March 2025 - Minute No. 133 - Children's Services Capital Strategy 2025/26-2027/28

The Portfolio Holder for Children's Services, Councillor Richard Burton presented the report on the Children's Services Capital Strategy 2025/26-2027/28 and outlined the recommendations as set out on the agenda.

**RESOLVED that Council agreed the capital programme as set out in the report, including the budget allocations set against the capital funding available for the period 2025/26 – 2026/27.**

Voting: Agreed with no dissent

Councillor Paul Hilliard left the meeting at 22.40pm

97. Notices of Motions in accordance with Procedure Rule 10

Council was advised that one motion had been received on this occasion.

**Rebirth of Youth Services**

The following motion was submitted in accordance with Procedure Rule 9 of the Meeting Procedure Rules and was moved by Councillor Peter Cooper and seconded by Councillor Patrick Canavan.

**This Council Notes That**

1. The Government announced in November 2024 the development of a National Youth Strategy to give young people the opportunity to co-produce the strategy to support services, facilities and opportunities they need outside the school gates to benefit their lives and future.
2. Local Authority spending on youth provision has reduced by 73% since 2010 which equates to £1 billion less being spent on young people each year.
3. A distinction should be made between youth work as a professional relationship-based approach that empowers young people, and simply working with young people, which may not centre their needs, voices, or long-term development.

**This Council Believes That:**

1. A strong, strategically funded youth service is essential for the well-being, safety, and future opportunities of young people in BCP.
2. Youth voice must be embedded across all decision-making structures to ensure policies reflect the lived experiences, needs, and aspirations of young people.
3. A clear distinction between youth work and working with young people must be understood and upheld in policy and practice, ensuring that youth work is valued as a professional, developmental process.

**This Council Resolves To:**

- (a) Publicise the Government's national survey which asks young people to respond by 9 April 2025.
- (b) Develop a BCP strategic plan for the rebirth of youth services, ensuring that youth work is recognised, funded, and properly resourced.
- (c) Establish a Youth Futures Hub, in line with the Government's strategy, to directly engage young people in shaping local policies and decisions, ensuring meaningful representation at all levels of governance.
- (d) To ask the Children's Overview & Scrutiny Committee to conduct a review of existing current youth provision, identifying gaps and opportunities for investment in professional youth work, detached youth work, and community-based youth services.

Councillor Joe Salmon proposed an amendment to the motion with the following additions to read: -

**1. Add to "This Council Notes That":**

***New Point 4:***

***"Despite the change in government, funding levels for local authorities remain well below pre 2010 levels, making it challenging for councils to fully fund services for young people."***

**2. Add to "This Council Believes That":**

***New Point 4:***

***"The council is not adequately funded by central government to deliver the services young people deserve, and further local tax increases would place an unsustainable burden on residents while failing to meet the need."***

**3. New Point 5:**

***"Given that the recent budget process saw no viable proposals to reprioritise funding towards children's services, additional central government investment is the only way to secure meaningful improvements."***

**4. Add to "This Council Resolves To":**



***New Point e):***

***"To instruct the Leader of the Council to write to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and the Minister for Children, Families and Wellbeing, urging the Government to provide the funding required to meet the needs of young people in our area."***

This amendment was seconded by Councillor Sara Armstrong.

The proposer and seconder of the original motion advised that they accepted an amendment. Council agreement was sought to confirm the amendment as the substantive motion which was subsequently carried without dissent.

Councillor Richard Burton proposed an amendment to the motion with an amendment to recommendation (b) to read: -

***Develop a BCP strategic plan for the rebirth of youth services, ensuring that youth work is recognised, funded, and properly resourced. When the Government National strategy is published and resources clarified.***

This amendment was seconded by Councillor Sandra Moore.

The proposer and seconder of the original motion advised that they accepted an amendment. Council agreement was sought to confirm the amendment as the substantive motion which was subsequently carried without dissent.

Comprehensive discussion took place on the motion with members speaking in support of the motion and of the importance of youth services.

**This Council Resolves To:**

- (a) Publicise the Government's national survey which asks young people to respond by 9 April 2025.**
- (b) Develop a BCP strategic plan for the rebirth of youth services, ensuring that youth work is recognised, funded, and properly resourced. When the Government National strategy is published and resources clarified.**
- (c) Establish a Youth Futures Hub, in line with the Government's strategy, to directly engage young people in shaping local policies and decisions, ensuring meaningful representation at all levels of governance.**
- (d) To ask the Children's Overview & Scrutiny Committee to conduct a review of existing current youth provision, identifying gaps and opportunities for investment in professional youth work, detached youth work, and community-based youth services.**

Voting: Agreed with no dissent

Councillors Sharon Carr-Brown, Brian Chick, David Flagg, Gillian Martin, Simon McCormack, Lisa Northover and Rachel Pattinson-West

98. Questions from Councillors

**Question from Councillor Mark Howell**

Does the Council have in place robust policies that prohibit the deliberate deletion of e-mails by officers and technical measures that maintain the integrity of data within officer email accounts so that emails cannot disappear.

**Response from the Leader of the Council, Councillor Millie Earl on behalf of the Portfolio Holder for Transformation, Resources and Governance, Councillor Jeff Hanna**

Technical measures have been implemented to maintain the integrity of data within Officer and Member official mailboxes, ensuring that emails cannot disappear. This includes archiving all Council emails, which makes them available for five years, regardless of whether they have been deleted from an individual's mailbox or if the individual leaves the organisation.

**Supplementary question from Councillor Mark Howell**

Just to say, so that you agree that it shouldn't be possible for emails to disappear and not be locatable.

**Response from the Leader of the Council, Councillor Millie Earl on behalf of the Portfolio Holder for Transformation, Resources and Governance, Councillor Jeff Hanna**

I don't think it's a matter of opinion I think it is a matter of fact, that that is the way that the system works that it archives the information and makes it available for access from throughout the council systems. It doesn't allow them to disappear forever.

**Question from Councillor Philip Broadhead (at the Chairs discretion the question was read out by Councillor John Beesley in Councillor Broadheads absence)**

While remote working has its place and can sometimes help to balance work and family life, there's equally a growing body of evidence that for many roles, productivity is greatest when people work from the office. This is especially important in many Council roles, particularly those involving interactions with our residents.

Lib Dem-run Somerset Council recently admitted that they have five staff members based overseas including, inexplicably, two working in social care.

Can the Cabinet Member confirm if BCP has any staff members working from overseas? Additionally, can you confirm what rough percentage of staff are not based in the office full time? Finally, can you confirm how many staff are not required to come into the office or equivalent place of work at all (and are therefore fully home-based)?

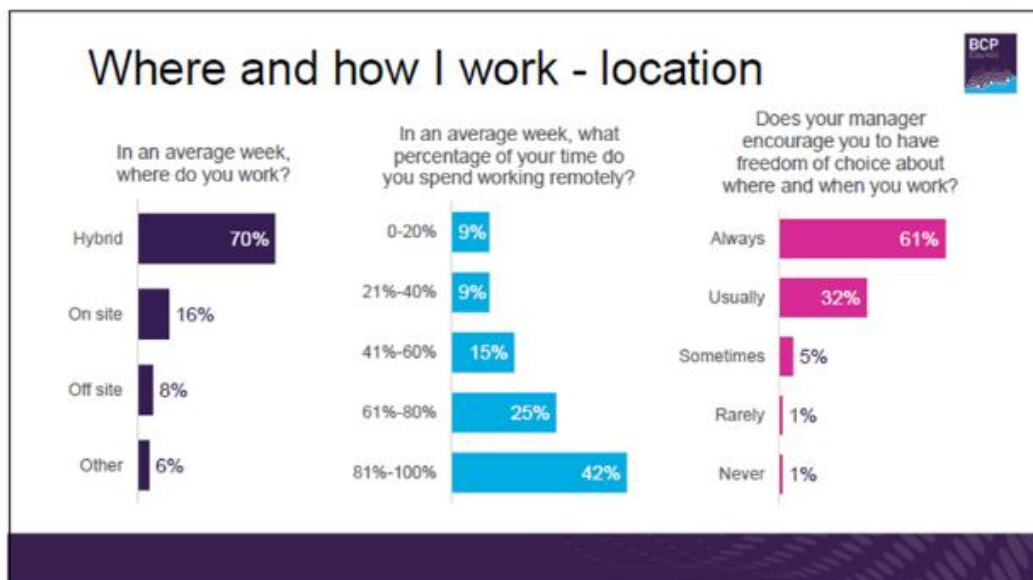
**Response from the Leader of the Council, Councillor Millie Earl on behalf of the Portfolio Holder for Transformation, Resources and Governance, Councillor Jeff Hanna**

Our records show that there aren't any BCP Council colleagues with a non-UK address. We do know that both colleagues and councillors may carry out work from time to time whilst abroad and this can be as little as accessing e mails whilst on holiday. We have, however, received a sporadic number of requests from colleagues wishing to work abroad temporarily which was particularly heightened around the time of COVID and I believe that some requests have been agreed subject to certain conditions, only on a temporary basis for specific personal reasons.

Our 2023 staff engagement survey had 2,504 responses which is a 52% response rate. We know that the majority of those responding are in office/desk based roles. Of those who responded 70% said that they worked in a hybrid way with a range of colleagues working remotely for different proportions of time.

None of our colleagues (unless agreed through a reasonable adjustment resulting from a disability) are considered as fully home based. All colleagues are required to attend one of the Council sites as required to either meet with their manager/teams as needed.

This data set will be updated shortly as in April we will release our full 2025 engagement survey where we will seek the same information.



**Question from Councillor Tony Trent**

“ Last year, following some concerns expressed by local people and organisations, Poole Charter Trustees, and certain Charter Trustees in particular, put a lot of time and effort to make sure the Town adequately marked the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day – in which Poole played an important part as one of the three big embarkation ports. Thankfully Christchurch Town Council was able to share the National guidelines for this anniversary, which I believe did not reach BCP, and we were able to mark

the event in a proper way. We were told last Autumn that following the opinion of a Kings Counsel, who looked into the rights and roles of Charter Trustees, such matters are not within the remit of Charter Trustees to organize or finance events that are not directly linked to the Town's Mayoralty, and we are told these remembrance events are the responsibility of BCP rather than the Charter Trusts.

With that in mind, and following representations made to individual Charter Trustees and the Mayor of Poole from key organisations, what are the plans in place by BCP, involving the constituent towns, to mark the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day in May, and VJ Day in August. These are two important and significant events, and probably the last landmark anniversary for which there will be those who went through it as adults and participants, will be around to celebrate the ending of these historic wars.

I want to draw particular attention to the second of these events, VJ Day, as it was a Poole Councillor, who sadly died in Civic Office, who served in the Far East, and was a key part of the campaign to remember those who served in the Far East, and not just those who served in Europe. He was instrumental in the campaign that led ultimately to the Burma Star Memorial in Poole Park.

I appreciate that there are issues with funding anything extra through BCP Council, with the enormous pressures on its finances from statutory services, but I believe that we should make sure that we mark this important anniversary year in a manner which befits its significance. To help this situation, knowing that the two Charter Trusts cannot step in without it being declared ultra vires, could we look into the possibilities that some of the unspent Ward Improvement Fund monies from around BCP could be used as and where required to ensure we mark these important anniversaries properly?"

**Response from the Portfolio Holder for Destination, Leisure and Commercial Operations, Councillor Richard Herrett**

BCP Council are arranging a Beacon Lighting outside the Civic Centre for VE day on 8 May. We are aware that Christchurch Town Council are putting an event on at Christchurch Quay.

We have had discussions with voluntary groups to understand if any of the community are planning any events across other areas for either anniversary and we will support organisers should any applications come in.

The government have issued street party guidance to councils, and we have had approximately 20 applications from communities across BCP. Due to the lead time that deadline has already passed.

The respective civic mayor's will be advised of events being held by community groups, organisations and residents within their areas.

If any formal commemorative events are held by local branches of the Royal British Legion, the Mayor will be represented accordingly.

BCP Council received an invitation to attend a VE Day commemorative event in Cherbourg and the current Mayor and Sheriff of Poole will be attending in their dual-hatted capacity.

There may be opportunities for prospective town and parish councils to hold commemorative events, specific to their communities in the future.

As the local authority, the BCP wide event, will be held at the BCP civic centre, for which invites will be going out to the appropriate people in due course.

**Supplementary question from Councillor Tony Trent**

Is there anything specifically for VE day planned for Poole as it is quite a significant part as it is the British Legion in Poole have been some of the most vocal people in it, and also VJ day especially as Poole has got the Burma memorial.

**Response from the Portfolio Holder for Destination, Leisure and Commercial Operations, Councillor Richard Herrett**

Due to the restraints around the Charter Trustees and the Local Authority if you would like to organise an event in Poole you are welcome to do so but we are not in a position to fund that at this point, but the events team remain ever supportive and I am sure will be helpful.

**Question from Councillor Sara Armstrong**

"Can the leader of the Council provide an update on the position concerning the East Cliff and Springbourne Neighbourhood Plan following the threat of an application for judicial review made by Andrew Emery (an ex-employee of BCP council) at a cabinet meeting on 10th December last year. Can she also clarify why two BCP consultation flyers for a Neighbourhood Plan area, devoted only to the East Cliff area were placed on a lamp post on Manor Road, this month as part of the council's consultation process, without an accompanying flyer relating to the much more representative and inclusive East Cliff and Springbourne application?"

Residents are clearly confused about these two competing applications, and promoting just one of these applications is adding to that confusion and exclusion."

**Response from the Leader of the Council, Councillor Millie Earl**

The East Cliff & Springbourne Neighbourhood Forum and Area Designation Consultation closes on 7 April 2025. The Council will consider the representations received and a report will be brought to Cabinet later this year.

In respect to the question about flyers, in addition to publishing the proposed designations for both East Cliff and East Cliff & Springbourne on the council's website, the local planning authority can choose other methods of bringing the consultations to the attention of people who live, work or carry on business in the proposed neighbourhood areas. Posters have been displayed in approximately 28 public locations carefully chosen across both areas to highlight that there are two consultations, and directing people to view the application documents and complete the survey via the dedicated Haveyoursay webpage. In terms of Manor Road, East Cliff & Springbourne posters were put up in two locations in Manor Road (junction

with East Overcliff Drive) and at the junction with Grove Road. East Cliff posters were put up in Manor Road (junction with Derby Road).

**Question from Councillor Toby Slade**

Desmond Tutu said "There comes a time when we need to stop just pulling people out of the river. We need to go upstream and find out why they're falling in."

Effective communication is fundamental to the success of any organisation, whether in the private or public sector. Clear, timely, and responsive communication creates trust, ensures accountability, and improves outcomes for residents. However, communication within this authority is falling short and I am not the first to raise this. On many occasions, my emails and communications to Officers and Directors have gone unanswered, and I know from speaking to residents that they have, and do, experience the same. At a recent Children's Overview & Scrutiny meeting, I learned that poor communication was the number one complaint from families engaging with council services.

Why is communication across this council—at all levels—so poor?

What is being done to address this failing?

Residents, councillors, and businesses deserve clear, timely, and responsive engagement from their local authority, and something needs to change.

Will this authority commit to a review and practical and tangible actions to improve communication across the authority?

I take this opportunity to acknowledge Democratic Services collectively their responsiveness sets an example that should be followed across the organisation.

**Response from the Portfolio Holder for Customer, Communications and Culture, Councillor Andy Martin**

Thank you for your question, Cllr Slade, the interesting cultural reference and your perspective on the importance of communication.

After spending the last 40 years in regional news and magazine publishing and the past 14 also in the national and international military strategic communications environment I completely agree with you about the critical nature of communication.

However, I do not accept your premise that communication within the BCP Council is poor.

Personally, I cannot recall any time where I have not had a response from an officer, senior or otherwise on anything I have raised in the past 2 and a half years since being elected.

Officers have been instructed and reminded to engage with ward members whenever issues are raised affecting a specific ward issue - I have always found them to be helpful and responsive.

Cllrs can also use the cllr.enquiry email if they are not getting as fast a response as they wish.

I have used this on occasion and always had a good and timely response, usually within 48 hours.

BCP Council is of course a big and complex organisation. Some enquiries contain questions that go across multiple service areas or require the input of several officers.

This can cause delay and complexity and sometimes uncertainty as to who is collating a response.

Your question seems to be based on your experience as a new member and on some unspecified generic comments from residents.

I offer my own example from last Thursday around a long running planning problem in Highcliffe and Walkford.

The ongoing communications from the planning officer prompted this response from a large group of residents.

“Thank you again for all your amazing work. We really appreciate this.”

We have a highly skilled communications team who manage our corporate and community comms with great professionalism.

I can also tell you personally that working across a number of newspapers and websites currently and in the past, they rank very highly.

I would be very happy to provide you with a detailed data analytics breakdown of their press and social media activity in the past few months.

On the Children’s reference yes it was around communication and updating as to where assessments were.

We have seen an improvement in that element.

The main issue has been more recently is around EHCP provision, not communication.

More generally....

Thousands of residents and stakeholders are successfully communicated and interacted with every week.

In terms of customer, our contact centre telephony which is used more widely than corporate customer services alone is 2,660 daily - but that is just phone calls not emails or direct calls to officers.

The customer experience in terms of service and comms is constantly under review. A really good example is Blue Badge, where we are down to 6 weeks.

We are currently drafting a customer charter as part of the Customer and Digital Strategy.

Trust, truth, openness, and transparency in communication are also critical and I mention that in the context of the administration that ran this council from October 2020-May 2023.

Finally, I have my own cultural reference from the legendary CNN anchor Larry King who said.

“I remind myself every morning: Nothing I say this day will teach me anything. So if I’m going to learn, I must do it by listening.”

So, in that spirit and the vast nature of communications, I will be sure to share your observations and will be very happy to meet with you to discuss particular concerns, examples and ideas.

**Supplementary Question from Councillor Toby Slade**

The question has been answered but would you afford me the time to show you the three emails to Directors that haven’t been replied to and at least four from officers that haven’t been replied to in probably the last two weeks?

**Response from the Portfolio Holder for Customer, Communications and Culture, Councillor Andy Martin**

I am happy to meet and go through those with you.

Councillors Matthew Gillet, Crispin Goodall and Gavin Wright left the meeting at 11.38pm

**Question from Councillor Joe Salmon**

Given that the most important group to get cycling—and to reduce car usage on the school run—is children travelling to school, why is the council not doing more to support this by working directly with schools to identify key routes for bike buses and prioritising cycling improvements along these routes?

The council has access to school admissions data, road traffic collision statistics, and tools like the Propensity to Cycle Tool. Could this data not be used— in collaboration with schools—to determine the best and safest routes for children to cycle? If bureaucratic barriers such as GDPR concerns are preventing this, what solutions could be explored to overcome them?

A more joined-up approach, where the council works with schools and parent groups to plan infrastructure improvements in tandem with identified routes, would provide targeted support for children cycling to school. Why isn’t the council adopting this approach instead of building new cycle lanes seemingly at random. The council must do better on this urgent issue where progress is happening far too slowly.

**Response from the Portfolio Holder for Destination, Leisure and Commercial Operations, Councillor Richard Herrett**

The Council is already working with most of our 98 schools to identify and break down the barriers that prevent school children and their parents from walking, scooting and cycling to school. Just this month the council coordinated an engagement session at Christchurch Junior School to listen to the views of children, parents and residents that live in the vicinity of the schools in that area. Coincidentally this school has a volunteer-led Bike Bus.

The council has a long track record of working with schools to identify infrastructure to help enable active travel to and from them, including the



installation of crossing facilities, removal of physical barriers, and path improvements as well as funding facilities within the schools themselves to securely store scooters and bicycles. More recently the council has also been rolling out a successful programme of School Streets which encourages and enables more children to walk, scoot and cycle to school.

The council has a STEPS programme which teaches school children at the kerbside how to walk to and from school more safely. The council also provides Bikeability training so that children can learn to ride a bike competently on the roads, and through our Bike It programme has even provided refurbished bicycles to school children that due to personal circumstances could not afford one.

Regarding the analysis of data. The Sustainable Travel Team work with the schools to postcode plot where pupils are travelling from, in order to help plan routes to schools identifying where improvements are needed. This data is used to help inform where resource is best placed to increase sustainable travel to schools. Officers also make frequent use of road collision data and the Propensity to Cycle Tool to help focus our limited funding where it is likely to have the biggest positive impact.

The council is building cycle lanes along routes that connect homes to places of education and work and has been praised recently by schools in the vicinity of new infrastructure. Many of these schools have upgraded facilities on site to accommodate more bicycles and scooters and this has been reinforced by our Bike It officers (from Sustrans) going into the schools to get the children excited about cycling and scooting, and to encourage increased use of the new, safer facilities.

I don't disagree that we could and need to do more but am assured that the resource available is being put to best use and that when any funding opportunities arise the officers are well placed to seize them in order to deliver more. Officers have advised that they are more than happy to engage with Cllr Salmon regarding any supplementary queries.

**Supplementary Question from Councillor Joe Salmon**

Maybe I have been barking up the wrong tree as I have not been coming to you but what I really want is that data then, because I have got groups who would like to talk about setting up bike buses and all of that and they are not sure of what routes, times all of that. If that data exists brilliant, lets talk, lets make that happen.

**Response from the Portfolio Holder for Destination, Leisure and Commercial Operations, Councillor Richard Herrett**

I can't answer that as a technical question but the officers certainly will be glad to.

Councillors Marion Le Poidevin, Sandra Mackrow and Judy Richardson left the meeting at 11.40pm

**Question from Councillor Kate Salmon**

At our last meeting on 25 February and in response to a public question, Councillor Herrett advised the chamber that the offering across council-run

catering outlets on the seafront this year would include an increase in plant-based products. Could he please provide some more specific information about this:

- How many menu items across council-run outlets were plant-based in 2024-25, and what proportion of the total offering did this represent?
- How many will be plant-based in 2025-26, and what proportion of the total offering will this represent?

**Response from the Portfolio Holder for Destination, Leisure and Commercial Operations, Councillor Richard Herrett**

The Seafront catering outlets represent the largest of our catering offering and approximately 20% of this menu is plant-based across our two main catering outlets.

We are still looking to increase this, although we are limited by supplier and procurement considerations so I cannot confirm a final percentage for the coming year yet, where the core business is obviously done through the summer months.

As I also stated in that answer- we need to make our vegan options tempting tasty, to increase sales in this area. For me a far better measure of success, but also much harder to achieve, in taking people with us.

Looking at how we introduce those options in a sustainable way to ensure we remain commercially competitive without over burdening a menu is more complex than most would think. I continue to challenge the catering team to find , and trial vegan alternatives.

I for one would love to see a vegan soft serve ice cream as an option, I know it is out there on the market and is genuinely indistinguishable from the 'real' thing

This singular item though does demonstrate the challenges around plant based provision , it includes a large amount of coconut oil, and is more expensive to buy in. But also offers some efficiency in machine maintenance, but the improvements of not using dairy, but also as ultra processed food is a product some consumers are now seeking to avoid. Making sure it doesn't compromise commerciality, as well as satisfying procurement rules, and supplier constraints also presents a challenge.

There are also internal offerings across some of our leisure sites. Queens Park Golf Course has 23% of its daily menu plant based and Upton Country Park offers 20%.

As with all of the catering sites, as noted we need to balance our menu offering with demand and officers will use sales and consumer data to do this to inform any menu changes.

We continue to monitor this and engage with our suppliers to meet new demand and to understand current trends and availability of plant-based products.

**Question from Councillor Patrick Canavan**

Given the rejection by the Planning Inspector of the BCP Local Plan what steps are now being taken to address the need to build more homes and to meet the requirements of the changes in planning legislation being proposed by the current Government?

**Response from the Lead Member Strategic Planning and Local Plan Delivery, Councillor Margaret Phipps**

The revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) is a material consideration in the Council's decisions on planning applications now and this includes how the Council's housing land supply position is calculated.

In respect to the Planning Inspectors' letter following the part 1 hearings in January 2025, a report will be brought to Cabinet on the revised timetable for production of a new Local Plan. As the Local Plan's submission was a decision of Council, that report will also need to come to Council for decision.

**Supplementary Question from Councillor Patrick Canavan**

The Government announced today a further £2 billion to build social and affordable housing to help deliver the goal of 1.5 million homes. So will the plan that Councillor Phipps has just mentioned actually set out the detailed plan of how BCP intend to meet that goal?

**Response from the Lead Member Strategic Planning and Local Plan Delivery, Councillor Margaret Phipps**

I am not 100% sure of what the report will set out, it certainly will set out a timetable as to how we are going to produce a new local plan and obviously that will be part of what we will be doing within the local plan. Whether that specific item will be in the report I would have to find out for you, but certainly the timetable of how we will produce a plan because we absolutely need one and will have to reflect the new national planning policy framework and all other statutory guidelines that we have.

**Question from Councillor Joe Salmon**

Given the repeated issues with data integrity across council consultations, why does the council continue to use methods open to abuse, with no meaningful safeguards to ensure responses are genuine? Not only can multiple online submissions be made using multiple email addresses, but there are also no checks preventing individuals from collecting and submitting large numbers of paper consultation forms. Why haven't stronger measures—such as optional verification via Council Tax details or council service accounts or the open electoral register—been introduced to ensure consultation results are meaningful, reliable, and genuinely reflective of residents' views?

**Response from the Portfolio Holder for Customer, Communications and Culture, Councillor Andy Martin**

Thank you for your question Cllr Salmon.

I understand you were briefed on these issues last week but I am happy to go over them again.

It is important to recognise that a public consultation is not a vote or referendum, but an opportunity to gather a range of insights, views, and feedback on proposals before any decisions are made.

BCP Council consultations are successful at doing this. Thorough analysis of all the views is undertaken and presented in an accessible way for us to digest and understand as part of the council's decision-making process.

I am unclear about your reference to repeated issues with data integrity.

There has been one incident in recent consultations, where the consultation team have highlighted that multiple responses could have been received from individuals.

This was because they were alerted to a social media post, that was encouraging people how to complete the survey multiple times.

This isn't a usual occurrence, but the team have looked into what can be done to prevent this happening again.

We are piloting using different software for our online surveys, which asks respondents to create an account and verify email addresses.

Most respondents to consultations choose to reply online rather than paper, our paper surveys are available in libraries.

The Research and Consultation Manager has engaged with IT to explore options for conducting online surveys that integrate with relevant data sets and the council's CRM system user identity management solution.

While this capability is not yet in place, we are actively evaluating solutions as part of our engagement platform re-tender and future phases of the Customer Engagement programme.

It is worth remembering, consultations tend to provide the views of residents and stakeholders who have an interest or who are motivated by the topic being consulted on.

To get insight into all residents' views about a particular proposal, the council can conduct sample survey research either on its own or as part of a consultation.

The findings from sample surveys can be used with a certain degree of confidence to represent the views of the wider population – should every resident have taken part in the survey.

Some recent examples of this have included our budget consultation 25/26, library strategy and Local Transport Plan.

You will be aware that there are issues around using the data from the open electoral register.

I am happy to meet with you to talk over your issues.

#### **Supplementary Question from Councillor Joe Salmon**

Just to be clear with the current ongoing 20mph consultation, is there any way with how it is being conducted now that we can verify any of those responses are genuine beyond going they have put in an email address that was unique and had not been submitted before?

**Response from the Portfolio Holder for Customer, Communications and Culture, Councillor Andy Martin**

I don't know the answer to that but I will take it under advisement and I'll come back to you.

99. Urgent Decisions taken by the Chief Executive in accordance with the Constitution

Council was advised that no urgent decisions had been taken by the Chief Executive in accordance with the Constitution since the last meeting of the Council.

Prior to the closing of the meeting the Chief Executive advised that Philip Gatrell had contacted him during the meeting to advise that the title of his submitted question had been omitted from his question, and the list of questions circulated to member. In regard to this the Chief Executive advised that the title of his question was 'Council's Performance Indicators in 150 permitted words' and advised that this would be included in the minutes.

The meeting ended at 11.52 pm

CHAIRMAN

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**BOURNEMOUTH, CHRISTCHURCH AND POOLE COUNCIL**  
**COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Meeting held on 06 May 2025 at 7.00 pm

Present:-

Cllr L Dedman – Chairman

Cllr S Bull – Vice-Chairman

Present: Cllr M Andrews, Cllr S Armstrong, Cllr J Bagwell, Cllr S Bartlett, Cllr J Beesley, Cllr P Broadhead, Cllr D Brown, Cllr O Brown, Cllr R Burton, Cllr J J Butt, Cllr P Canavan, Cllr J Challinor, Cllr A Chapmanlaw, Cllr J Clements, Cllr E Connolly, Cllr D d'Orton-Gibson, Cllr B Dove, Cllr M Dower, Cllr M Earl, Cllr J Edwards, Cllr G Farquhar, Cllr D Farr, Cllr D A Flagg, Cllr M Gillett, Cllr C Goodall, Cllr A Hadley, Cllr J Hanna, Cllr E Harman, Cllr R Herrett, Cllr P Hilliard, Cllr B Hitchcock, Cllr M Howell, Cllr A Keddie, Cllr M Le Poidevin, Cllr S Mackrow, Cllr D Martin, Cllr G Martin, Cllr J Martin, Cllr S McCormack, Cllr P Miles, Cllr S Moore, Cllr A-M Moriarty, Cllr B Nanovo, Cllr L Northover, Cllr R Pattinson-West, Cllr M Phipps, Cllr K Rampton, Cllr J Richardson, Cllr V Ricketts, Cllr C Rigby, Cllr K Salmon, Cllr J Salmon, Cllr P Sidaway, Cllr P Slade, Cllr T Slade, Cllr M Tarling, Cllr T Trent, Cllr O Walters, Cllr C Weight, Cllr L Williams, Cllr K Wilson and Cllr G Wright

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C Adams, S Aitkenhead, H Allen, S Carr-Brown, B Chick, P Cooper, M Cox, A Filer, A Martin, C Matthews, F Rice and V Slade.

2. Declarations of Interests

There were no declarations of interest made on this occasion.

Before moving onto the substantive items of business for the meeting the Chair welcomed His Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Dorset, Mr Michael Dooley.

Further to this the Chair also highlighted the forthcoming VE day celebrations taking place across Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole to mark the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Victory in Europe and the beacon lighting event taking place in the front of the BCP Council Civic Centre on Thursday 8 May with music courtesy of the Poole Borough Band from 9pm followed by the lighting of the beacon at 9.30pm.

In addition the Chair thanked everyone for their support during her time as Chair of the Council.

3. Election of Chair of the Council

Councillor Simon Bull took the chair for this item.

The following nomination was received:

- Councillor Lesley Dedman – proposed by Councillor David Martin and seconded by Councillor Richard Burton

The proposer and seconder outlined the reasons for the nomination and the nominee's availability to fulfil the role.

**RESOLVED that Councillor Lesley Dedman was elected Chair of the Council until the next Annual Council meeting in 2026.**

Councillor Dedman signed and made the declaration of acceptance of office.

"I Councillor Lesley Dedman having been elected to the office of Chairman of BCP Council declare that I take the office upon myself and will duly and faithfully fulfil the duties of it according to the best of my judgement and ability".

Councillor Dedman thanked Councillors for re-electing her as Chairman of the Council and for the support she had received over the last year from the Civic Team and the Vice-Chair.

Councillor George Farquhar proposed that Councillor Lesley Dedmans name be engraved onto the chain as a mark of respect for years of service as Chair of the Council having been elected three years in a row. This proposal was seconded by Councillor Claire Weight.

Upon being put to the vote the proposal was carried.

**RESOLVED that Councillor Lesley Dedmans name be engraved onto the chain.**

Voting: Agreed without dissent.

4. Election of Vice-Chair of the Council

The following nomination was received:

- Councillor Simon Bull – proposed by Councillor Chris Rigby and seconded by Councillor Kieron Wilson

**RESOLVED that Councillor Simon Bull was elected Vice-Chair of the Council until the next Annual Council meeting in 2026.**

Councillor Bull signed and made the declaration of acceptance of office.

"I Councillor Simon Bull having been elected to the office of Vice-Chairman of BCP Council declare that I take the office upon myself and will duly and faithfully fulfil the duties of it according to the best of my judgement and ability".

Councillor Bull thanked Councillors for re-electing him as Vice-Chairman of the Council and for the support from the Civic Team over the previous year.



5. Review of the political balance of the Council, the allocation of seats on Committees to each political group and the appointment of Councillors to Committees and Outside Bodies

The Leader of the Council presented 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.

Council was asked to consider and approve the review of the political balance of the Council, the allocation of seats on Committees to each political group, the appointment of Councillors on Committees and appointments to outside bodies as part of the annual review and following Councillor Karen Rampton's resignation from the Conservative Group.

Councillor Philip Broadhead proposed an amendment to the figures contained within table 2 which read as follows: -

***“Recommendations as agreed but to amend table 2 to make the following changes:***

***Reduce Conservative seat on environment and place committee from 2 to 1.***

***Increase Poole Engage seat on environment and place committee from 0 to 1.***

***Reduce Poole Engage seat on Audit and Governance from 1 to 0.***

***Increase Conservative seat on Audit and Governance from 1 to 2.”***

This amendment was seconded by Councillor Judes Butt.

Discussion took place on the amendment with members expressing concern with regards to the proposed changes.

Voting: 13:47 (4 Abstentions)

The proposed amendment fell with the voting set out as above.

Discussion then took place on the original recommendations as set out on the agenda.

Councillor Patrick Canavan, as Leader of the Labour Group reported that there would be a change to the proposed membership contained within Table 3 as follows: -

- Councillor Patrick Canavan was to be replaced on the Overview Scrutiny Board by Councillor Michelle Dower; and
- Councillor Michelle Dower was to be replaced on the Licensing Committee by Councillor Patrick Canavan.

**RESOLVED that: -**

- (a) the revised political balance of the Council, as set out in Table 1 be approved;**
- (b) the allocation of seats to each political group, as set out in Table 2, be approved;**

- (c) the appointment of Councillors to Committees and Boards, taking into account the wishes of each political group as detailed in Table 3 and as reported by Councillor Canavan, be approved;
- (d) the allocation of seats to each political group to the outside bodies, as detailed in Table 4, be approved;
- (e) the appointment of Councillors to the outside bodies, as detailed in Table 5, be approved; and
- (f) subject to (b) and (d) above, the appointment of the named unaligned Members to Committees, Boards and Outside Bodies as detailed in Tables 3 and 5, be approved.

Voting: 52:7 (5 abstentions)

6. Calendar of Meetings for 2025/26 and 2026/27

A report was presented to Council, 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.

Council was asked to consider and approve the schedule of meetings for 2025/26 and 2026/27 municipal years.

**RESOLVED that the schedule of meetings for the 2025/26 and 2026/27 municipal years as attached at Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 to the report be approved.**

Voting: Agreed with no dissent

The meeting ended at 7.34 pm

CHAIRMAN

## CABINET



Report subject	<b>Poole Bridge to Hunger Hill Flood Defence Scheme – CIL Funding Proposal</b>
Meeting date	2 April 2025
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	<p>Poole town centre is at considerable flood risk which will increase over time with the effects of climate change. This Scheme is the preferred option from the approved Poole Bay, Poole Harbour and Wareham, Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy (2014). The strategy identified that within Central Poole Cell there were 573 properties at flood risk in the present day 1% AEP event, rising to over 2,000 properties at flood risk by 2110.</p> <p>Flood defence schemes have been completed from Baiter to Poole Bridge, delivered by the Environment Agency (EA) and Poole Harbour Commissioners (PHC). However, the area remains at risk due to the ageing infrastructure between Poole Bridge and Hunger Hill. BCP Council is responsible for and leading on a proposal for tidal flood defences on the remaining frontage.</p> <p>The current policy of flood defence delivery through regeneration and private development has not provided the required level of investment and protection. Our proposal is to deliver via a single BCP Council led scheme, working in liaison with the various landowners.</p> <p>The costs to build the defences are estimated at circa £29m for delivery of all primary works in a single phase. The scheme has secured £15.95m of Flood defence Grant in Aid and has submitted a bid for a further £6.5m to the Environment Agency. Cabinet has considered the Strategic Prioritisation of CIL on 05 March 2025, of which this scheme is a principal project and £7.3m is being proposed from Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).</p>
Recommendations	<p><b>It is RECOMMENDED that Cabinet recommend to Council:</b></p> <p><b>a) Approval of the allocation of £7.3m to the Poole Bridge to Hunger Hill Flood Defence Scheme from Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) for the Financial Year 2025/26.</b></p>
Reason for recommendations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Delivers on our commitment through the approved business case to meet Defra targets to protect households from flooding.</li> <li>2. Reduces the flood risk for West Quay Road, Old Town and parts of the Town Centre in Poole</li> </ol>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Essential for progressing future development in the Twin Sails Regeneration Area, contributing to delivery of the Local Plan.</li> <li>4. Positive public realm, sustainable transport, and place shaping consistency across the central area of the Poole.</li> <li>5. Ease viability issues, unlocking land for much needed housing, contributing to council targets.</li> <li>6. Present day value of damages in a 'do-nothing' scenario is £161m and with a proposed scheme cost of around £29m, the cost-benefit ratio is over 5.5 to 1.</li> </ol>
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Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Andy Hadley
Corporate Director	Glynn Barton – Chief Operations Officer
Report Authors	Peter Christie – Capital Projects Manager, FCERM Rob Thomas – Senior Engineer, FCERM
Wards	Poole Town
Classification	For Decision

## Background

1. In 2014, the former authorities implemented the Poole Bay, Poole Harbour and Wareham, Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy ('the Strategy'). The Poole Bridge to Hunger Hill Flood Defence Scheme ('the Scheme') implements the preferred option from the Strategy.
2. The Scheme will protect 573 properties at flood risk in the present day 1% AEP event, rising to over 2,000 properties at flood risk by 2110.
3. In 2020, BCP Council's Cabinet approved the submission of the business case to the Environment Agency's Large Projects Review Group to seek £12.397m Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management Grant in Aid (grant funding) to construct tidal flood defences (Appendix 1).
4. The business case was subsequently assured and the funding approved in writing to Graham Farrant on 11 February 2021 (Appendix 1).
5. The approved business case has three key objectives:
6. **Flood risk mitigation:** Implement the preferred option of the Strategy, thereby mitigating the increasing risk of flooding to people and property in light of the impacts of climate change.
  - a. **Regeneration.** To help unlock land for future development, provide the potential for public realm improvement and contribute positively to BCP Council's sustainability agenda.
  - b. **Environment.** Have full regard for the special environmental sensitivities of the location, seeking to maintain and enhance where possible the condition or integrity of the designated sites.

## **Description of the issue**

7. The Scheme's business case was written in 2019-20 prior to significant change and inflation. Rising costs of construction and complexity in delivering a unified scheme adjacent to existing businesses and landowners has increased the costs above the forecasted contingency allocated.
8. The cost of the scheme has increased from an outline business case estimate of £12.397m in 2019 to a full business case cost of £29.405m in 2025.
9. The project team has submitted the Planning Application (following extensive pre-application advice), a Marine Licence application, completed detailed design and has a contractor on-board with pricing and programme agreed in principle. The stakeholder engagement has been extensive, including public consultation and BCP Council are discussing Heads of Terms and construction planning with directly impacted stakeholders. In effect, the Scheme is almost ready to commence construction and the funding issue has become critical path for the delivery to programme.
10. The Scheme is critical to the Local Plan to enable planned regeneration in Poole Town Centre. Allocations within the new Local Plan rely on this flood defence being built within the next one to two years. There are 868 more planned homes within the Poole Town area between 2024 – 2029. Without the Scheme, these homes (and the subsequent regeneration) will be subject to various flood risk mitigation issues and an incoherent quay frontage, making connected places, sustainable travel and the Local Plan aspirations harder to obtain.

## **Options and Analysis**

### **Do Nothing:**

11. Do nothing means that we rely on developments to come on board and our planning policy to enforce consistent development and flood protection. We hand back grant funding and do not deliver on the assured business case.
12. The CIL level for this frontage currently stands at 0% which has only incentivised one development in 15 – 20 years. We keep properties and infrastructure at risk of flooding for the foreseeable future, undermine the BCP Local Plan and potentially realise the forecast economic damages of £161 million over 100 years.

### **Do Less:**

13. Deliver part of the flood defence or reduce the height. The business case provides a 1 in 200 year flood defence for 100 years' time. Any reduction or removal of defence levels could be met with a reduction in homes protected, which directly impacts the economics and would highly likely mean a reduction in grant funding available.
14. The Scheme is part of a series of interventions governed by the Strategy. For Poole Town Centre to be successfully defended over a 100 year period, other interventions will be needed, and planning requires that new developments are safe for their lifetime up to the 1 in 200 year flood event. Hence doing less now may make gaining planning approval for further homes more difficult and / or mean that further work (to bring the defence up to the currently planned standard) will be needed in the future.

### **Do Something:**

15. Secure the funding for the unified scheme through additional grant in aid and CIL spend and implement the expected standard of protection as per the business case.

## **Summary of financial implications**

16. In response to the funding issue, BCP Council bid for additional £3.5m in grant in aid and was successful. This was [announced in February 2025](#) and picked up by national and local media. This totals £15.75m secured in funding from the Environment Agency (EA) and Local Levy.
17. Since approval in 2020, capital fund has been expensed to carry out pre-construction activities. This is forecast to be £4m. There will be financial implications if we are unable to fully deliver this scheme.

18. BCP Council reviewed the Environment Agency's inflation guidance and have assessed our capacity to seek further grant in aid due to inflation, of approximately £6.531m. This brings the potential total Grant in Aid from the EA to £22.105m for this project – significant investment for Poole Town.
19. The additional inflation grant bid has been submitted to the Environment Agency for review in February 2025 and should be eligible for the 2026-27 financial year, subject to assurance by the EA's Large Projects Review Group. The Environment Agency regional team have advised that they support our additional bid of £6,351m, however, those funds may not be available in financial year 2025-26 and could be profiled for financial year 2026-27, meaning that the CIL bid is imperative to securing the funds to commence works in financial year 2025-26.
20. No further funding from the Environment Agency will be available as we have reached 100% on our partnership funding score for the scheme. If we were to drop below 100% then we would not be eligible for any of the funding.
21. It is proposed that this CIL be provided to the project in the second 2 quarters of financial year 2025-26. Obtaining this £7.3m from CIL, gives much greater chance of securing the full £22.1m of grant funding from the Environment Agency for Poole Town and meeting the construction programme. The economics of the scheme are only viable under the Environment Agency partnership funding with this CIL bid.

22. CIL Forecast

Quarter	Amount
Q3 25-26	£3.3m
Q4 25-26	£4m

23. Costs to deliver the scheme have increased from £12.397m to £29.405m, an increase of £17.008m. As noted in the table below, this has been for many reasons, most notably the rise in construction costs and materials. There are also other factors that were not accounted for at the Outline Business Case (OBC) stage, including potential compensation claims for business loss, the time it would take to deliver the scheme therefore increasing our lead-in costs, and an increase in the amount of site investigation and survey the design would require.

	Task	Current Forecast	OBC	Difference
	BCP Council, Consultant Staff and Site Supervision	£3,473,987.00	£753,000.00	£2,720,987.00
	Site investigation and survey	£450,000.00	£50,000.00	£400,000.00
	Construction	£23,969,001.00	£7,827,000.00	£16,142,001.00
	Land matters & potential compensation	£1,440,000.00	£0.00	£1,440,000.00
	Other (Contract Manager, Consultation)	£143,000.00	£143,000.00	£0.00

Optimism Bias (@40%)	£0	£3,542,000.00	-£3,542,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£29,405,997.00</b>	<b>£12,397,000.00</b>	<b>£17,008,997.00</b>

#### 24. Budget Financial Table

<b>Budget Figure</b>	<b>Budget Secured</b>	<b>Comments</b>
£12,397,000	Yes	Secured via Environment Agency Large Project Review Group
£3,557,043	Yes	Secured via Environment Agency (additional GiA)
£6,151,000	No (planned spring 25)	Submitted as a variation to the EA Large Projects Review Group (with support of local EA team). We cannot secure anymore grant following this.
£7,300,000	This paper	Proposed CIL contribution
Total: £29.405m		

#### Summary of legal implications

25. Community Infrastructure Levy can be used to fund a wide range of infrastructure, including transport, flood defences, schools, hospitals, and other health and social care facilities (for further details, see section 216(2) of the Planning Act 2008, and regulation 59, as amended by the 2012 and 2013 Regulations).
26. This flexibility gives local areas the opportunity to choose what infrastructure they need to deliver their relevant plan (the Development Plan and the London Plan in London). Local authorities must spend the levy on infrastructure needed to support the development of their area.

#### Summary of human resources implications

27. No implications identified.

#### Summary of sustainability impact

28. The proposed flood defences provide a long-term, sustainable, adaptive approach to implementing coastal flood risk management that is technically, environmentally and economically viable, considering future projections of climate change and sea level rise.
29. The scheme has full regard for the special environmental sensitivities of the location (SSSI, SPA, Ramsar) and requires licence and consents as required for defence works of this nature through the Crown Estate, Marine Management Organisation (MMO), Natural England and BCP Council as the Planning Authority.
30. Construction delivery will be strictly administered to minimise carbon footprint. This is embedded in all Flood Defence Grant in Aid schemes and the EA's carbon calculator will be utilised throughout the detailed design stage.
31. Flood and erosion risk is a key factor when considering sustainability of any proposals within BCP Council and forms part of the new Decision Impact Assessment. The fact this

project will mitigate such risk over the whole Poole Town Centre area will ensure an extremely positive 'sustainability impact' is delivered

### **Summary of public health implications**

32. The delivery of the flood defences from Poole Bridge to Hunger Hill will provide significant reduction to the risk of flooding to people and property, which emerging research demonstrates will give considerable public health and well-being benefits. The business case benefits realisation had a large proportion of its value derived from people related benefits (47%), thus demonstrating that the project will deliver a significant positive impact.
33. To put this in another context, if BCP Council does not deliver the required flood defences, there will be considerable negative health implications in future years, both from the mental/emotional impact of flooding as well as a risk to life.
34. The work also involves extensive stakeholder engagement, providing an opportunity to share information and educate local communities about the future risks of flooding and the benefits that flood protection schemes can bring.
35. Additional benefits to communities can be considered to improve public realm as well as provide flood and erosion risk management. The proposed scheme will help deliver the regeneration aims of a continuous seafront access route from the Town Quay to Holes Bay, significantly improving the ability for public leisure / exercise and reducing the volume of traffic in the town centre.

### **Summary of equality implications**

36. An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) Screening has been completed. The EqIA Panel assessed the EqIA screening report on 15 December 2022 and outlined a positive impact on the community.

### **Summary of risk assessment**

37. The key risks are outlined in this report.
38. If the required funding contributions are not secured, as the climate changes and sea levels rise, an ever-growing number of properties, roads, footpaths and areas of public realm will be at increasing risk of flooding and erosion over the next 100 years.

### **Background papers**

Not applicable.

### **Appendices**

Appendix 1 - Poole Bridge to Hunger Hill - FCERM2 Approval Letter LDW42886



Mr G Farrant  
Chief Executive  
BCP Council  
Town Hall  
St Stephens Road  
Bournemouth  
BH2 6EB

**Our ref:** LDW 42886  
**Your ref:**  
**Date:** 11<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Mr Farrant,

## **The Flood & Water Management Act 2010**

### **Approval of Application**

#### **Poole Bridge to Hunger Hill Flood Defences**

I refer to your application for Flood and Coastal Risk Management Capital Grant for the above scheme. I am pleased to advise you that your submission has been approved with a total project value of £12,397,000 and a total approved funding allocation of £12,397,000. The approval of the application is subject to the terms and conditions of the Grant Memorandum 2016.

The specific grant scheme number issued for this project is LDW 42886 and should be quoted in all future correspondence.

The approved sum is calculated as follows:

<b>Project Summary</b>	<b>Estimated cost £</b>
Total Project Value	£12,397,000
Less Partnership Funding Contributions	£0
Total approved funding allocation	£12,397,000

<b>Funded by:</b>	<b>Cost £</b>
FCERM Capital Grant	£12,397,000
Local Levy	£0

In line with Defra's Investment Plan "reducing the risks of flooding and coastal erosion" [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/389789/fcerm-investment-plan-201412.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/389789/fcerm-investment-plan-201412.pdf) we would like to draw your attention to the 6-year plan allocation conditions which require FCERM GiA projects to attract 15% partnership funding contributions, realise 10% efficiency savings and contribute towards the 300,000 houses target over those six years. Please refer to your local FCERM contact for more information.

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**Environment Agency, Wessex Area**

Rivers House, Sunrise Business Park, Blandford Forum, Dorset, DT11 8ST  
Tel: 02030 259389  
Email: [ron.curtis@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:ron.curtis@environment-agency.gov.uk)

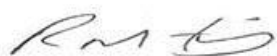
The allocation for the project is to be claimed in accordance with the Grant Memorandum 2016. The approved business case contained estimates of possible contingency; this is not allocated but is managed centrally by the Environment Agency. This enables more schemes to be funded. If you need to call down sums from the contingency included within the above project value, please do so by submitting an FCERM 4 – Variation Order to your local Area Manager. In the first instance you are expected to take into account any efficiency savings released in order to meet the 10% condition of funding before claiming the contingency for the project.

To help us manage capital grant payments, we need to understand the amount of grant that all authorities will be claiming. At the start of each financial year, you will have to fill in an FCERM 6 form, which sets out proposed claim dates and their expected values for all your projects. If these dates or amounts change within a financial year by more than £100,000, you must send us an amended FCERM6 as soon as possible. When you send us an FCERM4, you should also send an updated claim profile with it.

From time to time we could ask for information on the position on the progress of the work, such as estimated dates the work will be completed and estimates of grant claims, dates and values, to help our financial and other planning.

Please note that to draw down approved grant you should send FCERM 3 interim grant claim form(s) to the Grant Administration Team [laidbfinance@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:laidbfinance@environment-agency.gov.uk). Once the project is completed please send an FCERM 8 – project closure report. You must also fill in an FCERM 5 -final statement of account within 2 years of the end of the project.

Yours sincerely



Ron Curtis  
Area Flood & Coastal Risk Manager, Wessex East

cc: Matt Hosey

# CABINET



Report subject	<b>Children and Young People's Partnership Plan 2025-2030</b>
Meeting date	2 April 2025
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	<p>Having a Children and Young People's Partnership (CYPP) Plan is a statutory requirement of Children's Services. It is a high-level strategic plan that outlines how to support children and young people living in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole with the aim to improve outcomes for all children and young people. The current plan has come to an end, and this is the new plan covering 2025-2030.</p> <p>It is an important statement of the partnership's commitment to BCP's children and young people. Not only does it set out the priorities for services that support children and young people, but it also defines how partners will work with each other to deliver those priorities effectively.</p>
Recommendations	<p><b>It is RECOMMENDED that:</b></p> <p>It is recommended that Members note the final content and design of the plan.</p>
Reason for recommendations	To be reviewed in advance of the final launch at the end of April.
Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Richard Burton, Lead Portfolio Holder for Children & Young People, Education and Skills
Corporate Director	Cathi Hadley, Director for Children's Services
Report Authors	Stefanie Gehrig Clark, Interim Head of Performance
Wards	Council-wide
Classification	For Information.

## Background

1. Having a Children and Young People's Partnership (CYPP) Plan is a statutory requirement of Children's Services. It is a high-level strategic plan that outlines how to support children and young people living in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole with the aim to improve outcomes for all children and young people. The current plan has come to an end, and this is the new plan covering 2025-2030.
2. It is an important statement of the partnership's commitment to BCP's children and young people. Not only does it set out the priorities for services that support children and young people, but it also defines how partners will work with each other to deliver those priorities effectively.
3. The CYPP plan is the result of extensive consultations with key stakeholders including representatives from charities, the police, health services (including the NHS), social care, as well as members of the wider council, elected officials and in particular children and young people, ensuring it reflects the community's needs. Examples of engagement are:
  - Children and young people workshops, engagement sessions, roadshow and survey
  - Partnership workshop and survey
  - Parent/carer and professional consultation
  - Children's services staff engagement sessions and survey
  - Voluntary sector workshop
4. In addition, the CYPP Plan also drew on existing plans and strategies to ensure strategic alignment and these are referenced in the plan. This included for example, the Integrated Care Partnership Strategy and the council's 'A shared vision for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole', a partnership and community vision for the three towns, developed in 2023-2024 following extensive stakeholder engagement.
5. All this information was translated into priorities and outcomes and our five partnership priorities for 2025-2030 are:
  - *Feeling happy*
  - *Being safe*
  - *Feeling supported*
  - *Being included*
  - *Feeling fulfilled*
6. The CYPP plan itself was written in as simple and clear language as possible to communicate the plan in an accessible way, aimed at a reading age of 9 which is the average reading level across the UK (including adults).
7. A new children and young people's partnership board will be set up to monitor the delivery of this plan and to make sure it makes a real difference to children and young people. Individual organisational strategies and plans will reflect the agreed priorities and objectives, so that they will be firmly embed in all our work.

8. Next Steps are as follows: The final design will be signed off by 20 March 2025 to go to cabinet on 2 April. The CYPP plan will be formally launched end of April 2025.

### **Options Appraisal**

9. None.

### **Summary of financial implications**

10. None.

### **Summary of legal implications**

11. None.

### **Summary of human resources implications**

12. None.

### **Summary of sustainability impact**

13. None.

### **Summary of public health implications**

14. None.

### **Summary of equality implications**

15. See appendix 1.

### **Summary of risk assessment**

16. None.

### **Background papers**

None.

### **Appendices**

1. EIA Screening Tool
2. CYPP Plan Summary

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## Equality Impact Assessment: Conversation Screening Tool

1	What is being reviewed?	Children and Young People's Partnership Plan 2025-30
2	What changes are being made?	<p>Having a Children and Young People's Partnership (CYPP) Plan is a statutory requirement of Children's Services. It is a high level strategic plan that outlines how to support children and young people living in BCP Council with the aim to improve outcomes for all children and young people. It sets out the priorities for services that support children and young people and how partners will cooperate with each other and how they will deliver those priorities.</p> <p>The current plan has come to an end, and this is the new plan covering 2025-2030. We have achieved a lot since 2021 including improving our approach to working together, and we have worked hard to put the needs of children and young people at the heart of what we do.</p> <p>The CYPP plan 2025-2030 is driven by a recognition of the evolving challenges faced by children and young people within Bournemouth, Christchurch, and Poole (BCP), particularly in light of the ongoing cost of living crisis which has had a profound impact on families and the broader community.</p> <p>This plan is an important statement of the partnership's commitment to BCP's children and young people; what we want to achieve for them, and it provides clarity about what partners will be delivering over the next few years.</p> <p>We want to deliver on our vision for children and young people across Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole which states that <i>BCP is a great place to live, where all children and young people have the best possible opportunities in life and are supported by the community to flourish and grow in order to succeed.</i></p> <p>We have developed five priorities in consultation with children and young people. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Feeling happy</i></li> <li>• <i>Being safe</i></li> <li>• <i>Feeling supported</i></li> <li>• <i>Being included</i></li> <li>• <i>Feeling fulfilled</i></li> </ul>
3	Service Unit:	Children's Services
4	Participants in the conversation:	<p>A comprehensive consultation process was undertaken through multiple channels to gather input and feedback from children, young people, and key stakeholders. Critical and constructive challenge was welcomed in the formation of the plan, to ensure robustness.</p> <p>Children and young people are at the heart of this plan, and they have been instrumental in its development. We have worked with groups of young people to make sure that</p>

		<p>their goals and aspirations are reflected in our priorities and to bring to life the future they want for themselves, for their friends and for their families. We reached out to a variety of different groups to reflect the broad needs and experiences of children and young people which included unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC) and young people. Despite all efforts, there were barriers in getting the views of some children and young people (UASC). Their needs and experiences were considered in the development of the plan and priorities and consider to be thought of in the implementation.</p> <p>The 'Make Your Mark' ballot, a national youth consultation initiative designed to capture young people's views on key issues, was conducted in February 2024. This ballot successfully engaged 7,459 respondents. In addition to this, feedback was collected from students at Bournemouth &amp; Poole College, where 121 responses were received from BCP College students. Further input was gathered from targeted youth groups, including children in care and care-experienced young people through the UNITE and INSIGHT groups, as well as participants of various sessions facilitated through the BCP Youth Forum. Broader engagement was also achieved by reaching out to young people across the community, both within and outside of school settings. Opportunities were provided for them to share their views in person and online to ensure inclusivity and accessibility.</p> <p>Moreover, in addition to the local authority, other services who work closely with children, young people and families, including representatives from charities, the police, health services (including the NHS), social care, as well as members of the wider council and elected officials, were actively involved in the consultation process.</p> <p>We have undertaken a considerable amount of engagement with all stakeholders to develop this plan using feedback from a range of sources and activities. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Parent/carer and professional consultation</i></li> <li>• <i>Children and young people workshops and engagement sessions</i></li> <li>• <i>Partnership workshops and survey</i></li> <li>• <i>Children and young people survey and roadshow</i></li> <li>• <i>Children's Services staff engagement and survey</i></li> <li>• <i>Voluntary sector workshop</i></li> </ul>
5	Conversation date/s:	2/10/2024, 4/11/2024, 09/01/2025
6	Do you know your current or potential client base? Who are the key stakeholders?	<p>The CYPP plan covers all children and young people who live in the BCP area and outlines how services working with this cohort on all levels will work together effectively.</p> <p>There are currently 74,000 children and young people up to the age of 18 living in BCP council which makes up 18% of the total population. 49% of those are female and 51%</p>



		<p>are male and under 1% are gender diverse. 11% of all children live in absolute low-income families.</p> <p>74% of all pupils who attend BCP schools are White British. 20% are eligible for free school meals, 14% receive SEN support and 5% have an EHC plan.</p> <p>As of August 2024, there were 535 children in care, 44 UASCs, and 634 care experienced young people.</p>
7	<p><b>Do different groups have different needs or experiences?</b>  age (young/old), disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, members of the armed forces community, any other factors/groups e.g. socioeconomic status, carers, human rights.</p>	<p>The plan is designed to support a wide range of groups, ensuring that services are accessible, non-discriminatory, and tailored to the unique needs of each individual. All protected characteristics and additional locally observed equality groups were considered, and no equality impacts were identified.</p> <p>The CYPP plan has a positive impact on all 6 domains as outlined by the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) which are Education, Work, Living standards, Health, Justice and personal security, and Participation.</p> <p>The plan emphasises the rights of all children and young people to safety, education, health, and inclusion. By addressing the needs of vulnerable groups, the plan seeks to protect and promote the human rights of individuals from diverse backgrounds and ensure equality of opportunity.</p>
8	<p><b>Will this change affect any service users?</b></p>	<p>This is a plan to actively promote inclusivity, ensuring services are designed to meet the needs of all, regardless of gender, race, socio-economic status, or disability.</p> <p>It is high level strategy and as such the priorities are kept broad and overarching to outline the partnership's overall direction. The focus is on the key goals rather than specific details.</p>
9	<p><b>What are the benefits or positive equality impacts of the change on current or potential users?</b></p>	<p>The plan is specifically designed to support Children and Young People's well-being, education, and inclusion. It addresses key challenges such as mental health, safety, and opportunities for development and growth. It seeks to support parents, grandparents, and carers by ensuring access to resources and support for the younger generation, which can relieve caregiving pressures.</p> <p>Mental well-being is a key focus of the plan, with a focus on reducing waiting times for mental health services, providing early intervention, and supporting families in managing mental health challenges.</p> <p>Another significant focus of the plan is on reducing socio-economic disparities, particularly for children from low-income families. This includes improving access to nutritious food, education, and safe housing, as well as providing mental health support to tackle issues exacerbated by economic hardship.</p> <p>The plan emphasises inclusivity and respect for all, ensuring that support services are accessible and sensitive to the needs of transgender, non-binary and gender-diverse young people.</p>

		<p>The plan includes support for young parents and those expecting children, ensuring access to health services, education about parenting, and assistance in guaranteeing their children have a strong start in life.</p> <p>The plan addresses the importance of provisions for supporting stable family environments, which will benefit young people from married or civil partnership households, particularly those facing economic or social challenges as well as children in care.</p> <p>The plan promotes inclusivity across ethnic groups by ensuring that services are tailored to meet the diverse cultural and linguistic needs of BCP's young population, aiming to reduce disparities in education and health outcomes for minority groups. This includes Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) in our care and those who are care experienced.</p>
10	What are the negative impacts of the change on current or potential users?	<p>There are no negative impacts due to the delivery of this plan. The plan aims to create an inclusive environment that addresses the needs of all children and young people in BCP, where partners are working together to help children and young people live their best lives.</p>
11	Will the change affect employees?	<p>Not applicable – this is a high level strategy and as such the priorities are kept broad and overarching to outline the partnership's overall direction. The focus is on the key goals rather than specific details.</p>
12	Will the change affect the wider community?	<p><i>The key expected outcomes include:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Improved Well-being:</b> Children and young people will experience enhanced physical and mental health through increased access to activity programs, nutritious food, mental health resources, and safe environments.</li> <li>2. <b>Enhanced Safety:</b> The plan aims to ensure children have stable and secure home environments, are protected from exploitation and harm (both online and offline), and feel safer in their communities.</li> <li>3. <b>Stronger Support Networks:</b> Families will receive timely support to address challenges such as mental health issues, neglect, and domestic abuse, with children and young people gaining access to services that meet their individual needs.</li> <li>4. <b>Increased Participation and Inclusion:</b> By removing financial and social barriers, more children and young people will engage in community activities, education, and volunteer opportunities, fostering a sense of belonging and purpose.</li> <li>5. <b>Educational Success and Fulfilment:</b> Children will be better prepared for educational and employment opportunities, with an emphasis on reducing the number of young people not in education, employment, or training (NEET) and supporting care-experienced young people in their educational pursuits.</li> </ol>

13	What mitigating actions are planned or already in place for those negatively affected by this change?	There are no negative impacts due to the delivery of this plan.
14	Summary of Equality Implications:	<p>The Children and Young People's Partnership Plan 2025–2030 outlines a comprehensive strategy to improve outcomes for children and young people across Bournemouth, Christchurch, and Poole (BCP). It focuses on enhancing well-being, safety, inclusion, and opportunities, particularly for vulnerable groups. The plan is the result of extensive consultations with key stakeholders in particular children and young people, ensuring it reflects the community's needs.</p> <p>All protected characteristics and locally-observed equality groups were considered, and no negative equality impacts were identified. This is a partnership plan to improve the lives of children and young across Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole by focusing on priorities developed with children and young people:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Feeling happy</i></li> <li>• <i>Being safe</i></li> <li>• <i>Feeling supported</i></li> <li>• <i>Being included</i></li> <li>• <i>Feeling fulfilled</i></li> </ul> <p>As a result of implementing the plan, there will be positive equality impacts for children, young people and their families, touching on all protected characteristics. The primary outcomes are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved Well-being</li> <li>• Enhanced Safety</li> <li>• Stronger Support Networks</li> <li>• Increased Participation and Inclusion</li> <li>• Educational Success and Fulfilment.</li> </ul> <p>Consideration was also given to the equality aspects of implementing the plan. The CYPP plan itself was written in as simple and clear language as possible to communicate the plan in an accessible way, aimed at a reading age of 9 which is the average reading level across the UK (including adults). It has also been designed to bring the words to life making it easier to understand and there will also be an easy read version of the plan. It will be launched in April for all partners including children and young people.</p>

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Bournemouth,  
Christchurch and Poole

# Children and Young People's Partnership Plan 2025 to 2030





# Contents



Forewords	4
Our vision	7
Executive summary	8
Introduction – working in partnership	11
Partnership principles	12
A snapshot of our children and young people	13
Our achievements since 2021	15
What we have heard from children and young people	18
Our priorities for children and young people	21
● Feeling happy .....	23
● Being safe .....	26
● Feeling supported .....	29
● Being included .....	32
● Feeling fulfilled .....	35
Delivering our priorities and measuring our success	38
Thank you	42

58



**This is the  
Bournemouth,  
Christchurch and  
Poole partnership plan  
to work together to help  
children and young  
people live their  
best lives.**



# Forewords

We have big ambitions for our children and young people. There has been a lot of change over the past four years.

In 2020, we could not have imagined the significant impacts of the global pandemic and the cost of living crisis on our families. I know how hard all our local agencies have had to strive to ensure children and young people are kept at the heart of our work.

It has not been easy on our children. This is why I am delighted to introduce our new five year Children and Young People's Partnership Plan. It is an important statement of our commitment to our children and young people and provides clarity about what we will be delivering and what we want to achieve for them.

We have listened to what children and young people want from their lives, from their communities and from local agencies to support them to develop and grow and achieve their potential.

They have developed their vision for the local area:

Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole are great places to live, where all children and young people have the best possible opportunities in life and are supported by the community to flourish and grow in order to succeed.

Our new plan help us to deliver this for our children and young people.

## **Cathi Hadley**

Corporate Director of Children's Services  
Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council





In our role as Members of the Youth Parliament we have been lucky enough to speak to many of the young people in our local area – what has amazed us has been just how much young people would like to get involved.

There is a general fear amongst young people that their voices aren't listened to. Young people are forced to find different ways to participate and be heard in an effort to make a change in the world which they are to inherit; it's incredibly important that youth voices are listened to. Throughout this plan you will see this message, our voices matter. This is fundamental to its success.

This plan covers the next five years and by 2030 we hope that young people across Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole feel safe and are healthy, with their voices listened to more.

We have some amazing youth participation groups currently in place, but we hope that more young people join youth groups like the Youth Forum and would love to see an increased turnout in the next Youth Parliament elections in 2026, both in the number of schools and the percentage of students voting.

We cannot stress enough that councillors, MPs and any other people in positions of power need to listen to all young people's voices because they are the people of the future. They need to be nurtured and shown that they can make a difference in the political world before they are turned away from it forever.

**Elliot, Ryan, Lillee and Ruth**

Members of BCP Youth Parliament 2024 to 2026



Supporting and enabling our children and young people to achieve their potential must be a priority for all of us. Our future relies on it. We must do all we can to create the right environment and the right culture to help them succeed. I see on a day-to-day basis children and young people overcoming some unimaginable hurdles and still remaining positive and ambitious for themselves.

All partners across the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole area must share this responsibility and make sure that all children and young people are at the heart of our work and our plans and most importantly, that we take the time to understand and listen to their views, so we are truly led by them.

This plan provides that framework to move forward and to deliver the best possible outcomes for our children and young people.

It has been informed by their views and partners have had the unique opportunity to make sure their own strategic plans reflect the priorities highlighted and to put in place ambitious and creative ways to deliver these.

It has been a difficult time for our children and young people, and we recognise that we need to put them first, listen to them and deliver for them. This plan helps us to shape what that future can be and I look forward to being part of making this happen.

**Councillor Richard Burton**

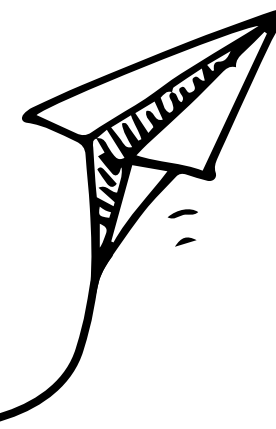
Portfolio Holder for Children, Young People, Education and Skills



# Our vision



Bournemouth,  
Christchurch and Poole  
are great places to live,  
where all children and young  
people have the best possible  
opportunities in life and are  
supported by the community  
to flourish and grow in order  
to succeed.





# Executive summary

We have been working hard since we published our last plan in 2021 and have made many improvements for children and young people. But we know there is always more we can do.

Children and young people are at the heart of this plan and our work, and have been key in its development. We have listened to many young people, hearing the future they want for themselves, for their friends and for their families and have made sure their goals and dreams are represented in this plan.

We have five main priorities for our children and young people:

- Feeling happy
- Being safe
- Feeling supported
- Being included
- Feeling fulfilled

**Young  
people know  
best when it comes  
to knowing what  
they need.  
Amelia, 14**



To help us work better together, we have developed some partnership principles. These make sure we are always thinking of children and young people and are working collectively, not just for our individual organisations. This will help us develop as a partnership and hold each other to account in a constructive and supportive way.

Our Children and Young People's Partnership board will monitor the delivery of this plan. The board will ensure we continue to make a real difference to children and young people. Individual organisational strategies and plans will reflect our agreed priorities and objectives, so that we can firmly embed these in all our work.

**Being safe  
means that as a  
young person  
I feel listened to by  
others. Yazz, 17**







“  
Young people  
are the future and  
should be listened  
to. Sid, 18  
”

# Introduction – working in partnership

This is our plan to work together to help children and young people have best chances in life and be supported by the community to grow and succeed in living their best lives.

We have listened to what our children and young people want from local services, from their schools and what their ambitions are. They told us that they want to feel happy, supported and fulfilled. They also want to be included and safe.

67

In delivering this plan, we will work together across Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole to help deliver their aspirations. We will make sure that every child and young person can succeed and make sure that the most vulnerable in our communities are supported and protected.

We understand that sometimes things may need to change, such as with new government priorities or wider local or national events, so we will remain flexible and responsive to this. We will keep talking with our children and young people to make sure our plan still makes sense and is relevant to them.



Our plan lasts for five years and will help to shape and be shaped by the wider work across our partnership. We will formalise the delivery of this through our Children and Young People's Partnership Board so we can monitor what is happening and what difference we are all making to the lives of children and young people. We will use data and insight to guide us, using our joint strategic needs assessment to help understand the issues affecting and impacting our children and young people and putting their voice at the heart of our plans.

The partnership includes people from the local council, young people, the NHS, police, youth justice, schools, voluntary and community organisations and parent groups. We know that it can be hard to work together so we want to make sure that we are clear about how we can do this well. We have agreed some ways of working which we think will help us.



# Partnership principles

We will work together to help children and young people live their best lives by:

1

Listening to what children, young people and their families need

2

Working together to make sure we have open communication, share information, are consistent and share our approach to decision making

3

Acting early to make sure there is the right help at the right time

4

Ensuring everyone has equal opportunities to be involved and to influence the delivery of better outcomes for children and young people

5

Helping and supporting people and communities to create an environment which is in the best interest of families, children and young people

6

Making sure we look at the whole person to make sure we can support them in the best possible way

7

Caring for our children and young people as if they were our own





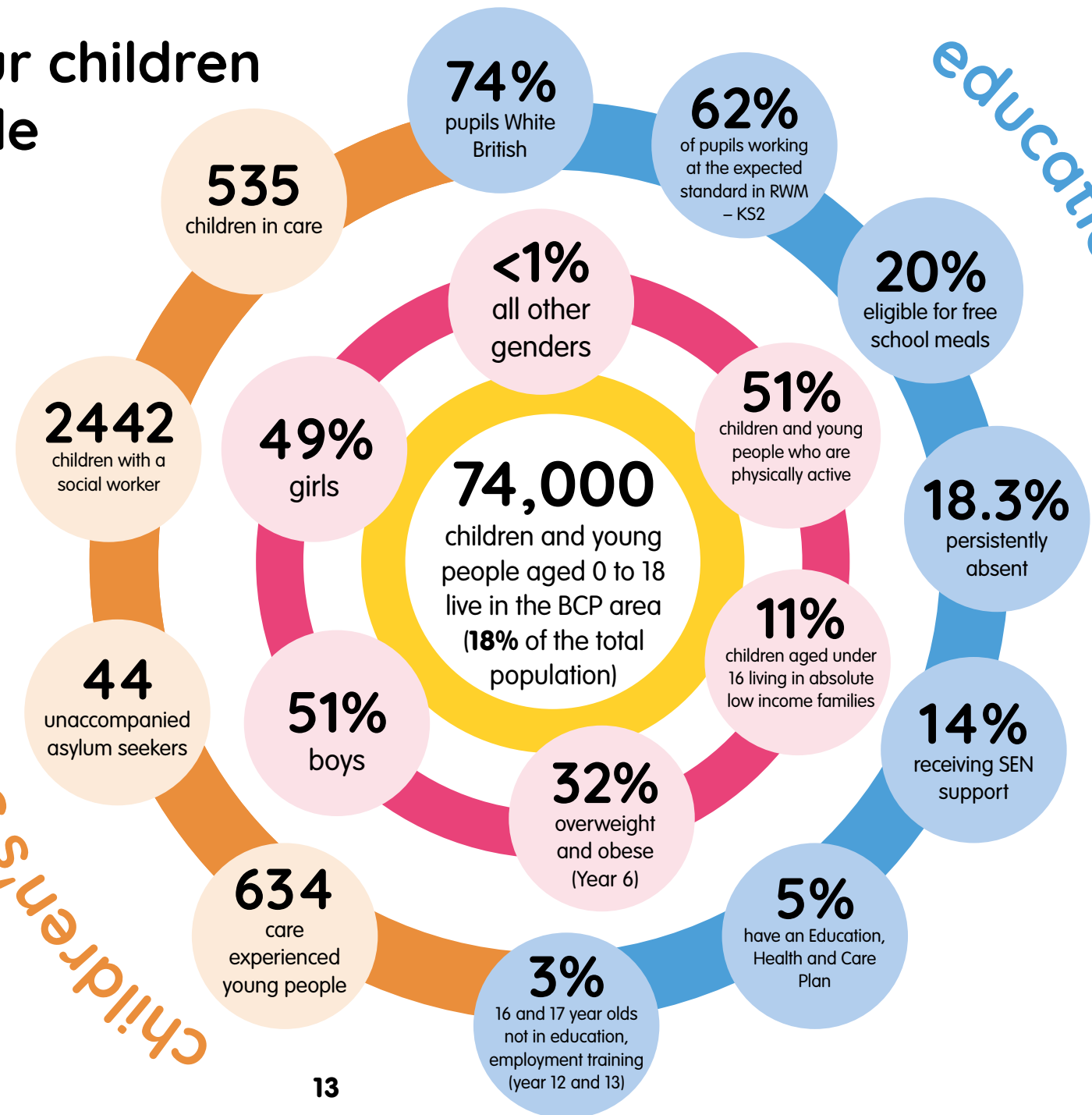
# A snapshot of our children and young people

To make sure that we understand our children and young people, we have brought together a range of information which will help us develop more targeted and relevant services. The information shown on this page is an example of the range of data we use to understand our population.

Any references to children and young people should be taken to mean any young person aged 0 to 18, care experienced young people up to the age of 25 and young people up to the age of 25 who have special educational needs and disabilities for whom the local authority continues to provide support.

children's social care

education





I think it's  
important to feel  
supported so you can  
have the confidence  
to be yourself and  
embrace individuality.  
Hattie, 15





# Our achievements since 2021

Our plan in 2021 highlighted our ambition for children and young people through our four priorities. We developed these by listening to what children and young people told us and we have continued to listen to their views to create and further develop our new vision and priority areas.

We have achieved a lot over the past four years, improved our approach to working together and worked hard to put the needs of children and young people at the heart of what we do.

Specifically, we have:

71



Introduced an early help partnership to **join up early help and support**, transform our **family hubs** and provide **more online guidance** and support for families, children and young people.



Developed, with families, a **plan to improve services for children with special education needs and disabilities** and delivered actions and commitments from the plan.



Supported our young people with learning difficulties to get **work experience** with a view to moving into **paid and permanent employment**.



Created **opportunities** for children and young people **to have a voice** through the youth forums, youth parliament and engagement activities. We have increased their **involvement in decision making** and have encouraged more people to be involved, such as by appointing a care experienced young person to co-chair the council's corporate parenting board.





Made sure our young people leaving care have **appropriate and supported accommodation**.



Supported asylum seeking children through an FA registered football team, to **build confidence, develop friendships and support networks**.



Expanded the use of **diversion options** for children who commit lower-level criminal offences. The number of children entering the formal justice system **has reduced by half** from 2019-20 to 2023-24.



Introduced **healthy movers training** where 2,056 children have reported **a positive impact** in confidence, physical activity and communication skills.



Launched the Infant Feeding and Child Nutrition Strategy and **increased** the number of mothers **breastfeeding** at 6 to 8 weeks.



Implemented the active lives survey for children and young people, providing a **world-leading approach in measuring** physical activity levels as well as measuring physical literacy, happiness, loneliness and isolation.



**Co-produced** a new Attendance Strategy, a Belonging and Inclusion Strategy, a SEND and Alternative Provision Sufficiency Strategy and a Not in Education, Employment or Training Strategy.



Supported children in care, through the **Virtual School** to **continue to access education and learning** throughout the **pandemic** ensuring access to laptops, as well as assisting foster carers in supporting home learning with resources and training.



Embedded the **new school attendance requirements** which took effect from Summer 2024 onwards and has seen **improvements in school attendance levels**.

**This  
country and  
world are made for  
adults and it feels like  
the youth are pulled  
along - adults need  
to listen to what the  
youth want to  
say. Ollie, 14**



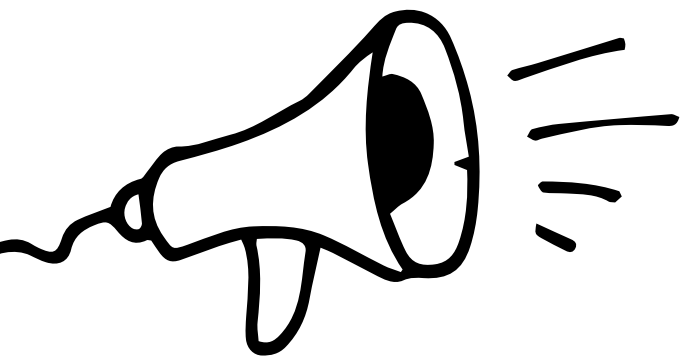


# What we have heard from children and young people

We worked with children and young people to shape a vision and developed priorities based on what matters most to them, looking at what they want in their lives now and how we can build a strong foundation for their futures.

They told us they need to feel important and included members of society where their voices matter and help shape meaningful change. They wanted to feel supported through challenges and they wanted investment in the spaces that they use, the activities that they have access to and in their skills development for the future. They wanted to feel supported into careers that they are passionate about, beyond the academic focus of schools.

Mental health, wellbeing and safety remain top issues for children and young people.



What children and young people have told us



In early 2024 local Members of Youth Parliament (MYPs) elections took place. 8,180 young people voted for their chosen candidate, which is 25% of our 11 to 18 year olds across 28 different schools.

We also saw 7,459 of these voters getting involved with the national Make your Mark ballot, telling us what the most important issues were for them. The two main areas of concern identified were:

- crime and safety
- health and wellbeing.

Our MYPs are also developing their work on:

- finance for young people, a reflection on the difficulties that come in the current economic environment and the transition period to becoming a legal adult
- homelessness, which they see as an issue of local and national concern.

Alongside the work of the MYPs, we have proactively sought young people's input on the forming of priorities for this plan. We spoke with:

- 121 college students
- children in care and care experienced young people through their groups UNITE and INSIGHT
- the BCP Youth Forum made up of young people from schools across Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole and some not in education
- young people across the community, in and out of school.

This work was collated and supported the identification of the following five priorities:

**1** Feeling happy



**2** Being safe



**3** Feeling supported



**4** Being included



**5** Feeling fulfilled





# Our priorities for children and young people

## Our vision

Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole are great places to live, where all children and young people have the best possible opportunities in life and are supported by the community to flourish and grow in order to succeed.



77



## Our focus

We have focused on the most important issues for children and young people by working with them to understand what matters most to them, now and in the future.



21

## Our priorities





## Feeling happy

Feeling at your best mentally, physically and emotionally



- ☒ Make sure there is easy access to green spaces and fun activities.
- ☒ Ensure the ability to make good choices for better health and wellbeing.
- ☒ Help people access healthy food options and understand the importance of these.
- ☒ Provide opportunities and spaces for children and young people to build peer networks.
- ☒ Support mental wellbeing and boost self-confidence.





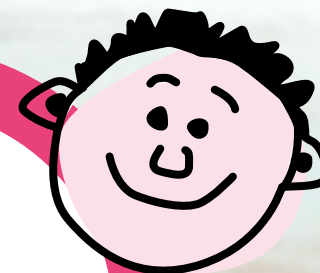
## As a result...


we  
will see



1. Safe and clean green spaces being widely used by the community.
2. Improvements to both physical health and mental wellbeing.
3. Children and young people having healthy weights and being able to maintain these.
4. More take up of and an increase in physical activities.
5. Children and young people feeling supported.

Helping  
people to  
feel happy  
spreads smiles  
to everyone.  
Hattie, 15





“ When you’re young you might get into things like alcohol abuse or gambling. If there’s support groups with people of a similar age, just like you, then you feel comfortable which leads to ultimate support. You feel more committed to it and have acceptance, and you have that help. Brad, 16 and Harvey, 16 ”





## Being safe

Having a safe place to live, study, work and play

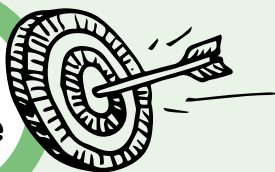


- ☒ Make sure families are in safe, secure and stable home environments.
- ☒ Help parents and carers to support their children and young people.
- ☒ Provide enough suitable and safe homes for our children in care and care experienced young people.
- ☒ Keep children and young people safe from harm including online.
- ☒ Work with communities to make and keep neighbourhoods safe.



## As a result...

**we  
will see**




1. Access to a range of helpful and easy to find information and guidance, to help people look after themselves.
2. A range of well qualified professionals who support and guide children, young people and families to keep themselves safe.
3. More families having safe, stable and affordable housing resulting in fewer health problems, improved school performance, less psychological stress and more confidence.
4. Children and young people feeling safe from harm, physically, mentally and online.
5. Safer communities with everyone actively playing their part.

**No one  
should ever  
have to feel  
unsafe in the place  
they call home.  
Scarlett, 15**





A photograph of two young women sitting outdoors on a balcony or rooftop. The woman on the left has dark hair in a braid and is wearing a pink shirt. The woman on the right has blonde hair, wears a yellow beanie, glasses, and has braces. They are both looking at a tablet held by the woman on the left. In the background, there is a metal railing and a wall with graffiti.

**We  
need more  
awareness of  
activities and how  
to get involved.  
Leo, 13**





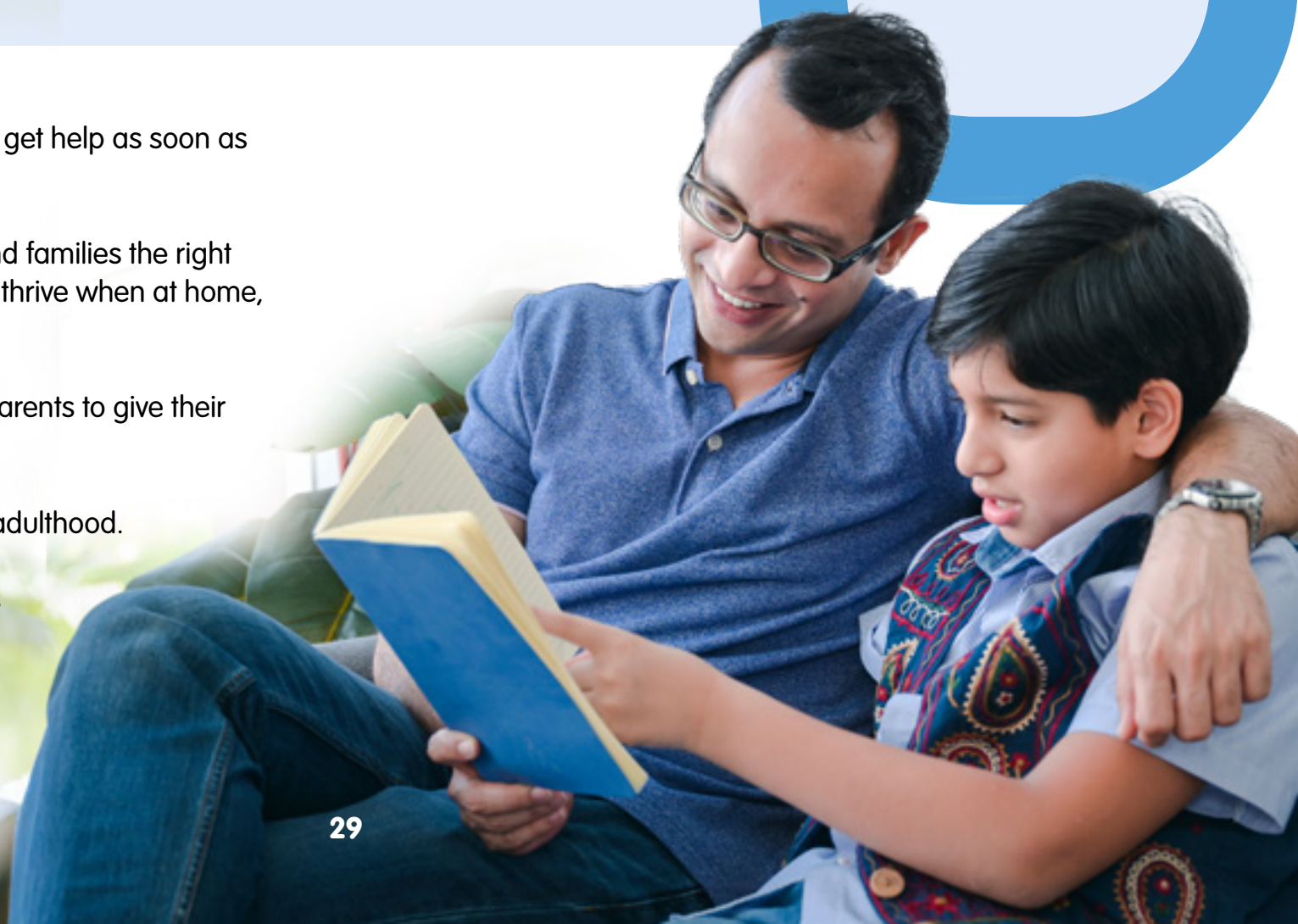


## Feeling supported

Having people to turn to for help

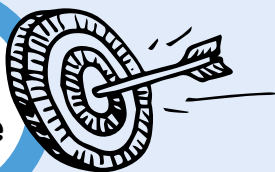


- ☒ Make sure people know where to get help as soon as it is needed.
- 88 ☒ Provide children, young people and families the right help at the right time, so they can thrive when at home, school, work or in the community.
- ☒ Support parents-to-be and new parents to give their children the best start in life.
- ☒ Help young people get ready for adulthood.
- ☒ Help people cope with challenges in their lives and ensure ongoing and effective recovery.



## As a result...

**we  
will see**




1. Well-qualified professionals available to support children, young people and families.
2. More people understanding how to help themselves at an early stage, reducing the need for any formal support and being able to access services effectively.
3. Children, young people and their families only needing to tell their story once because services and partners are more joined up.
4. Positive feedback about feeling supported and positive outcomes from the help and support provided.




**I always enter  
with a smile and  
leave with a bigger  
one. Hanna, 13**





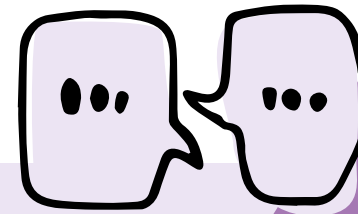
“  
Feeling  
that you are  
not alone in this.  
You have  
someone here  
with you always.  
Radiat, 12  
”



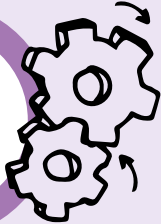


## Being included

Being actively involved in the world and activities around you



We will



- ☒ Listen to children and young people at every available opportunity so they are seen and heard and their voices shape services.
- ☒ Design services based on the needs of the individual.
- ☒ Help more children and young people access activities and events by removing financial and physical barriers.
- ☒ Work with families and schools to reduce school exclusions.
- ☒ Support people to be active participants in their community and show how they can make a difference.





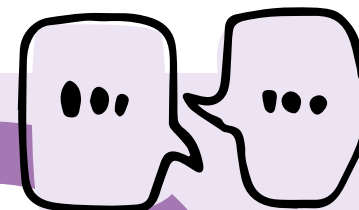
## As a result...

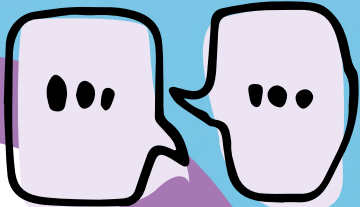
**we  
will see**



1. A shared, easy to understand and inclusive language across all partners.
2. Children and young people telling us that they feel listened to, included and have influenced the services they receive.
3. More free or subsidised activities and events for children and young people.
4. Fewer children being excluded from school.
5. More people involved in local activities seeing the positive benefits to themselves and their community.

“  
Listen to  
young people  
- not people who  
think they know  
young people.  
Noah, 15  
”





**We need to  
make sure every  
young person is  
supported and valued  
in Bournemouth,  
Christchurch and  
Poole. Oscar, 17**



## Feeling fulfilled

Being proud of yourself and feeling really happy with what you are doing in life



- ☒ Help children and young people find their sense of purpose so they do things that make them happy and excited about life.
- ☒ Ensure a range of opportunities to learn new skills, have tailored learning support including opportunities outside of school, and for young people to have positive experiences and get fulfilling jobs.
- ☒ Create fun and rewarding ways for all children and young people to volunteer and help their communities.

91





## As a result...

**we  
will see**



1. A strong link between employers and learning providers to support young people into work.
2. A well-rounded approach for children and young people to reach their potential, with far less pressure placed on academic achievement.
3. More young people in fulfilling employment, education or training.
4. Young people with special educational needs or disabilities having the support they need throughout their childhood and as they move into adulthood.
5. The right support in place to help care experienced young people to access and succeed in higher education and find the right jobs as a result.



**Help  
young people  
find who they  
are.  
Arthur, 11**





**Your  
uniqueness is  
your superpower,  
embrace it with  
confidence.  
Azeemah, 14**



# Delivering our priorities and measuring our success

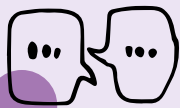
The operational delivery of this plan will be undertaken by all partners, who will be accountable to the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Children and Young People's Partnership Board. The board will measure the impact of the implementation of the plan through regular monitoring of key performance indicators. There are also a number of strategies and plans across the partnership that support the delivery of these priorities.




94

Our priorities	We will	Key strategy examples
 <p>Feeling happy</p>	Make sure there is easy access to green spaces and fun activities.	– A Shared Vision for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole 2024-28
	Ensure the ability to make good choices for better health and wellbeing.	– Early Help Partnership Strategy 2024-26 – Dorset Integrated Care Board's Joint Forward Plan 2023-28
	Help people access healthy food options and understand the importance of these.	– Green Infrastructure Strategy 2022-31 – Public Health Dorset Children and Young People's Programme
	Provide opportunities and spaces for children and young people to build peer networks.	– The Infant Feeding and Child Nutrition Strategy 2024
	Support mental wellbeing and boost self-confidence.	– Working better together – Dorset's Integrated Care Partnership Strategy 2022-23

Priorities	We will	Key strategy examples
 <h2>Being safe</h2>	Make sure families are in safe, secure and stable home environments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Community Safety Partnership Strategy 2022-25</li> <li>– Corporate Parenting Strategy 2024-26</li> <li>– Early Help Partnership Strategy 2024-26</li> <li>– Extra Familial Harm Strategy 2024-26</li> <li>– Housing Strategy for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole 2021-26</li> <li>– Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2020-23</li> <li>– BCP Safeguarding Children Partnership priorities 2023-25</li> <li>– Serious Violence Strategy 2024-25</li> <li>– Sufficiency Strategy for Children in Care and Care Experienced Young People 2024-28</li> <li>– The Youth Justice 2023-24</li> </ul>
	Help parents and carers to support their children and young people.	
	Provide enough suitable and safe homes for our children in care and care experienced young people.	
	Keep children and young people safe from harm including online.	
	Work with communities to make and keep neighbourhoods safe.	
 <h2>Feeling supported</h2>	Make sure people know where to get help as soon as it is needed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Belonging &amp; Inclusion Strategy 2024-27</li> <li>– Children's Workforce Development Interim Strategy 2024-25</li> <li>– Dorset Integrated Care Board's Joint Forward Plan 2023-28</li> <li>– Early Help Partnership Strategy 2024-26</li> <li>– SEND Sufficiency Strategy 2024-25</li> <li>– Working better together – Dorset's Integrated Care Partnership Strategy 2022-23</li> </ul>
	Provide children, young people and families the right help at the right time, so they can thrive when at home, school, work or in the community.	
	Support parents-to-be and new parents to give their children the best start in life.	
	Help young people get ready for adulthood.	
	Help people cope with challenges in their lives and ensure ongoing and effective recovery.	

Priorities	We will	Key strategy examples
 <p>Being included</p>	Listen to children and young people at every available opportunity so they are seen and heard and their voices shape services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Alternative Provision Strategy 2023-26</li> <li>– Attendance Strategy 2024-27</li> <li>– Belonging &amp; Inclusion Strategy 2024-27</li> <li>– Dorset Integrated Care Board's Joint Forward Plan 2023-28</li> <li>– SEND Sufficiency Strategy 2024-25</li> <li>– The Youth Justice Plan 2023-24</li> <li>– Working better together – Dorset's Integrated Care Partnership Strategy 2022-23</li> </ul>
	Design services based on the needs of the individual.	
	Help more children and young people access activities and events by removing financial and physical barriers.	
	Work with families and schools to reduce school exclusions.	
	Support people to be active participants in their community and show how they can make a difference.	

 <p>Feeling fulfilled</p>	Help children and young people find their sense of purpose so they do things that make them happy and excited about life.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– A Shared Vision for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole 2024-28</li> <li>– Corporate Parenting Strategy 2024-26</li> <li>– Not in Education, Employment or Training Strategy 2023-24</li> <li>– Preparing for Adulthood Strategy 2024</li> <li>– Skills Plan for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole 2022-26</li> <li>– Voluntary and Community Sector and Volunteering Strategy 2021-24</li> </ul>
	Ensure a range of opportunities to learn new skills, have tailored learning support including opportunities outside of school, and for young people to have positive experiences and get fulfilling jobs.	
	Create fun and rewarding ways for all children and young people to volunteer and help their communities.	



Everyone  
has their own  
views and opinions,  
and it is nice when  
it comes together as  
a kind of project,  
with different and  
amazing things!  
Rupika, 12



# Thank you

We are grateful for the strong engagement from our partners in the public sector, voluntary sector and most importantly, from children and young people across Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole in developing this plan.

We have undertaken a considerable amount of engagement to develop this plan using feedback from a range of sources and activities.

These include:

- Children and young people workshops, engagement sessions, roadshow and survey
- Partnership workshop and survey
- Parents, carer and professional consultation
- Children's Services staff engagement sessions and survey
- Voluntary sector workshop



Thank you to all the children and young people who have shared their views with us and to all those who have helped them to do so. Thank you also to all the partners who have given up their time to contribute to this plan, in particular, but not exclusively:

- Active Dorset
- Action for Children
- BCHA
- BCP Council
- BCP Council Children's Services
- BCP Youth Forum
- Burton Primary School
- Citizens Advice BCP
- Community Action Network
- DorPiP
- Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service
- Dorset HealthCare
- Dorset Police
- Dorset Women CICF.A.B – Families and Babies
- Glenmoor and Winton Academies
- Homestart Wessex
- INSIGHT Forum (Care Experienced Young People)
- Livingstone Academy

- Maddie's Miracle
- Match Mothers
- Members of BCP Youth Parliament
- Minstead Trust
- My Bnk
- My Time Young Carers
- NHS Dorset
- Parent Carers Together
- Public Health Dorset
- Safempowerment
- Safe Families
- Safer BCP
- Space Youth Project
- Stormbreak CIO
- The Colour Works Foundation
- The You Trust
- Twynham Learning
- UNITE (Children in Care Council)
- Untapped Art Therapy
- Victim Support
- YMCA Bournemouth







Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole are great places to live, where all children and young people have the best possible opportunities in life and are supported by the community to flourish and grow in order to succeed.

## CABINET



Report subject	<b>BCP Local Plan next steps, updated Local Development Scheme (LDS) and Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)</b>
Meeting date	13 May 2025
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	<p>Following Stage 1 examination hearings on the draft BCP Local Plan in January 2025, the Inspectors provided a post hearing letter in early March 2025. The letter stated that the Council had failed to adequately discharge the Duty to Cooperate. This is not something that can be rectified during the examination.</p> <p>Cabinet is therefore recommended to withdraw the draft BCP Local Plan from examination.</p> <p>The associated Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule that was submitted for its own examination at the same time is also recommended to be withdrawn due its strong ties with the draft Local Plan.</p> <p>If Cabinet and Council agree the withdrawal of the Local Plan and CIL Charging Schedule, a new Local Plan will need to be prepared. A timetable (Local Development Scheme - LDS) for this new Plan is recommended in Appendix 1.</p> <p>To facilitate community involvement and good plan making and development management processes, an updated Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) is also recommended for Cabinet to agree at Appendix 2.</p>
Recommendations	<p><b>It is RECOMMENDED that Cabinet:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>a. Recommends to Council that the draft BCP Local Plan be withdrawn from examination.</b></li> <li><b>b. Recommends to Council that the draft BCP CIL Charging Schedule be withdrawn from examination.</b></li> <li><b>c. Agree to the publication of a new Local Development Scheme at Appendix 1 and submission to Government, subject to Council agreement to withdraw the draft BCP Local Plan under recommendation a.</b></li> <li><b>d. Agree the updated Statement of Community Involvement at Appendix 2.</b></li> </ul>

Reason for recommendations	<p>The draft BCP Local Plan has not been supported by the Inspectors' at examination Stage 1.</p> <p>Local Authorities are required to produce, and keep up to date, a Local Development Scheme (LDS) which sets out the future planning documents the Council will be producing within a three-year period and the timescales and key milestones for their preparation. A new LDS is needed if the Council chooses to withdraw the draft BCP Local Plan and start work on a new BCP Local Plan.</p> <p>To update the SCI for the purpose of good planning.</p>
Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Millie Earl, Leader of the Council and Chair of Cabinet
Corporate Director	Glynn Barton, Chief Operations Officer
Report Authors	Caroline Peach, Head of Strategic Planning
Wards	Council-wide
Classification	For Decision and Recommendation to Council

### **Draft BCP Local Plan – Background**

1. The draft BCP Local Plan was considered and agreed for public consultation and submission to the Secretary of State at Cabinet on 13 December 2023 and by Council on 9 January 2024.
2. Following public consultation between 20 March and 3 May 2024 (Regulation 19), the draft Plan was submitted to the Secretary of State on 27 June 2024.
3. Examination Stage 1 hearings took place between 21 and 23 of January 2025. The hearings were to examine compliance with statutory procedures and legal compliance, including the Duty to Cooperate (DtC), housing needs and the housing requirement. Subject to the Plan being found sound at Stage 1 the Plan would proceed to Stage 2 where the rest of the Plan would be considered.
4. In the week commencing the 3 March 2025, the Council received a post hearing letter from the Inspectors which confirmed that they did not support the Plan. A copy of the letter has been published on the examination web site: [Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Local Plan & CIL Examination](#)
5. Paragraph 29 of the letter states, "On the basis of all the evidence before us, and for the reasons set out above, we therefore conclude that the Council has failed to engage constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis during the preparation of the Plan so far as it relates to the strategic matter of housing."



## BCP Council and Duty to Cooperate

6. The background to the DtC can be summarised as follows:
  - The Government determined that the standard method for calculating housing need would use 2014-based household projections, even though more recent projections were available.
  - In 2016, the Office of National Statistics (ONS) advised that Bournemouth was one of six towns that had a significant over-estimation of student emigration figures. This was adjusted by the ONS for its projections from 2016 onwards, but this meant that the 2014-based household projections were inaccurate.
  - Therefore, an alternative method was used by BCP Council as the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2023) allowed an alternative approach where there were exceptional circumstances, which placed housing need at 1,600 homes per year. BCP Council could identify land for this amount of need and therefore there was no shortfall to be met by neighbours. DtC meetings therefore focused on other issues such as nutrient neutrality.
  - BCP Council held an advisory meeting with the Planning Inspectorate to discuss this issue and they advised that they felt that the Council would be better identifying a shortfall and discussing with neighbours, then relying on exceptional circumstances for an alternative approach.
  - This change in approach was the reason for the late identification of a shortfall
  - The Local Plan Inspectors were “not persuaded that there are ‘exceptional circumstances’ in BCP which justify an alternative approach to assessing housing need” (para.33 of the Inspectors letter). This matter could only be tested at the examination.
7. Paragraph 37 of the letter sets out the options now open to the Council: “In the light of the failure to adequately discharge the DtC [Duty to Cooperate], there are two options open to the Council, either to withdraw the Plan from examination or to ask that we write a report setting out our conclusions. The latter option would incur further expense, and the contents of our report would likely be very similar to this letter.”
8. Paragraph 31 of the Planning Policy Guidance (PPG) states that,

“As the duty to cooperate relates to the preparation of the plan it cannot be rectified post-submission, so if the Inspector finds that the duty has not been complied with they will recommend that the local plan is not adopted and the examination will not proceed any further. The most appropriate course of action is likely to be for the local planning authority to withdraw the plan and engage in the necessary discussions and actions with other relevant local planning authorities and bodies. In these circumstances the local planning authority will need to re-publish the revised plan for consultation before it is re-submitted for examination.”

## Options for the draft BCP Local Plan

9. There are limited options open to the Council. These have been set out by the Inspectors in their letter and paragraphs 7 and 8 above.
10. **Withdraw the Plan** (recommended to Cabinet and Council) - If the Council chooses to withdraw the Plan, the way becomes clear to focus resources on the

preparation of a new Local Plan. Note that if the draft BCP Local Plan had been supported at Stage 1 of the examination then it would have been challenging in terms of resources to undertake Stage 2 of the examination, consult on modifications and adopt the Plan at the same time as starting a partial review as required by Government.

11. If the Council support withdrawal of the BCP Local Plan, then a new LDS setting out the timetable for the preparation of a new Local Plan is needed. The updated LDS attached as Appendix 1 provides this. The LDS continues to be subject to the need for further clarification from Government and the publication of regulations and guidance for plan-making reforms, expected in Summer/ Autumn 2025.
12. The draft BCP Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule was submitted to the Secretary of State for examination on 27 June 2024. This was proposed to be a follow-on examination after the draft BCP Local Plan examination had been completed. However, if the Council supports withdrawal of the BCP Local Plan, it is recommended that the draft BCP Community CIL Charging Schedule is also withdrawn. This is because the draft CIL Charging Schedule is inextricably linked to the draft BCP Local Plan, its policies and evidence base. A new CIL Charging Schedule would need to be prepared.
13. **Ask that the Inspectors write a report setting out their conclusions** – The Inspectors have already indicated that this would incur further expense for the Council and the contents of their report would likely be very similar to the letter that has already received. Based on the reasons given by the Inspectors for not supporting the Plan, this option is not recommended.
14. **Do nothing** – The Council could choose to make no decision. However, there is a statutory requirement placed on all Local Authorities to have an up-to-date Local Plan in place and for the Local Planning Authorities to review their plans every five years. The Bournemouth Core Strategy (2012), Christchurch Core Strategy (2014) and Poole Local Plan (2018) are all older than 5 years and, as such, we have a statutory duty to produce a plan. This means that a 'do nothing approach' is not a viable option. It also does not provide key stakeholders such as the community, businesses and infrastructure providers with certainty about where development and investments should and will occur.

### **Next steps for a BCP Local Plan**

15. If Council decides to withdraw the draft BCP Local Plan from examination, a new LDS is needed to provide clarity on the timetable for the preparation of a new Local Plan.
16. The indicative timetable for the new Local Plan (Appendix 1) is based on the requirements in the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act (LURA) to produce a Local Plan within 30 months. Much of the detail on the plan-making reforms is still to be published and confirmed. In the absence of these details, the Planning Advisory Service has recommended using the details published under the 2023 consultation regarding the new system and this consultation has shaped the indicative timetable in Appendix 1.
17. The indicative timetable includes 3 assessment points, called Gateways to check on progress and to help address issues early in the process. Planning Inspectors

will likely be involved with at least 2 of these Gateway stages. The 30-month timeframe for plan preparation is triggered at Gateway 1.

18. Two formal stages of public consultation will be needed: visioning and strategy development (8 weeks) and response to a draft plan (6 weeks). However, in advance of these stages and Gateway 1, BCP Council intends to carry out early engagement to front load the process.
19. Significant changes and requirements will be needed for the new Local Plan, which will be considered under the NPPF December 2024. This includes mandatory Government housing figures (new standard method), assessment of Green Belt and new definition of 'Grey Belt'. The draft BCP Local Plan included 1,600 homes per year for 15 years (24,000). The new housing requirement will be almost 3,000 homes per year (45,000).
20. It is intended that robust early engagement will assist local communities in understanding what national policy requires of this new plan and enable them to influence where growth is to be planned.
21. The new Local Plan making process is expected to increase the use of digital tools and use of templates to support efficiencies and produce simpler, visual and accessible plans.
22. Until a BCP Local Plan is in place, current Local Plans where relevant and the Government's reforms are informing decisions as the revised National Planning Policy Framework is a material consideration in the Council's decisions on planning applications.

### **Local Development Scheme**

23. A draft LDS was considered by Cabinet on 5 March and subsequently submitted to Government as required on 6 March. This was submitted as a draft because this LDS had been prepared in advance of the Council receiving the letter from the Inspectors' examining the draft BCP Local Plan. The draft LDS considered in March was prepared on the basis that the Plan would be supported at Stage 1 and that the Council would carry out a partial review of the Plan to address the Government's new Plan making requirements e.g mandatory housing figures prepared using a new standard method of calculation and Green Belt review.
24. As the BCP Plan has not been supported at examination, subject to the Council's consideration and decision about whether to withdraw the Plan, the draft LDS needs to be updated to reflect the change in situation. It would no longer be a partial review of the Plan, but a completely new Local Plan reflecting the Government's new planning system.
25. The available options for Cabinet (not Council) to consider are:
  - i. To approve the draft LDS in appendix 1; or
  - ii. To approve the draft LDS in appendix 1 with changes; or
  - iii. To not agree the draft LDS in appendix 1.Options i) and ii) include submission of an updated LDS to Government.

## Statement of Community Involvement

26. Local planning authorities are required through the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) to produce a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI), which sets out how they will engage with communities on planning matters including preparation of local plans and planning applications.
27. BCP Council's SCI was adopted in September 2020: [Statement of Community Involvement | BCP](#). Local Planning Authorities are required to review their SCIs every five years from the adoption date.
28. It is important that SCIs are kept up to date to ensure effective community involvement at all stages of the planning process and to reflect any changes to engagement. A local planning authority may review and update their SCI at the same time as reviewing and updating a plan to reflect what action is taken to involve the community in any change to the plan.
29. Since it is close to five years since the adoption of the SCI and subject to the Council's decision to withdraw the draft BCP Local Plan, work will begin on a new Local Plan, it is therefore an appropriate time to update the SCI.
30. The updated SCI is a refresh of the 2020 document and includes primarily factual updates and deletions. These include:
  - a) Removal of reference to Covid-19
  - b) Removal of references to neighbour notification letters.  
(In February 2023, BCP Council agreed a budget for 2023/24. This included the implementation of £32.9m of savings from 1 April 2023. This included changes to our approach to consultation on planning applications).
  - c) Removal of reference and details relating to the Council's Corporate Strategy November 2019 and inclusion of details relating to the December 2024 Strategy.
  - d) Removal of reference to the Council's constitution July 2019 and inclusion of reference to January 2025.
  - e) Removal of reference to the Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)
  - f) Removal of reference to Growth and Infrastructure unit.
  - g) Update of the General engagement and consultation principles in relation to inclusive engagement and consultation - with more specific ways that this will be done such as use of plain English.
  - h) Inclusion of reference to the Government's Planning Reforms.
  - i) Inclusion of reference to a revised Local Development Scheme in 2025.
  - j) Update to the reference to made/adopted Neighbourhood Plans.
  - k) Updated text relating to Specific and General consultation bodies.
  - l) Inclusion of reference to Environmental Outcome reports (under Sustainability Appraisal).
  - m) Other minor text updates.

31. The available options for Cabinet (not Council) to consider are:

- i. To approve the draft SCI in appendix 2; or
- ii. To approve the draft SCI in appendix 2 with changes; or
- iii. To not agree the draft SCI in appendix 2.

### **Summary of financial implications**

32. The budgetary implications of this report relate to the options above. Withdrawal of the BCP Local Plan would mean incurring no further costs on this Plan. Instead, costs would be focussed on a new Local Plan, making use of evidence wherever possible from the BCP Local Plan. The costs of asking the Inspectors to provide a report is unknown but this is likely to be significantly less than if their conclusions are subsequently challenged.
33. Initial assumptions have been built into the MTFP in respect to growth pressures and re-charging the Local Plan reserve.

### **Summary of legal implications**

34. The preparation of a Local Development Scheme and Local Plan are statutory requirements of the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011) and Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. The Local Plan must be prepared in line with relevant legislation as well as having regard to national planning policy and guidance.
35. Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) requires the local planning authority to produce a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) every five years.

### **Summary of human resources implications**

36. N/A

### **Summary of sustainability impact**

37. The LDS sets out a timetable for the production of the Local Plan and in itself does not give rise to any impact upon environmental matters or climate change. The Local Plan has a comprehensive suite of assessments including Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment. The SCI is a refresh and update of the previous document and does not give rise to any impact upon environmental matters or climate change.

### **Summary of public health implications**

38. Implications will be considered as part of plan-making and decision-taking



## **Summary of equality implications**

39. Implications will be considered as part of plan-making and decision-taking.

## **Summary of risk assessment**

40. There is reputational risk associated with asking for an Inspectors' report and the doing nothing options, as these would cause delay and increase uncertainty for decision makers and developers.
41. The LDS, for which the timetables are being considered, will identify the risks to meeting the Local Plan milestones and sets out some mitigation to each risk. These risks will need to reflect some uncertainty about the yet to be published regulations and guidance for the new planning system moving forwards.
42. There is a reputational risk associated with not updating the SCI in a timely manner in accordance with planning legislation.

## **Background papers**

Planning Reforms and new Local Development Scheme (item 13 Cabinet 5 March 2025: [Welcome to BCP Council | BCP](#)).

National Planning Policy Framework 2024: [National Planning Policy Framework - GOV.UK](#)

## **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Local Development Scheme

Appendix 2 – Statement of Community Involvement



# Local Development Scheme

May 2025

# Content

Introduction	2
Development Plan Documents	3
Development Plan Documents Details	4
Timelines	8
Other documents	10

# Introduction

1. Local planning authorities are required by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) to publish and maintain a Local Development Scheme (LDS). The primary role of the LDS is to set out what documents will make up the development plan for the area and provide a timetable for their preparation.
2. Legislation states that a Local Development Scheme must specify:
  - The Local Development Documents which are to be Development Plan Documents (Section 2);
  - The subject matter and geographical area to which each development plan document relates (Section 3);
  - The timetable for the preparation and revision of the Development Plan Documents (Section 4);
  - Which Development Plan Documents, if any, are to be prepared jointly with one or more other local planning authorities (Section 2);
  - Any matter or area in respect of which the authority has agreed (or proposes to agree) to the constitution of a joint committee (with other Local Planning Authorities) (not applicable); and
  - The timetable for the preparation of the Authorities' monitoring reports (section 5).
3. The Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) requires the LDS to be kept up-to-date and be made publicly available, so that local communities and interested parties can keep track of the progress of development plan documents.
4. This LDS supersedes the Council's previous draft LDS published in March 2025.

## Development Plan Documents

5. The Development Plan Documents for the BCP area currently consists of:
  - Bournemouth Local Plan (saved policies) 2002
  - Bournemouth Affordable Housing Development Plan Document 2009
  - Bournemouth Core Strategy 2012
  - Bournemouth Town Centre Area Action Plan 2013
  - Christchurch Local Plan (saved policies) 2001
  - East Dorset and Christchurch Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy 2014
  - Poole Local Plan 2018
  - 'Made' Neighbourhood Plans (Broadstone, Poole Quay Forum, Highcliffe and Walkford, Hurn, Sandbanks Peninsular and Boscombe and Pokesdown)
  - The Bournemouth, Christchurch, Poole and Dorset Waste Plan (2019)
  - The Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Minerals Strategy and Minerals Sites Plan (2014)
6. In the future the Development Plan Documents for the BCP area will consist of:
  - The BCP Local Plan
  - 'Made' Neighbourhood Plans
  - The Bournemouth, Christchurch, Poole and Dorset Waste Plan (2019)
  - The Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Minerals Strategy and Minerals Sites Plan (2014)
7. In addition to the development plan documents, there are also other important documents that relate to the development plan, including;
  - Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule
  - Statement of Community Involvement
  - Supplementary Planning Documents
  - Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plans
8. These are not development plan documents and details about these various documents can be found separately on our website.



## Development Plan Document Details

9. This section sets out the subject matter and geographical area to which each development plan document relates.

### BCP Local Plan

10. Work on the preparation of a BCP Local Plan commenced in 2019 when the Council began consulting on issues and gathering evidence. A draft Local Plan was then submitted to the Secretary of State for examination in June 2024. The examining Inspectors undertook an initial examination stage considering the Duty to Cooperate, Legal Compliance and Housing Requirement in January 2025. The examining Inspectors identified substantive issues with regard to the Council's approach to the Duty to Cooperate and that Local Plan is recommended to be withdrawn.
11. It is a legal requirement to have an up to date Local Plan for our area and work must now commence on a new BCP Local Plan. The new BCP Local Plan will provide an overarching and cohesive development strategy for the whole of BCP area. It will set out how much, where and what type of development will take place across our area, giving us control over development decisions. The Local Plan has an important role in meeting the Council's corporate objectives and will help us to raise the quality of development so we can achieve the placemaking objectives we aspire to within the BCP area.
12. The BCP Local Plan will cover a 15 year period post adoption and, once adopted, will provide one up to date planning document that is based on up to date social, economic and environmental evidence. As well as setting out our development strategy the Local Plan will provide policies by which to determine planning applications, and will allocate sites to guide new development.
13. The BCP Local Plan will cover the whole of the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole administrative area and will be produced by BCP Council.
14. Once adopted the BCP Local Plan will supersede:
  - Bournemouth Local Plan (saved policies) 2002
  - Bournemouth Affordable Housing Development Plan Document 2009
  - Bournemouth Core Strategy 2012

- Bournemouth Town Centre Area Action Plan 2013
- Christchurch Local Plan (saved policies) 2001
- East Dorset and Christchurch Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy 2014
- Poole Local Plan 2018

15. The new Local Plan will be prepared under the revised plan-making system provided for under the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 (as soon as the relevant provisions are brought into force in 2025).
16. The indicative timetable for the new Local Plan is set out in Section 4 and is based on the requirements in the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act (LURA) to produce a Local Plan within 30 months. Much of the detail on the plan-making reforms is still to be published and confirmed. In the absence of these details the Planning Advisory Service has recommended using the details published under the 2023 consultation regarding the new system and this consultation has shaped the indicative timetable.
17. The indicative timetable for the new Local Plan includes 3 assessment points, called Gateways to check on progress and to help address issues early in the process. Planning Inspectors will likely be involved with at least 2 of these Gateway stages. The 30-month timeframe for plan preparation is triggered at Gateway 1.
18. Two formal stages of public consultation will be needed: visioning and strategy development (8 weeks) and response to a draft plan (6 weeks). However, in advance of these stages and Gateway 1, BCP Council intends to carry out early engagement to front load the process. This will assist local communities in having early understanding of and influence on the Plan.
19. The new Plan making process is expected to increase the use of digital tools and use of templates to support efficiencies and produce simpler, visual and accessible plans.
20. Currently all development plan documents are required to be subject to on-going Sustainability Appraisal which informs the content of the Local Plan. The Sustainability Appraisal must meet the requirements of United Kingdom regulations. As such, the Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SA/SEA) are an integral part of the Local Plan preparation process. As part of the planning reforms it is proposed that the Sustainability Appraisal process will be replaced by an Environmental Outcomes Report. Further details on the new process are yet to be released. The Sustainability Appraisal process

or Environmental Outcomes process will take place alongside the Local Plan and the relevant reports will be made available at the various stages of plan preparation.

## Neighbourhood Plans

21. Neighbourhood Plan cover specific designated 'neighbourhood areas'. A parish council, town council or a designated neighbourhood forum can apply to have an area designated as a 'neighbourhood area' for the purpose of preparing a neighbourhood plan. Neighbourhood plans provide a specific strategy and/or set of policies for future development in the neighbourhood area. The content and scope of the plans can vary from place to place.
22. Neighbourhood plans must meet certain specified 'basic conditions'. These ensure plans contribute to the achievement of sustainable development, have regard to national policy and guidance and are in general conformity with adopted strategic local planning policies.
23. There are currently six made neighbourhood plans in the BCP area.
  - Broadstone (2018)
  - Poole Quays Forum (2017)
  - Boscombe and Pokesdown (2019)
  - Highcliffe and Walkford (2023)
  - Sandbanks Peninsula (2024)
  - Hurn (2024)
24. In addition, preparation on neighbourhood plans have been progressing in the following areas:
  - Christchurch Town
  - Burton and Winkton
  - Queen's Park and Charminster
25. East Cliff and Springbourne and Lilliput are also in the process of establishing a neighbourhood area.
26. The geographical scope and where known the subject matter of the neighbourhood plan areas can be viewed on our website [Neighbourhood Planning | BCP](#).

## Minerals and waste plans

24. The Bournemouth, Christchurch, Poole and Dorset Waste Plan (2019) identifies sites for new waste management facilities to meet the county's needs. It provides the policy framework for determining planning applications for waste management facilities up to 2033. This plan is now five years old and is in need of review.
25. The Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Minerals Strategy was adopted in 2014. A five year review was carried out in 2020, as required by the National Planning Policy Framework. The review concludes that while an update of the Strategy is not currently required further work is needed to ensure the strategy remains suitable.
26. Both the Waste Plan and Minerals Strategy were prepared jointly between Dorset Council and BCP Council to cover the administrative areas of both Councils. BCP and Dorset Councils are continuing to work together on minerals and waste issues.
27. Dorset Council have set out that they aim to integrate the currently separate minerals and waste plans into a single document, to establish a strategic approach and set out the appropriate policy structure and site allocations to maintain a steady and appropriate supply of minerals to meet identified need. It will also establish the strategic approach and appropriate policy basis and site allocations to manage waste. The Plan will be taken forward as a new-style local plan. Once adopted, it is anticipated that the Minerals and Waste Plan will supersede the Minerals Strategy (2014), the Bournemouth, Christchurch, Poole and Dorset Mineral Sites Plan (2019) and the Bournemouth, Christchurch, Poole and Dorset Waste Plan (2019).

## Timelines

27. The timetable for the new BCP Local Plan is set out below and noted above. Adoption is anticipated by the end of 2028.
28. The preparation of **Neighbourhood Plans** must follow the process set out in Neighbourhood Planning (General) regulations 2012. The main stages of the Neighbourhood Plan process are:
- Publication of the draft Neighbourhood Plan (Regulation 14): The draft plan is published for consultation by the neighbourhood planning body.
  - Submission of the Neighbourhood Plan (Regulation 16): The draft Neighbourhood plan is submitted to the local planning authority and is publicised for a minimum of 6 weeks.
  - Examination (Regulation 18): The local authority appoint an independent examiner to consider that the neighbourhood plan meets the basic conditions and other requirements set out by law. The examiner will issue a report to confirm if the plan can proceed to referendum or if modifications are required.
  - Referendum: People on the electoral register are entitled to vote on whether or not the neighbourhood plan should be used to help decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area.  
Plan is 'made': If successful at referendum the neighbourhood plan is formally made and becomes part of the development plan.
29. Burton and Winkton have published a pre submission draft plan for consultation (Reg 14). The consultation closed in November 2024. It is anticipated that the plan will be submitted and examined in 2025, with a view to the referendum and plan being made in late 2025 or early 2026.
30. Christchurch Town and Queen's Park and Charminster are yet to publish draft plans. It is anticipated that Christchurch Town will publish a draft plan for consultation (Reg 14) in 2025 with a view to a referendum and plan being made in 2026. Queen's Park and Charminster are at an earlier stage of plan preparation and are likely to publish a draft plan in 2026.
31. Up to date information about the process of neighbourhood plans can be found on our website.



New BCP Local Plan													2026												2027												2028											
Task	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec																
Key dates summary																																																
Evidence gathering																																																
Notice of start of plan making																																																
Prepare Project Initiation Document																																																
Early engagement																																																
Gateway 1																																																
Visioning and strategy development																																																
Consultation on options 8 weeks																																																
Visioning and strategy development																																																
Gateway 2																																																
Writing the plan																																																
Consultation on draft plan 6 weeks																																																
Make changes																																																
Gateway 3																																																
Examination																																																
Adoption																																																
30 Months														1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30					

## Other documents

### Community Infrastructure Levy

32. The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) will sets out a charging schedule of tariffs to be applied to qualifying development in the BCP area. This will allow funding to be secured for infrastructure that is needed because of development in the area. The tariff is typically applied per m2 of net additional residential floorspace. The rate of the tariff has been determined by examining the ability of development to bear the charge without unduly affecting a development's viability.
33. The CIL charging schedule will be prepared by BCP Council to cover the administrative area of the Council.
34. The stages and the proposed timetable for the production of the CIL Charging is set out below and will follow that of the proposed BCP Local Plan timetable.
  - Stage 1: Publication/Consultation on Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule
  - Stage 2: Publication/Consultation on Draft Charging Schedule
  - Stage 3: Submission for Examination.
  - Stage 4: Examination of the Draft Charging Schedule

### Statement of Community Involvement

35. The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) was adopted in 2025. It sets out how the council will consult on planning matters including the preparation of planning policy and the determination of planning applications. The Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017 introduced new requirements for the SCI and as such it is now a requirement to review the SCI every 5 years. The next review of the SCI is therefore due to take place in 2030.

### Supplementary Planning Documents

36. Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) are typically produced to provide more detailed guidance on how a particular policy (or policies) should be implemented. There are currently a number of Supplementary Planning Documents that relate to the legacy areas' Local Plans. A full list of the existing SPDs is available on our website at: [www.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/planningpolicy](http://www.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/planningpolicy).
37. The SPDs required to support the BCP Local Plan will be reviewed as the Local Plan is developed.

## **Authority Monitoring Report (AMR)**

38. The Council is required to produce an Authority Monitoring Report (AMR), setting out how it has monitored progress against key milestones in the programme of plan making, including how effective the programme has been. The AMR will also show how the Council has monitored the implementation of plan policies and will help to establish whether there is a need to revise the LDS. The AMR will be produced annually.



## Statement of Community Involvement

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**May 2025**

**Planning and Transport  
Strategic Planning**

## Introduction

1.1 The role of planning is important in shaping the places where people live and work.

1.2 The planning system provides opportunities for local people to take part in making key decisions about how their local areas will develop over time. A planning system that provides many opportunities for local people to participate is essential in creating and delivering inclusive, accessible and safe sustainable communities.

1.3 BCP Council, as a local planning authority, is responsible for preparing a range of planning policy documents which collectively is known as the Local Development Plan (LDP). It is also responsible for the determination of planning applications for a range of development proposals across the area. Community involvement in both these functions is a fundamental component of the planning process.

1.4 As part of the suite of planning documents, the council is statutorily required by the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) to produce a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) every five years. The purpose of the SCI is to set out how we will engage with local communities and organisations on a range of planning matters including:

- the preparation of relevant LDP documents and other local planning documents
- the consideration and determination of planning applications for development

## Background

1.5 BCP Council had inherited three legacy SCIs from the preceding Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole councils, all adopted 2015 and 2016. The new Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole council produced a new SCI in 2020, this updated SCI will replace the 2020 version.

1.6 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) revised in December 2024 values meaningful, effective engagement and making participation in public consultation genuinely easy for all. The NPPF (2024: para 16) states that the planning system should be genuinely plan led. Para 16(c) clarifies that plans should be shaped by early, proportionate and effective engagement between plan-makers and communities, local organisations, businesses, infrastructure providers and operators and statutory consultees. The council is committed to maintaining the fundamental elements of effective and meaningful engagement whilst recognising the social and technological behaviour changes taking place in the community.

1.7 The Localism Act (2011) introduced a duty to cooperate when plan making with adjoining authorities and other bodies on strategic cross boundary strategic infrastructure, including transport, flooding, housing and open space requirements. The three preceding local authority areas of Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole and Dorset Council, New Forest District Council and New Forest National Park Authority have been cooperating on a range



of strategic matters for several years. BCP Council intends to continue effective discussion on such matters to enable the duty to be met in full.

1.8 The Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017 has introduced requirements for local planning authorities to set out policies in the SCI for involving interested parties in the preliminary stages of plan making including supporting communities who wish to undertake neighbourhood planning.

1.9 The council has produced this SCI to ensure local communities, individuals and other interested local organisations can be involved and engaged in local planning matters.

The SCI therefore sets out:

- the key stages in the preparation of development plan and supplementary planning documents and identifies the opportunities for consultation and involvement by communities, individuals and other local organisations
- the opportunities for local people to comment on planning applications for development which affects them
- additional guidance and assistance offered to potential and existing neighbourhood plan making bodies including the statutory stages for any modification to a 'made' neighbourhood plan

1.10 The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) Regulations 2017 require the local planning authority to complete a review of its SCI every five years. However, it may also be reviewed within this period to accord with new regulations and guidance, or when fundamental changes take place that warrants a fresh SCI, for example to temporarily introduce changes to the methods of engaging the community and stakeholders.

1.11 We reserve the right to revise the SCI for minor changes or where temporary situations may cause temporary arrangements to methods of engagement. Where necessary revisions are made, we will continue to take steps to engage by means which are reasonably practicable. This will ensure that plan-making and decision making can progress in accordance with the regulations and the provisions of the SCI.

## **The benefits of involving the community**

1.12 Local communities are those that are most likely to be affected by development proposals in their areas. They are also those who know the most about their neighbourhood. Involving the community in the consideration of planning matters for their area can have a number of benefits, which include:

- benefitting from detailed local knowledge, expertise and perspective of local people, organisations and community groups
- greater community support for, and ownership of policies, strategies and decisions
- community commitment to the future development of their area
- improving the quality of life and of the built and natural environment

1.13 When undertaking engagement with local communities on planning matters, the Local Planning Authority will promote fairness in the consultation process through application of the Gunning Principles. These principles state that:

- a. Consultation must take place when the proposal is still at a formative stage.
- b. Sufficient information is put forward with the proposal to allow for intelligent consideration and response.
- c. Adequate time must be given for consideration of the proposal and response to it.
- d. The consultation responses must be conscientiously considered by the decision maker.

## **Links with other corporate plans and strategies**

1.14 The SCI has been prepared in the context of the adopted BCP Council Corporate Strategy (December 2024) which sets out what the council intends to achieve over the next 4 years. The strategy makes clear that the council is modern, accessible and accountable, committed to providing effective community leadership. It sets out two high level priorities

1. Vibrant Place, where people and nature flourish, with a thriving economy in a healthy, natural environment
2. Our People and communities. Everyone leads a fulfilled life, maximising opportunity for all. are to improve the quality of life for our residents to

1.15 The methods set out in the adopted (2021) BCP Council Community Engagement and Consultation Strategy will commit us to improve the way decisions are made by reviewing our public engagement methodology, transparency and communication and providing more satisfactory methods of communicating with the council as digital technology evolves over time.

## The Council's Constitution (January 2025)

1.16 The Constitution sets out rules and procedures which explain how council business is done and how decisions are made. The Constitution gives residents and others certain rights and opportunities to participate in decision-making and contribute to public meetings. Procedures for asking questions, submitting petitions and taking part in certain meetings are contained within the Constitution and set out on the council's website.

## Our engagement and consultation principles

1.17 The following general engagement and consultation principles will be applied when preparing planning documents as part of the LDP and in assessing and determining planning applications for development.

### General engagement and consultation principles

We will:

**Ensure public engagement and consultation is as inclusive as possible.** This will be done by:

- Ensure that traditionally hard to reach groups have the opportunity to be involved in the planning process
- Ensure fair and equal treatment of all members of the community
- Use Plain English and avoid the use of planning jargon where possible
- Where required, make information available in a range of easily accessible formats (e.g. in languages, large print, electronic, paper copies).
- Utilise a range of different communication formats and methods, proportionate to the type
- Holding events or meetings in accessible locations at times appropriate for different members of the community

We will do this so that the widest range of residents and local organisations can be involved in, and influence the preparation of, local development plan documents and in the planning application decision making process.

**Use consultation methods that are appropriate** to each stage of the planning process.

The Council will use a range of techniques to engage with the community including making use of existing community and local interest groups. Seeking the views of the community and other local organisations at the earliest possible stages and throughout the planning process.

**Promote methods of engagement and consultation** that make communication and involvement more meaningful, easier, faster and cost effective, such as the use of the

council's website, email, e-bulletin subscriber service and other digital and innovative technology.

**Provide more opportunities for contact with the community** through the use of workshops, meetings and other events and where practicable, be flexible in the timing of such events so that as wide an audience as possible can be reached.

## How to use this document

1.18 This document sets out the council's commitments to consultation for both plan-making and planning application decision-taking.

**Section 2 deals with plan making.** All Specific and General Consultees for BCP Council are set out. Organisations and individuals can request to be included within the consultee list at any time. Details will be maintained on the council's consultation database and all those on the database will be notified of future planning policy consultations.

**Section 3 explains how planning applications are dealt with** and shows how individuals and the community can be involved in the planning application process, including any right of appeal.

## 2 The Local Development Plan for BCP Council: plan-making

2.1 The council is responsible for preparing a range of planning documents that collectively make up the Local Development Plan (LDP). Such documents provide the planning strategy, policies, site allocations and guidance aimed at managing growth and development across the Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole areas.

2.2 There are currently two main types of local planning policy documents prepared by the council, as follows:

- (i) **Development Plan Documents (DPDs)** are statutory documents, including the Local Plan that set the planning strategy, policies and site allocations for a local authority area.
- (ii) **Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs)** are non-statutory documents that provide further detail and guidance on the implementation of policies and proposals contained in adopted DPDs. Whilst SPDs do not have the same 'weight' as DPDs, they can be an important 'material consideration' in the process of assessing and determining planning applications for development.

2.3 The government is currently in the process of introducing planning reforms. Development Plan Documents will remain and consist of Local Plans and Supplementary Plans. The Supplementary Plans will be able to cover any subject matter which may be in a Local Plan or Minerals and Waste Plan, but must be site specific or relate to two or more sites which an authority consider to be 'nearby' to each other; except for design related supplementary plans which may be authority area wide. As a result SPDs are likely to remain in place until new style Local Plans and Supplementary Plans are introduced.

2.4 Alongside Local Plan production there is a current requirement to prepare Sustainability Appraisal (SA), integrated with a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to assess the environmental social and economic effects of the Plan. As part of the planning reforms changes are proposed to introduce Environment Reports and further details are anticipated in 2025. Documents prepared as part of the SA or Environmental Reporting process will be published on the council's website.

2.5 The council will also consult on changes to Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). A locally set charge which can be applied to development to help fund infrastructure required to accommodate growth e.g. heathland mitigation; strategic borough-wide transport improvements and flood defences; additional educational, health, social care, leisure and community facilities; green infrastructure/open space and public realm improvements.

2.6 Whilst not prepared by the council, it is obliged at various key stages of the neighbourhood planning process to consult with residents and interested parties when applications for forum and/or area designations are submitted. The draft Neighbourhood Plan (at Reg 16) will also require the council to undertake public consultation in accordance with the SCI. Consultation at the referendum stage is undertaken under separate legislative



regulations. However, all consultation feedback is reported to council committees to enable informed decision making to take place, in accordance with the council's Constitution.

2.7 The Local Development Scheme 2025 sets out a programme for the preparation of new development plan documents including the BCP Local Plan. The LDS will also be published on the council's website.

## The current context

2.8 A new BCP Local Plan will be produced and will replace the legacy authorities' existing planning policies set out in The Bournemouth Core Strategy, Bournemouth AAP, Bournemouth Saved policies (2022), Bournemouth AH DPD (2009), Christchurch and East Dorset LP (2014), Christchurch saved policies (2001), Poole Local Plan 2018.

2.9 The list below sets out the current Local Development Plans:

- **Bournemouth Core Strategy (2012)**
- **Bournemouth Town Centre Area Action Plan (2013)**
- **Saved policies from the Bournemouth District Wide Local Plan 2002**
- **Affordable Housing DPD (2009)**
- **Boscombe & Pokesdown Neighbourhood Plan (2019)**
- **Christchurch and East Dorset Local Plan Part 1 – Core Strategy (2014)**
- **Hurn Neighbourhood Plan (2024)**
- **Highcliffe and Walkford Neighbourhood Plan (2023)**
- **Remaining saved policies from the Borough of Christchurch Local Plan (2001)**
- **Poole Local Plan 2018**
- **Broadstone Neighbourhood Plan 2018**
- **Poole Quays Forum Neighbourhood Plan 2017**
- **Sandbanks Peninsula Neighbourhood Plan (2024)**
- **Bournemouth, Dorset & Poole Minerals Strategy (2014)**
- **Bournemouth, Christchurch, Poole and Dorset Waste Plan (2019)**
- **Bournemouth, Christchurch, Poole and Dorset Mineral Sites Plan (2019)**

## Other planning documents

**Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule** - an evidence based adopted local planning charge based on net additional floorspace created by new residential development. The Charging Schedule and Local Plan form the mechanisms for collecting developer contributions to enable infrastructure that supports housing growth.

**Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plans** - documents that define the special character of each of Bournemouth's conservation areas and the approach to their preservation and enhancement.

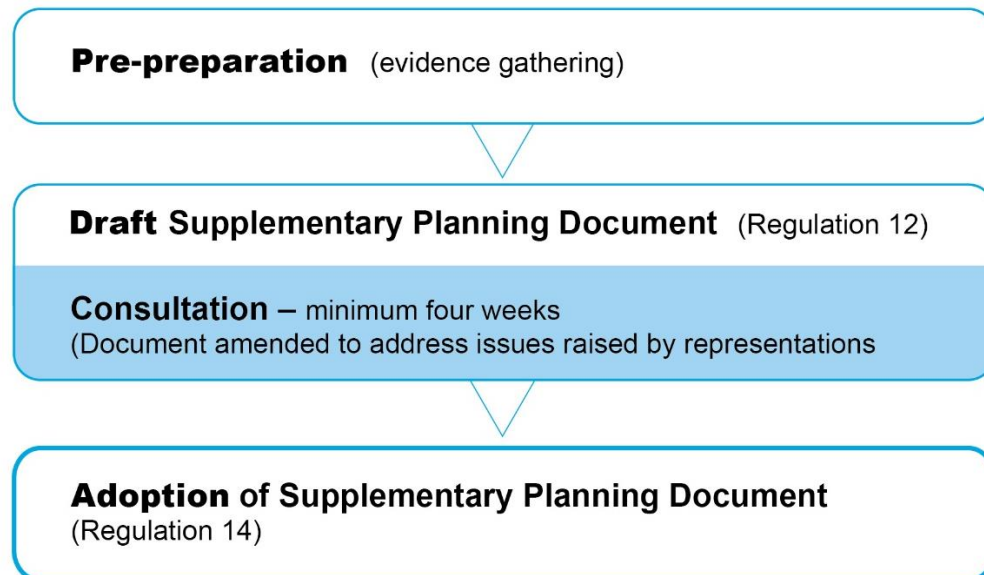
## Stages in Local Plan preparation

2.10 Diagram 1 below sets out the statutory process in the preparation of local plan documents.



## Stages in the preparation of Supplementary Planning Documents

2.11 Diagram 2 below sets out the stages in the preparation of supplementary planning documents, which as they are not statutory documents are subject to a more streamlined preparation process.



## Ways to get involved in the development of new planning policies

2.12 The table below sets out the range of methods that can be used in engaging with the community and other stakeholders. The method(s) used will be those that are appropriate to the stage of the planning process, the issues that are being considered and the community involved.

<b>Website</b>	All planning policy documents, engagement, consultations and supporting information will be available on our dedicated 'haveyoursay' webpage. We may also use the website for online comment forms, questionnaires and feedback
<b>Email</b>	Emails may include information on consultations, responses, the stage of preparation reached, adoption and general updates.
<b>Social media</b>	Where appropriate, social media such as the council's Facebook or X (Formally known as Twitter) may be used to communicate planning matters with groups who are hard to reach or do not traditionally respond to other methods of communication.
<b>Telephone</b>	Where appropriate, to be used where alternative methods are not practical for individuals or groups who do not have internet access.
<b>Meetings</b> (including virtual/digital meetings)	Meetings with individuals, businesses, groups and organisations will be used where appropriate and relevant to the document being prepared. We may offer to attend meetings which are held by existing groups to clarify or explain issues or documents we are consulting on.
<b>Digital communication and consultations</b>	We will seek to use emerging or new digital technology to engage with residents and interested parties, capturing feedback through the use of new technology.
<b>Workshops</b> (including virtual/digital workshops)	Facilitated workshops may be used where appropriate and relevant to allow discussion on issues in detail and to ensure that a range of interested parties have the opportunity to express their views and opinions.
<b>Exhibitions</b> (including virtual/digital exhibitions)	Exhibitions may be used to explain specific proposals and, when staffed, will be used as a method for clarifying our approach and generating feedback.
<b>Video conferencing</b> targeted meetings	In appropriate situations, video conference type meetings may be arranged with representative groups who are not normally engaged in planning consultations to make sure their views are heard.
<b>Local publicity</b>	Where appropriate, additional publicity measures may be taken at a local level.
<b>Walkabout tours</b>	In certain instances, 'walkabout tours' may be used as a way of engaging with a range of stakeholders with interests in a specific geographical area.



## Who will be consulted in the preparation of planning documents

2.13 The Town & Country Planning (Local Planning) England Regulations 2012 identify 'specific consultation bodies' and 'general consultation bodies' that local planning authorities must consult. The Government has indicated that it may update these consultation bodies.

### Specific consultation bodies:

- BCP Town and Parish Councils
- Relevant Adjoining Local Planning Authorities:
  - Dorset Council
  - New Forest District Council
- Electronic communications companies/owners or operators of telecommunications
- Apparatus: BT, Three, Openreach, Telefónica UK Ltd (O2), Vodafone Ltd
- British Gas
- Dorset Healthcare NHS Trust
- Historic England
- Environment Agency
- Highways England
- Homes England
- Marine Management Organisation
- National Grid
- Natural England
- Network Rail
- Scottish and Southern Energy PLC
- Bournemouth Water Ltd
- Wessex Water

### General consultation bodies:

- Neighbourhood Forums
- Resident and community groups
- Places of worship and religious groups
- Gypsy and Traveller groups
- Heritage groups
- Leisure and recreation groups
- Healthcare and community safety groups
- Citizen, political and societal groups



- Business and economy groups
- Developers and planning agents
- Wider stakeholders and individuals

2.14 The strategic planning team maintain a database of organisations and individuals who we are statutorily obliged to consult with and those who have expressed an interest in being involved in the development plan process. As the database is capable of continuous update, any organisation or individual can sign up for notifications by adding their contact details to the mailing list, similarly they can remove their contact details as appropriate.

## How your views will be taken into account

2.15 When a consultation event has ended, all the representations we have received will be fully considered and our response will be set out in a summary document. Where appropriate, the planning document consulted on will be revised to reflect the representations received. The summary consultation document will set out:

- who was consulted
- how they were consulted
- a summary of the main issues raised in the comments
- how the comments have been taken into account in the final document

2.16 The summary will be published on our website alongside the consultation documents.

## Adoption of LDP and supplementary planning documents

2.17 Once the formal stages of plan preparation have been completed, as set out in Diagrams 1 and 2 (under paragraphs 2.12 and 2.13) documents are required to be formally adopted by the council. All Development Plan and Supplementary Planning Documents must be adopted by full council.

## Development Plans - consultation principles

2.18 In the preparation of development plan and supplementary planning documents we will apply the following principles:

### Preparing development plan and supplementary planning documents

We will:

**Provide clear information on** both the purpose of the engagement and consultation being undertaken and the issues under consideration.

**Design engagement and consultation events** to provide at least the minimum statutory consultation period and wherever practicable or appropriate, exceed these, and coordinate and combine engagement and consultation events to reduce duplication and waste.

**Keep records** of all representations received through consultation and wherever practicable, provide an appropriate acknowledgement.

**Publish responses** to representations and use the results to inform policy and service development.

## **Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment**

2.19 As part of the preparation of Development Plan Documents the council is currently required to undertake Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). SA examines the implications of the LDP on the community, the environment and natural resources, whereas SEAs are undertaken to measure the effects of the plan, policy or programme on the environment generally. The process aims to combine social, environmental and economic considerations into the preparation of plans in order to promote sustainable development. In addition, as part of the SA process, our development plan documents are also subject to separate appraisal in respect of health and equalities issues in the form of Health Impact Assessment (HIA) and Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA). As part of the planning reforms the process is likely to change involving new Environmental Outcome reports but the details have not yet been released.

2.20 If the current process remains in place SA scoping will be undertaken at the commencement of the Local Plan process and the resulting SA framework and methodology applied to subsequent DPDs. An SA report will then be produced for consultation alongside a development plan document, at each stage in its preparation. A final SA report will be published prior to a development plan document being adopted by the council. However, this process may be updated through the introduction of Environmental Outcome Reports.

### **Fulfilling the requirements of Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment**

If the current SA system remains, we will:

Undertake and consult on a revised scoping document and develop an updated SA framework and methodology which will be applied to the review of the Local Plan and subsequent development plan documents, as appropriate.

Publish SA reports for consultation, alongside development plan documents, at each stage in their preparation.

Amend SA reports, where appropriate, in response to any comments received.

Produce a final SA report prior to a development plan document being adopted.

## The Duty to Cooperate

2.21 The Localism Act 2011 introduced a new 'Duty to Cooperate', requiring local Authorities and a number of other public bodies to:

- Cooperate in relation to issues of sustainable development or the use of land that would result in a significant impact on at least two local planning authority areas.
- Set out planning policies to address these issues.
- 'Engage constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis' in developing strategic policies.
- Consider joint approaches to plan making.

2.22 The NPPF sets out the strategic issues where cooperation might be appropriate and further guidance is provided on 'planning strategically across local boundaries', highlighting the importance of joint working to meet development requirements that cannot be wholly met within a single local planning area, through either joint planning policies or informal strategies such as infrastructure and investment plans.

2.23 BCP Council will be required to demonstrate that it has complied with, and fulfilled the requirements of the Duty to Cooperate in preparing its Local Development Plan and associated documents. In this regard the commitments below will be implemented.

### Fulfilling the Duty to Cooperate

We will:

Identify those issues that will require to be considered jointly with neighbouring local authorities and other public and private bodies and actively engage with them in fulfilling the requirements of the duty to cooperate.

Produce appropriate documentation that sets out duty to cooperate arrangements for identified issues and includes details of the decisions reached and why.

## Neighbourhood Planning

2.24 Neighbourhood planning was introduced by the Localism Act 2011 and the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations (2012). The Localism Act sets out the areas of neighbourhood planning for which local planning authorities are responsible. In meeting these responsibilities, Strategic Planning will support community groups through their applications to become designated neighbourhood forums, as well as town or parish councils with general powers of competence to progress through key statutory stages of neighbourhood plan production.

2.25 The Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017 and Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012 introduced a duty on local authorities to extend advice and assistance on proposals

for modification of 'made' neighbourhood plans. This is reflected in our commitments in the table below.

## Neighbourhood Planning

We will:

- Comply with all Neighbourhood Planning legislation and regulatory requirements.
- Provide guidance and support to prospective neighbourhood groups in wishing to establish themselves as a neighbourhood forum and designate a neighbourhood area.
- Provide advice and assistance to a designated neighbourhood forum or town or parish council in the preparation of a neighbourhood plan, subject to the availability of resources.
- Make the appropriate checks to ensure that a submitted neighbourhood plan meets basic conditions and legal requirements.
- Publish the submission version of the Neighbourhood Plan for public consultation on the council's website for a period of 6 weeks and gather representations received to be forwarded to the examiner for consideration.
- Make arrangements to appoint independent examiner for the examination of a neighbourhood plan - generally examination will be by written representations.
- Make the examiner's report available on the council's webpages.
- Progress to referendum and write to eligible residents and businesses on the council's electoral register informing them that a referendum will be held at least 28 days prior to the voting date.
- Notify residents of Neighbourhood Planning referendums in their area, on the council's website.
- Following a positive referendum and subject to the Plan meeting EU obligations, progress the Plan to adoption.
- Publicise the Neighbourhood Plan on the council's website and in libraries and put up site notices in the Neighbourhood Area publicising the adoption of the Plan.
- Provide advice and assistance to modify 'made' plans and provision for changing neighbourhood area boundaries.

## Community Infrastructure Levy

2.26 The three preceding authority areas have separate adopted Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedules. CIL provides the main mechanism for development in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole to contribute towards providing the infrastructure required to accommodate growth in the town. The CIL Charging Schedule sets out the rates (set at £ per square metre of new floorspace) that are applied to development depending on location in the council areas. The adopted rates will be subject to monitoring and periodic review to ensure that they remain up to date and effective. Where, in the future, the adopted Charging Schedule needs to be amended the council will ensure that it will consult widely to ensure that any proposed changes are subject to the appropriate engagement with local communities, infrastructure providers, developers and other stakeholders.

### Community Infrastructure Levy

We will:

- Continue to allocate funding through the Neighbourhood Portion of CIL.
- Regularly review the operation and effectiveness of the adopted Charging Schedules.
- Report on the collection and expenditure of CIL monies
- Maintain regular engagement with communities, interested parties and infrastructure providers to ensure the town's infrastructure needs evidence base is kept up to date.
- Publish an Infrastructure Funding Statement identifying infrastructure needs, costs, sources of funding and spending.
- Undertake consultation with communities and organisations in accordance with the CIL Regulations requirements for engagement prior to any formal review of the adopted CIL Charging Schedule.

## How locally elected councillors will be involved

2.27 Councillors are the locally elected representatives for the area. Councillors attend Council meetings and a number of them may be appointed to sit on various committees such as the Planning Committee. The Overview and Scrutiny Board plays a vital role in maintaining an overview of the Council's work and looking in depth at areas of particular significance or concern.

## What resources does Strategic Planning have?

2.28 Undertaking engagement and consultation is an integral part of the work of the Planning Service, but it is also resource intensive. There are direct costs in terms of resources and staff time. What we have set out in this Statement of Community Involvement is capable of being resourced from within existing budgets, based on the current resources available to the service.



2.29 We will aim to use the most cost-effective methods of engagement and consultation, provide a high-quality service to all customers and where possible, will work with others to coordinate consultations where we can and use innovative technology to assist us where possible.

## 3 Development management - planning applications

3.1 The requirements for advertising and consulting on planning applications are set out in The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015. Table 1 sets out how BCP Council will meet the statutory publication requirements for various categories of planning application. Please also see paragraph 3.3 below.

Development type	How BCP Council will meet statutory requirements
Applications for non-major development including; household, minor, change of use, variation of condition and others.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site notice(s)</li> <li>• Publish on website</li> </ul>
Major applications (as set out in Article 2) of the Development Management Procedure Order 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advertisement in local newspaper</li> <li>• Site notice(s)</li> <li>• Publish on website</li> </ul>
Major applications accompanied by an environmental statement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advertisement in local newspaper</li> <li>• Site notice(s)</li> <li>• Publish on website</li> </ul>
Applications for Development affecting the setting of a Listed Building or a Conservation Area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advertisement in local newspaper</li> <li>• Site Notice(s)</li> <li>• Publish on website</li> </ul>
Applications which do not accord with (departures from) the statutory development plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advertisement in local newspaper</li> <li>• Site Notice(s)</li> </ul>
Applications which affect a Public Right of Way (PRoW) to which Part 3 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 applies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advertisement in local newspaper</li> <li>• Site Notice(s)</li> <li>• Publish on website</li> </ul>
Notice of hedgerow removals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notify town/parish council (where existing)</li> </ul>
Development by Electronic Communications Code Operators GPDO 2015 Sch 2, Part 16	<p><b>If development is not in accordance with the development plan or would affect a PRO to which Part 3 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 applies:</b></p> <p>Site notice <b>and</b> advertisement in local newspaper</p> <p><b>On sites of 1 hectare or more:</b></p> <p>Site notice(s)</p> <p>Advertisement in local newspaper</p> <p><b>All other development not covered above:</b></p> <p>Site notice(s)</p> <p>Advertisement in local newspaper</p>

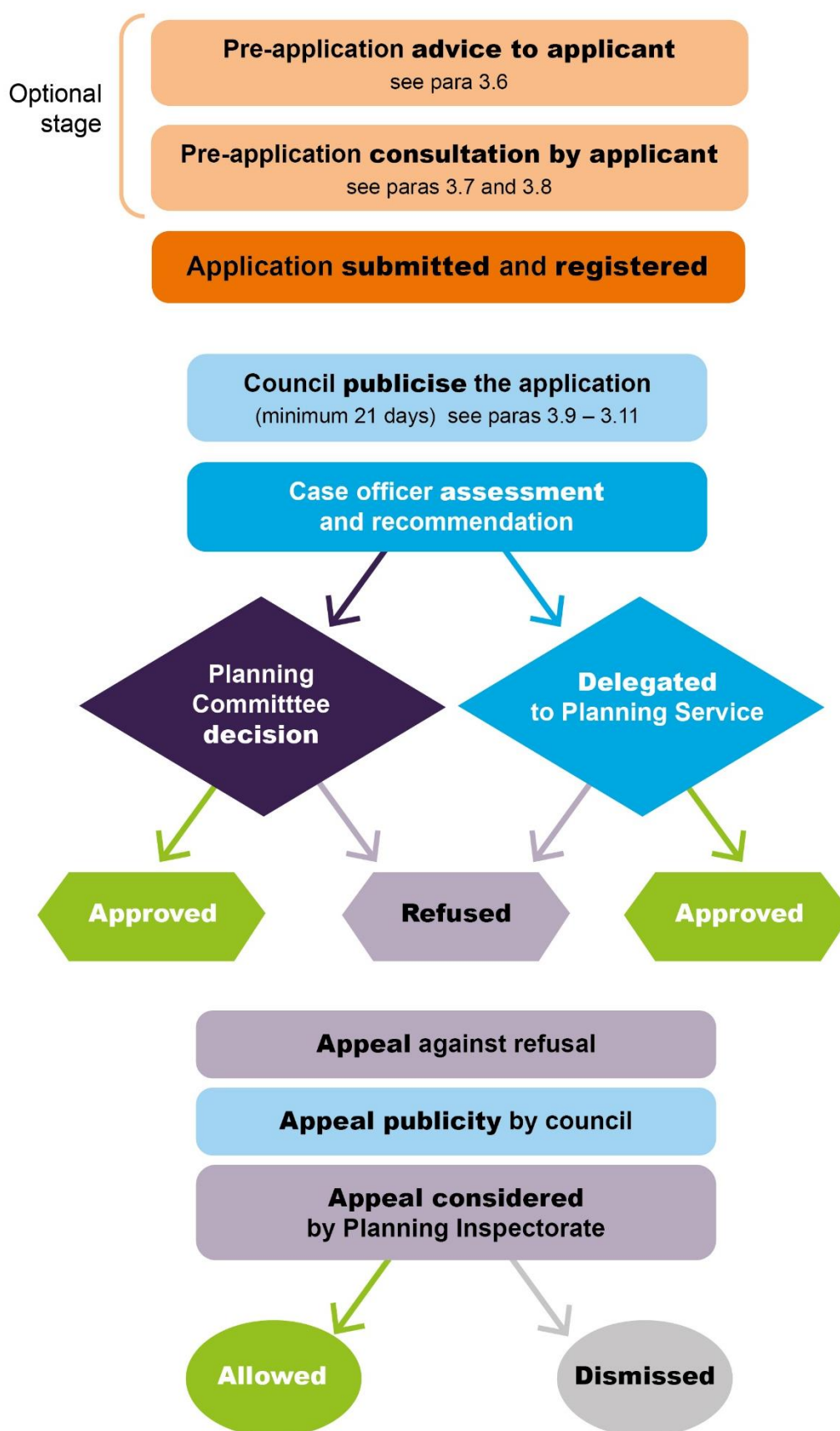
Application for non-material amendment.	No statutory requirement however, applications for non-materials amendments will be published on the BCP planning website application portals.
Certain applications for Permitted Development requiring Prior Approval as defined by the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2015 as amended.	Notify each adjoining owner or occupier about a proposed development by serving on them a notice where required by the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2015 as amended.

3.2 The council is committed to engagement and consultation on planning applications in line with legal requirements. Site notices are posted on or near the land to which the application relates for not less than 21 days in accordance with the relevant legislation. The council advertise applications in the local press where required. People can request a copy of the weekly list and they are encouraged to make themselves known to the local planning authority. The notice will briefly describe the proposal and specify a date by which representations should be made (not less than 21 days from the date of posting). Representations must be made in writing, preferably using the Council's online comment facility via the BCP Council website.

3.3 The council encourages pre-application engagement and consultation in line with the NPPF (2024).

3.4 The following flowchart sets out the planning application process (opportunities for public/ward councillors' involvement highlighted in pale blue).

## Planning application process



## **Pre-application discussions with applicant**

3.5 Most applications can benefit from obtaining advice at the pre-application stage, before an application is submitted. Pre-application discussions and written advice from the LPA provides greater certainty and clarity to applicants by identifying relevant planning issues and requirements that can influence the final scheme at an early stage, before it is submitted.

## **Pre-application consultation**

3.6 Applicants are strongly encouraged to engage in pre-application consultation for major or potentially controversial development schemes where appropriate. Pre-application consultation provides an opportunity for applicants/agents/developers to explain their proposals to the local community and allow them the opportunity to express their views and raise concerns directly with applicant with the possibility of influencing the proposal prior to the submission of a planning application.

3.7 The council recognises the importance of actively and creatively engaging the community in the shaping and development of the places where people live and work and the role this can have in fostering a sense of pride and ownership in a local area. To achieve this, the council will consider the use of engagement forums and events to allow elected councillors to liaise with invited local community leaders, schools, community groups, business representatives and other relevant key stakeholders. In this way, forums can participate in discussion to consider a site's future use, design and layout, before a proposed development scheme is submitted to the council. This process aligns with the spirit of the Government's 'Localism' agenda.

## **How local communities are involved when a planning application is received**

3.8 When a planning application is received, properties will be notified by site notice. The public normally have 21 days (extended where the period includes a bank holiday) to make comments on any application proposal and the deadline for comments will be displayed at the bottom of the site notice(s). A decision will not be made until the latest publicity period has expired. Copies of application forms, plans and supporting documents are available for the public to view on the council's website.

3.9 In addition to the weekly lists, the council has a statutory obligation to advertise specific types of applications within a local newspaper – in our case, the Daily Echo.

The council publishes public notices to advertise the following types of applications:

- Applications for Major Development as set out in article 2 of the Development Management Procedure Order 2015.
- Major Applications accompanied by an Environmental Statement.
- Applications for Development within a Conservation Area



- Applications for Listed Building Consent where works to the exterior of the building are proposed.
- Applications affecting the setting of Listed Buildings.
- Applications which do not accord with (departures from) from the statutory Development Plan.
- Applications affecting a public right of way to which Part 3 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 applies.
- Certain development by Electronic Communications Code Operators

## **Who makes decisions on planning applications?**

3.10 A wide variety of planning applications are received each year, ranging from small householder and minor applications, change of use, variation of conditions to large commercial, retail, housing or mixed-use developments. The council makes decisions on these planning applications in one of two ways:

- i. The Director of Planning and Transport can determine applications under delegated powers. This accounts for more than 90% of all applications received.
- ii. Planning Committee deals with those other applications considered to be more contentious as set out in the BCP Constitution.

3.11 Planning application decisions are made taking into account the recommendation of planning officers, the adopted development plan and other relevant material considerations, including consultation comments and third-party representation. Consultation arrangements and the application of planning policy is the same whichever route is chosen.

3.12 Once a planning application has been determined, the decision will be available to view on the council's website.

3.13 The following commitments set out our approach to how the planning application process will be undertaken and what information will be made available.

## Undertaking the planning application process

We will:

Encourage applicants to undertake pre-submission consultations with local communities on large or significant development proposals.

Encourage applicants to engage in pre-application discussions with the council for major or significant/controversial applications.

Encourage householders to undertake informal discussions with neighbours over householder proposals.

Allow access to all planning application files (except where confidentiality exclusions apply) and develop document management systems so that, progressively, all files are available electronically through the BCP Council website.

Negotiate minor changes with applicants where necessary and address issues identified through the publicity and consultation exercises on an application where they are considered to hold merit.

Where an application has been amended, officers will exercise their professional judgement to decide whether further publicity and consultation is necessary in the interests of fairness. The time period for any further publicity may be shorter than 21 days depending on the extent of change to the scheme.

In the interests of economy, it is not possible to respond to specific points raised in representations or to provide individual notification of the outcome of the application.

# Appendix 1

## Glossary of planning terms and acronyms

**Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)** - the financial contribution raised from new development that is used to fund the provision of infrastructure (eg transport schemes, flood defences, parks and green spaces etc), that is needed as a result of development.

**Local Plan** - key document that sets out the long-term spatial vision for an area, together with the spatial objectives, strategic policies and development management policies required to deliver that vision. The Local Plan has the status of a Development Plan Document.

**Development Plan** - as set out in Section 38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act, an authority's development plan consists of relevant documents contained within its Local Plan.

**Duty to Cooperate** - provision of the Localism Act 2011, that has created a duty on local authorities to cooperate with each other when making plans.

**Overview and Scrutiny Board** - advisory committee dealing with the development of planning policy.

**Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA)** - an assessment tool used to ensure that policies, plans, programmes and strategies do not discriminate against any group or individual on the grounds of age, disability, sex, gender reassignment, pregnancy/maternity, marriage/civil partnership, race, religious belief or faith, sexual orientation, armed forces communities, social inequality or human rights.

**General Consultation Bodies** - defined in Part 1 of The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.

**Gunning Principles** - following a landmark case in 1985 (R v LB Brent ex parte Gunning), Stephen Sedley QC proposed four consultation principles applicable to all public consultations by public bodies in the UK. These include ensuring consultation is undertaken when proposals are still at a formative stage, that there is sufficient information provided for the public to make an informed choice, that adequate time is given for consideration and response and, that consultation responses are conscientiously taken into account by decision makers.

**Health Impact Assessment (HIA)** - an assessment tool used in determining how policies, plans, programmes and strategies can contribute to improving the health and wellbeing of communities.

**Annual Monitoring Report** – Authorities monitoring the indicators of achievement and targets set out in the Local Plan. The monitoring report assists with identifying how well the Local Plan's key outcomes related to the strategic objectives are being implemented.

**Local Development Plan (LDP)** - the name for the portfolio of Local Development Documents.

**Local Development Scheme (LDS)** - a work programme showing when planning policy documents will be produced.

**Localism Act 2011** - legislation that brought about a number of reforms to the planning system which included the abolition of regional strategies; the duty to cooperate and introduction of neighbourhood planning.

**National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (revised 2024)** - document that sets out the Government's planning policies and how these are to be applied. It also provides the framework within which local people and their accountable councils can produce their own distinctive local and neighbourhood plans, which reflect the needs and priorities of their communities.

**Neighbourhood Planning** – Introduced by the Localism Act 2011, this is a means by which local communities are provided with the rights and powers to decide the future of the places where they live and work by developing a Neighbourhood Plan. When made, the plan has the same status as the Local Plan.

**Local Planning Authority (LPA)** - term for the body as part of the council that has responsibility for setting local planning policies and making decisions on planning applications.

**Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)** - sets out the standards which authorities will achieve with regard to involving local communities in the preparation of local development documents and development management decisions.

**Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)** - a generic term used to describe environmental assessment as applied to policies, plans and programmes. The European 'SEA Directive' (2001/42/EC) requires a formal 'environmental assessment of certain plans and programmes, including those in the field of planning and land use'.

**Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)** - document that provides supplementary information in respect of the policies in Development Plan Documents. They do not form part of the Development Plan and are not subject to independent examination.

**Specific Consultation Bodies** - defined in Part 1 of The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, examples given in Appendix 2.

**Sustainability Appraisal (SA)** - tool for appraising policies to ensure they reflect sustainable development objectives (i.e. social, environmental and economic factors) and required in the Act to be undertaken for all local development documents.

**Stakeholders** - any individual or organisation who has an interest in the way an area develops. This may include residents, developers, community groups, employers etc...

**The Regulations** - Town & Country (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 No. 767

## Appendix 2

### List of Specific Consultation Bodies as interpreted from the Town & Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012

BCP Town and Parish Councils

#### **Relevant Adjoining Local Planning Authorities:**

Dorset Council

New Forest District Council

#### **Relevant Adjoining town and parish councils: (not exhaustive for BCP)**

Arne

Colehill

Corfe Castle

Corfe Mullen

Ferndown

Lytchett Matravers

Lytchett Minster and Upton

Morden

Pamphill and Shapwick

Studland

Sturminster Marshall

Wareham St Martin

West Parley

Wimborne Minster

#### **Electronic communications companies/owners or operators of telecommunications apparatus**

BT

EE

Three

Openreach

SSE Telecoms

Telefónica UK Ltd (O2)

Vodafone Ltd

Licence granted under section 7(2) of the Gas act 1986(9): British Gas

Dorset Health and Wellbeing Board

Historic England

Environment Agency

Highways England

Homes and Communities Agency

Marine Management Organisation

National Grid

Natural England

Network Rail

Licence granted under section 6(1)(b) or (c) of the Electricity Act 1989

Scottish and Southern Energy PLC

Bournemouth Water Ltd

Wessex Water



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# CABINET



Report subject	<b>Our Place and Environment: Consolidated Active Travel Fund 2025/26</b>
Meeting date	13 May 2025
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	<p>The Council has been allocated and accepted £1.459m Consolidated Active Travel Fund (CATF) grant from Active Travel England (ATE) for walking, wheeling and cycling improvements to deliver schemes aligned with the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) approved by Council in May 2022.</p> <p>The award comprises £1.128m of capital and £331k of revenue funding.</p> <p>This report recommends how the grant award should be invested and seeks delegation to facilitate delivery.</p>
Recommendations	<p><b>It is RECOMMENDED that Cabinet:</b></p> <p><b>(a) Recommends to Council delegation of the investment of the £1.459m of Consolidated Active Travel Fund 2025/26 to the Service Director for Planning &amp; Transport in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Climate Response, Environment and Energy</b></p>
Reason for recommendations	<p>To set out recommended investment of the CATF 2025/26 award and seek Council approval to deliver in line with the constitution and financial regulations delegations.</p> <p>The investment of the ATF funding is aligned with the LCWIP; Council's Corporate Strategy; and the Climate and Ecological Emergency Action Plan.</p>
Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Andy Hadley - Portfolio Holder for Climate Response, Environment and Energy
Corporate Director	Glynn Barton – Chief Operations Officer
Report Authors	<p>Richard Pincroft – Head of Transport and Sustainable Travel</p> <p>Susan Fox – LTP and Capital Programme Manager</p> <p>Beth Barker-Stock – Sustainable Travel Team Leader</p>

Wards	Alderney & Bourne Valley, Christchurch Town, Mudeford, Stanpit & West Highcliffe, Poole Town
Classification	For Recommendation

## Background

1. On 28 February 2025 a confirmation letter was received from Active Travel England advising that the council had been allocated £1,459,542 Consolidated Active Travel Fund (CATF) grant (= £331k revenue and £1.128m capital).
2. The letter advised that CATF allocations were calculated based on population size and Active Travel capability ratings. BCP Council is rated as Level 2: Visible local leadership and support, with emerging network.
3. The purpose of the CATF is to enable councils to focus on delivering active travel programmes including the delivery of high-quality walking, wheeling and cycling infrastructure, behaviour change activities and capability building measures which are all aligned with the BCP Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) approved at Council in May 2022 and the following motion approved at Council in November 2022:  
  
'In order to meet our climate emergency declaration, we will work to decarbonise the transport network in the BCP area. In order to do this we will aim to get to 50% of journeys within the BCP area to be done by walking, scooting, cycling or public transport by 2030, in the spirit of the government's 'Decarbonising Transport. A Better, Greener Britain 2021 report'.
4. The award letter required the council to complete a Section 31 grant acceptance declaration to ATE by the 19 March 2025 ahead of first payment. Acceptance of the grant was undertaken by the Chief Executive on behalf of the Council using delegated powers for reasons of urgency and the return completed and sent back to ATE ahead of deadline. Note: Chief Executive delegation was used because the award was greater than £1m (threshold for Council approval) and there were no council meetings scheduled between receipt of the grant letter and the deadline for return of the declaration to ATE accepting the grant.
5. An assessment of the existing council active travel related programmes including the delivery of high-quality walking, wheeling and cycling infrastructure, behaviour change activities and capability building measures has been undertaken by the council Sustainable Travel Team in consultation with the Active Travel England Regional Lead, Portfolio Holder for Climate Response, Environment and Energy, Portfolio Holder for Destination, Leisure & Commercial Operations and a Transport Advisory Group member.
6. The output of the assessment, which is in line with the funding guidance is a recommendation that the following items are funded using the CATF grant:

#### CATF Revenue:

Description	Estimated Cost [£]
Continuation of Bike It Plus and School Street support from Sustrans – dedicated officers (2.5FTE) working with multiple schools, supporting the Sustainable Travel Team to engage with families to encourage and enable modal shift, to consult with users on proposals, monitor and evaluate projects and deliver new School Streets – aligned with Local Transport Plan (LTP) Capital Programme.	<b>160,000</b>
Design and Programme Management fees for development of CATF capital schemes – required to fund CATF Revenue and Capital items.	<b>121,000</b>
Feasibility, development of design and implementation of minor measures linked to Barrack Road Bike Bus – aligned with LCWIP.	<b>50,000</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>331,000</b>

#### CATF Capital:

Description	Estimated Cost [£]
Pedestrian and cycle route improvements between Recreation Road and Coy Pond via Sheringham, Wroxham and Yarmouth Road extending Transforming Cities Funded and Active Travel Fund 4 funded route from Bournemouth Town Centre via the Gardens – high priority in LCWIP.	<b>478,000</b>
Highcliffe Road Toucan Crossing between Somerford and Hoburne Roundabouts – highest ranked pedestrian crossing and aligned with LTP capital programme.	<b>350,000</b>
Parkstone Road Toucan Crossing connecting Poole Park to Birds Hill Road – high priority in LCWIP.	<b>300,000</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,128,000</b>

Note: maps showing the location of the recommended capital schemes and how they fit into the walking and cycling network can be viewed in Appendix A.

#### Options appraisal

##### 7. Options:

- a) Do nothing – not recommended. Reason: this would require the council to return the £1,459,542 grant to Active Travel England and forfeit the opportunity to provide infrastructure and activities to encourage active travel.
- b) Support recommendation to invest the grant as scheduled above under item 6 – recommended. Reason: acceptance of the grant and investment would be

directly aligned with high priorities in the council Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) and Local Transport Plan (LTP). Delivery of the priority items scheduled would help to maximise the impact of infrastructure built to date by providing key links to connect them.

c) Adjust recommendation – not recommended. Reason: the proposed schedule has been developed in consideration of LCWIP and Local Transport Plan priorities, therefore, adjusting the recommendation would likely result in lower priority items being delivered.

### **Summary of financial implications**

8. All resources and costs to deliver the schemes in accordance with the grant criteria are included within the funding or already allocated through the Local Transport Plan (LTP) capital programme for 2025/26.
9. Failing to accept the grant funding will mean that these prioritised and strategically important schemes would not be funded.

### **Summary of legal implications**

10. The proposed schemes are all at varying levels of development and appropriate public engagement and consultation would be undertaken to ensure that residents and stakeholders are able to inform proposals.
11. Delivery of some schemes funded by the grant scheme would require alterations to Traffic Regulation Orders and these would be progressed in accordance with the detailed procedures set out in legislation, including public consultation as required.
12. As detailed in paragraph 4 above the constitution allows for the Chief Executive delegation to be exercised where there is insufficient time to convene a formal decision-making meeting. As this grant was more than £1m a meeting of Council would have been required which in this occasion was not possible due to the very short window for acceptance of the grant.

### **Summary of human resources implications**

13. The costs included within the application allowed for programme management (including financial support) and associated communications and consultation costs to be recharged to the programme.

### **Summary of sustainability impact**

14. A DIA has been completed (ID 711) and the impact summary is appended to this report. The overall impact is positive, with few minor impacts, and the carbon footprint score is moderate.

### **Summary of public health implications**

15. The delivery of schemes to support walking, wheeling and cycling would enable and encourage more people to travel by active modes, thus incorporating physical movement into their daily lives. This in turn would result in improved health and well-being for residents and visitors, with evidence showing that more daily activity leads to fewer sickness days and positive long-term health outcomes. Active travel undertaken in the place of motorised journeys has a positive impact on air quality with consequential health benefits.

## Summary of equality implications

16. The CATF-funded programme of projects will have an overall **positive** impact on people from protected characteristic groups, particularly those living in the relevant areas and travelling on foot, by cycle, wheeling, or using a mobility aid.

Crossing busy main roads can be a real barrier and safety concern for anyone who is permanently or temporarily visually, mentally or physically disabled or impaired. Provision of formal crossing points can help people make safer, more comfortable active journeys.

Similarly, implementing measures in and around schools to help children travel safely and independently to school on foot, or by scooting, wheeling or cycling, improves safety and perceptions of safety. It can also help reduce the number of children being driven to school, which helps increase activity rates, improves air quality and reduces road danger, and is in line with national and local policy.

17. Where applicable further EIA screenings and potentially full assessments shall be undertaken as proposals are progressed.

## Summary of risk assessment

18. Not accepting the CATF funding would result in the delay or non-delivery of Active Travel schemes in the BCP council area. This would impact on the propensity to shift to sustainable travel modes and make it more difficult to achieve reductions in traffic congestion, which in turn impact on air quality, the local economy, health and wellbeing and climate change targets.

## Background papers

[BCP Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan](#)

## Appendices

Appendix A – Maps showing location of proposed walking and cycling measures.

Appendix B – DIA Impact Summary table



## Appendix A – Maps showing location of proposed walking and cycling measures

Key:

Key walking, wheeling or cycling routes

Extent of proposed route improvements

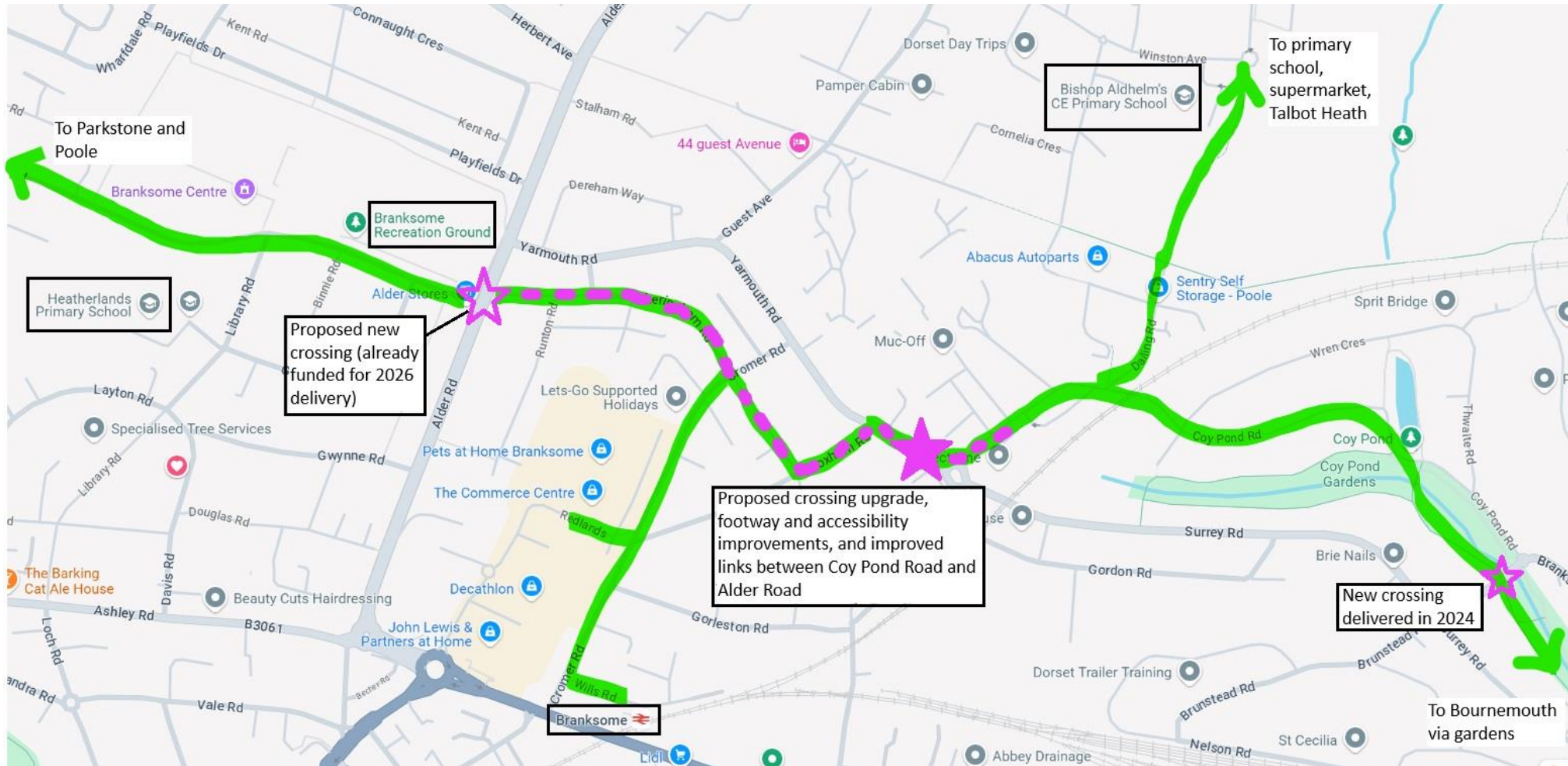


Location of proposed new crossing to be funded with CATF



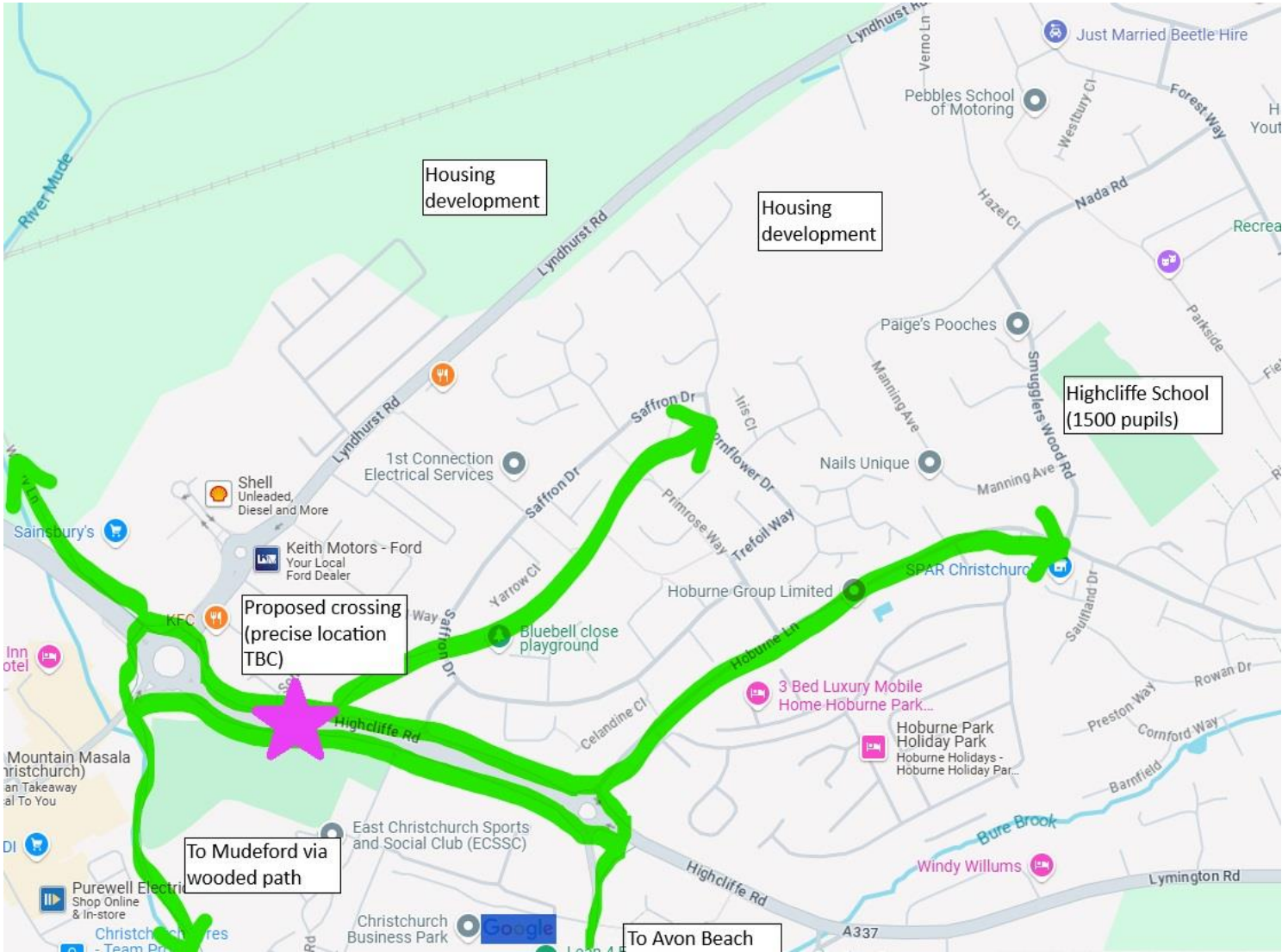
Location of nearby/related crossing already funded

Scheme 1 – Recreation Road to Coy Pond route improvements



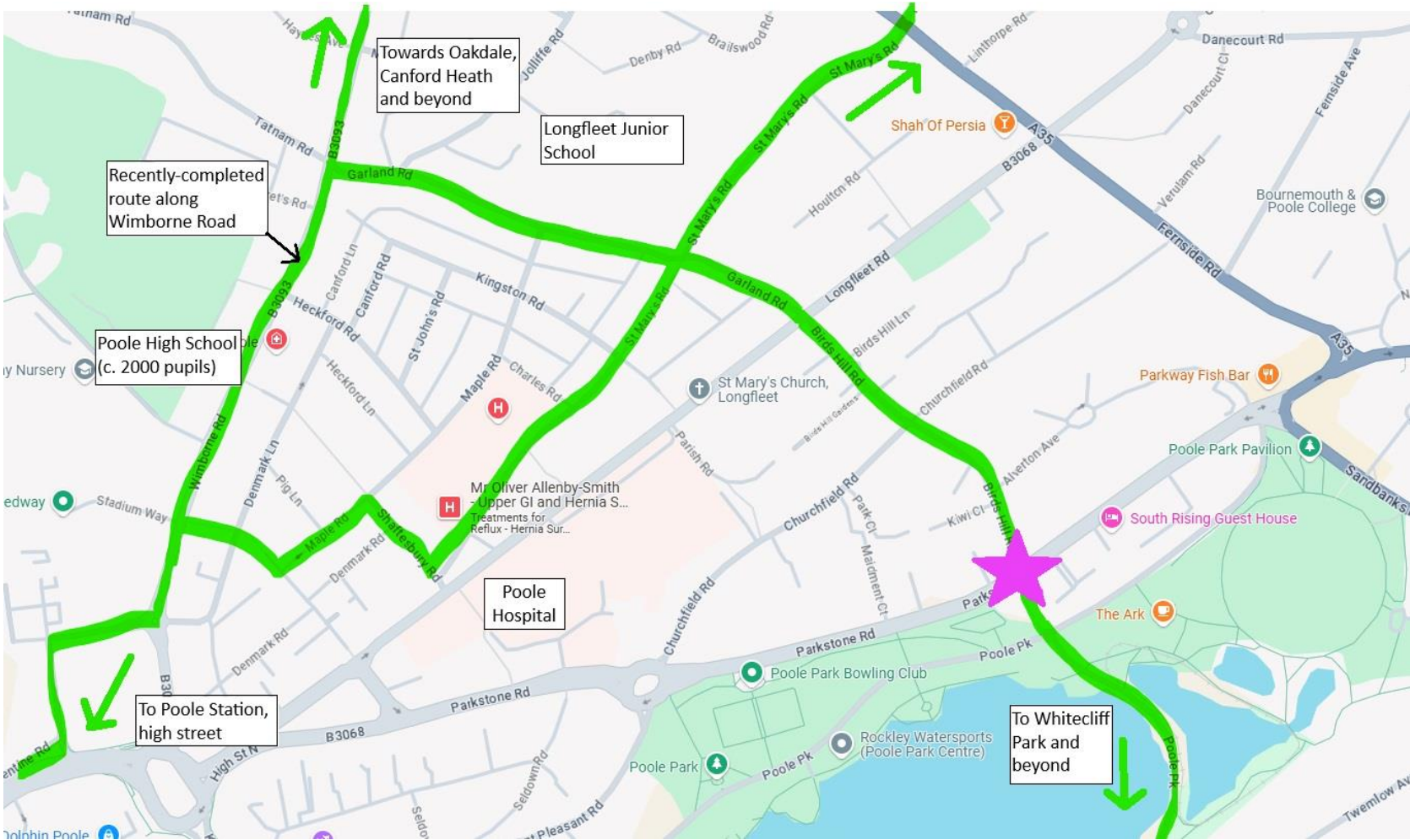
Scheme 2 – Highcliffe Road crossing

156















Scheme 3 – Parkstone Road crossing



## Impact Summary

Climate Change & Energy	Green - Only positive impacts identified	
Communities & Culture	Green - Only positive impacts identified	
Waste & Resource Use	Amber - Minor negative impacts identified / unknown impacts	
Economy	Green - Only positive impacts identified	
Health & Wellbeing	Green - Only positive impacts identified	
Learning & Skills	Green - Only positive impacts identified	
Natural Environment	Green - Only positive impacts identified	
Sustainable Procurement	Green - Only positive impacts identified	
Transport & Accessibility	Green - Only positive impacts identified	

Answers provided indicate that the score for the carbon footprint of the proposal is: **5**

Answers provided indicate that the carbon footprint of the proposal is:	<b>Moderate</b>	
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# CABINET



Report subject	<b>Russell-Cotes Art Gallery and Museum Arts Council England (ACE) Museum Estate and Development (MEND) Grant</b>
Meeting date	13 May 2025
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	<p>In August 2024 the Russell-Cotes Art Gallery and Museum applied for a grant from Arts Council England (ACE)'s Museum Estate and Development Fund Round 4, to fund urgent repair work on the fabric of the building.</p> <p>In February 2025, ACE wrote to confirm success and an allocation of £1,500,817, match funded by £250,000 from CIL and £109,317 from legacies to the Museum charity, making a total project grant of £1,860,134.</p> <p>This paper informs Cabinet of this success and seeks delegation to formally accept the grant and invest awarded money and match funds in line with the application to ACE.</p>
Recommendations	<p><b>It is RECOMMENDED that Cabinet:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>a) Recommends Council to accept the £1,500,817 from Arts Council England MEND Round 4 and delegates authority to the Director of Customer &amp; Property to complete the formal acceptance process on behalf of the Council</b></li> <li><b>b) Notes the match funding of £250,000 from CIL and £109,317 from restricted legacies</b></li> <li><b>c) Approves their investment in the project outcomes of urgent repairs and renewals outlined in the application to ACE</b></li> </ul>
Reason for recommendations	<p>Financial Regulations require the acceptance of external funding and approval of any project over £1million by full Council.</p> <p>ACE require Cabinet approval before payment can be made.</p> <p>The grant will be spent on urgent remedial maintenance of the Russell-Cotes Art Gallery and Museum (of which BCP Council is sole trustee) to ensure it can remain open and survive.</p>



Portfolio Holder(s):	Cllr Andy Martin, Portfolio Holder for Customer, Communications and Culture
Corporate Director	Glynn Barton, Chief Operations Officer
Report Authors	Sarah Newman, Manager, Russell-Cotes Art Gallery and Museum Matti Raudsepp, Service Director, Customer and Property
Wards	Council-wide
Classification	For Decision

## Background

1. The Russell-Cotes Art Gallery and Museum is a Grade 2\* listed historic house with an internationally important art and world culture collection. It has been operated by BCP Council (and its forerunners) since 1923 as its sole trustee. It is Bournemouth's most significant heritage and cultural asset.
2. For the last 20 years, Bournemouth Council and later BCP Council have not been able to maintain the Museum adequately and its fragile, highly decorated interiors and exteriors in the exposed location of the Bournemouth clifftop exposed to increasingly ferocious storms are now at the point of catastrophic failure, putting its valuable collections at risk, as well as income generation and operations. Water ingress through failing decorations in multiple places has resulted in partial and total closure for visitors. Pest infestations in offices have put rooms out of use and threaten the collection. End of life services and poor security are resulting in regular episodes of anti-social behaviour and lead theft.
3. The governance arrangements of the Museum have been under review for a number of years in order to improve its financial and organisational sustainability and increase investment. The Charity Commission has recently completed its drafting of the charitable scheme to enable a new dedicated Sole Trustee to assume the responsibilities of the Council for the Charity. The process has now moved into the parliamentary phase for Department of Culture Media and Sport to draft the associated Order to be laid before Parliament with a target completion date of 1 October 2025. At completion the responsibility for managing the museum and its assets will transfer to the new trustee and will no longer be the responsibility of the council.
4. In Spring 2024, the Arts Council England (ACE) announced Round 4 of MEND (Museum Estate and Development Fund) to support essential maintenance in the Museum sector. The Russell-Cotes had received funding in Round 1 of £518,000 to replace all plant and repair the conservatory.
5. The Russell-Cotes submitted an Expression of Interest to ACE for funding from MEND Round 4 of further vital maintenance work and was invited to make a full application for work to start in April 2025.

6. Work was identified to deal with the most urgent needs of the building (ie required in the next 18 months) as outlined by a conservation led and Quantity Surveyor costed condition survey. It would:
  - Provide additional security measures
  - Construct new drainage
  - Redecorate and overhaul sea facing facades, roofs, joinery and guttering
  - Install new services – CCTV, intruder alarms, emergency lighting
  - Enable disabled access
  - Install fire safety and protection measures
  - Restore water damaged murals
7. Funding of £1,500,817 has been awarded from Arts Council MEND 4. Match funding is necessary to lever MEND funding and will be contributed from:
  - £250,000 CIL (committed and reported to Cabinet 5 March 2025)
  - £25,000 Mrs Hart Legacy
  - £84,317 Miss Stallard Legacy

£1,860,134 Total Project

### **Options Appraisal**

8. Option 1 Accept the grant and maintain the Russell-Cotes Art Gallery and Museum.  
**RECOMMENDED**
9. Option 2 Decline the grant and allow the Museum to deteriorate further.

### **Summary of financial implications**

10. Accepting the grant will allow urgent maintenance work required in the next 18 months.
11. Declining the grant would leave the total liability for all urgent building work with BCP Council as sole trustee. It risks closing the museum to the public and causing irreparable damage to the building and puts the collections at risk.
12. Risks of cost inflation have been mitigated. The work has been developed to RIBA Stage 3, by specialist conservation accredited surveyors and architects, costed by a QS and includes an element for inflation and contingency in line with sector expectations. The work should be completed in 2026.
13. Further repairs in the next 3 to 5 years are required (c £2million) which are subject to discussions with National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) about a phased approach to long-term capital investment, once the Russell-Cotes is independent of BCP Council.
14. Formal acceptance of the grant by Council is required in order to begin drawing down the funding.

### **Summary of legal implications**

15. ACE require a Deed of Covenant with BCP Council with a restriction on title over the freehold of the Project Asset for a period of 20 years and a Certificate of Title and letter of undertaking as to registration at the Land Registry.
16. RCAGM previously met these legal requirements for the previous round of MEND.
17. The Russell-Cotes is moving towards full independence from BCP Council, with a target date of 1 October 2025, however, the timetable is dependent on parliamentary time and is therefore outside the control of the Council. ACE is aware of the likely governance changes and the grant would novate to the new Trustee for administration when the changes take place.

### **Summary of human resources implications**

18. None

### **Summary of sustainability impact**

19. None

### **Summary of public health implications**

20. None

### **Summary of equality implications**

21. None

### **Summary of risk assessment**

22. Not accepting the grant would result in the further deterioration of the fabric of the building putting the staff and visitors at risk and potentially leading to the closure of the building for periods of time, if not indefinitely. Water ingress and pest infestations are putting the collections at risk.
23. Allowing the museum to deteriorate to the point of closure or failure is not acting in the best interests of the charity and the Council, as sole trustee, risks reputational damage if it were to refuse the grant.
24. Failure to accept the grant would put the current governance change programme at risk as the new sole trustee is not likely to take on the liability for the Museum, if significant further deterioration has been allowed to occur and opportunities to rectify it not taken.
25. Failure to take the grant would leave the entire liability for building work valued at nearly £2million with BCP Council.

### **Background papers**

None.

### **Appendices**

There are no appendices to this report.

## COUNCIL



Report subject	<b>Response from an Overview and Scrutiny Committee on a Council recommendation</b>
Meeting date	3 June 2025
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	The Council's constitution provides that Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) Committees must consider any requests for scrutiny made to it by Council and respond to Council if the response is rejected, with reasons. This report sets out such a response.
<b>Recommendations</b>	<b>It is RECOMMENDED that Council notes the response.</b>
Reason for recommendations	To comply with the decision of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and requirements of the Council's constitution.
Portfolio Holder(s):	Not applicable for this decision
Corporate Director	Graham Farrant
Report Authors	Lindsay Marshall, Overview and Scrutiny Specialist
Wards	Council-wide
Classification	For Information

### Background

1. This report relates to a request for scrutiny made to the Environment and Place O&S Committee by Council.
2. The process for determining requests to O&S Committees from Portfolio Holders, Cabinet or Council is set out by the council's constitution procedure rules as follows:
  - *Where Portfolio Holders, the Cabinet or Council request that O&S Committees undertake a specified piece of work, the relevant O&S Committee shall respond to the request as soon as it is possible to do so.*
  - *The Committee will assess the value to be added by the work suggested when determining whether to exercise its powers in this respect. Where it*

*chooses to exercise its powers in relation to the request, it will report back its findings and any recommendations to Cabinet and/or Full Council.*

- *Where the Committee chooses not to exercise its powers in relation to the request, it will provide reasons for this to the body that made the original request.*
3. **Building Control scrutiny request:** At its 25 February 2025 meeting, Council considered a motion 'to strengthen building standards through Local Authority control'. The proposer of the motion was seeking Council support to lobby government on this matter. Among other resolutions on this motion Council agreed to '**refer the motion to the Environment and Place O&S Committee for recommendation of the Council's policy position on this matter.**' The Environment & Place O&S Committee considered the request on 2 April 2025 and assessed the value that could be added by the work suggested. The committee decided not to add the item to its work programme.
  4. **Reasons for refusal:** In reaching this decision, the committee highlighted that the motion had been agreed in full by Council, and it therefore felt that the Council's policy position had already been determined. In the absence of any further detail, the committee did not feel that it could add value to this issue by scrutinising it. However, the committee agreed to consider an alternative scope on the topic of building control at a future meeting, if councillors were minded to bring forward a scope that more clearly identified how scrutiny could impact on the matter.

### **Options Appraisal**

5. This report is for information therefore no options appraisal is included.

### **Summary of financial implications**

6. There are no financial implications associated with this report.

### **Summary of legal implications**

7. There are no legal implications associated with this report.

### **Summary of human resources implications**

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

### **Summary of sustainability impact**

9. There are no sustainability impacts associated with this report.

### **Summary of public health implications**

10. There are no public health implications associated with this report.

### **Summary of equality implications**

11. There are no equality implications associated with this report.

### **Summary of risk assessment**

12. There are no risks associated with this report.

**Background papers**

Published works: Environment & Place O&S Committee meeting minutes 2 April 2025.

**Appendices**

There are no appendices to this report.



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